



SUMMER 2008

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

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Independence Day

Explore President's Park

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Celebrating Independence Day

If you have the “liberty” to stop by the White House Visitor Center on Friday, July 4, 2008, from 9:00 to 3:00 p.m., you may experience what it would be like to be a “signer” of the Declaration of Independence with the help of National Park Service rangers and volunteers from President's Park. During this full day of free programming visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to sample some of the sights, sounds, activities, and personages that helped to form the United States of America on July 4, 1776. The day's events will include games, crafts, and other activities for both children and adults.

A signature event, scheduled at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., will be a one-of-a-kind opportunity to put on a tri-cornered hat and play a role in one of this nation's greatest dramas, the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. In this fun and engaging interactive program, suitable for all ages, members of the audience will actually assume the roles of delegates to the Second Continental Congress and represent their colonies in a debate that will determine the fate of a nation! After the debate, each delegate will sign his or her name with a quill pen to a giant sized copy of the document, receive a facsimile of period currency from his or her respective colony, ring a Liberty Bell, and receive a copy of the Declaration of Independence to keep as a memorial to their great efforts in the service of their nation!

For additional information, call (202) 208-1631.

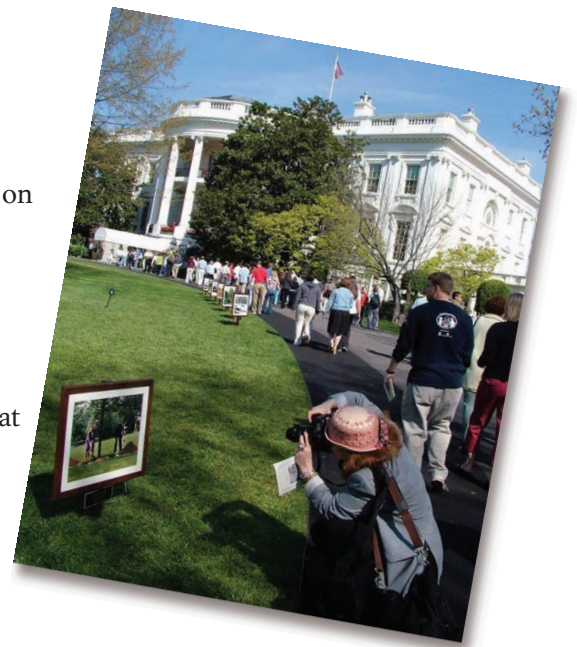
Summer Garden Tours Showcase White House History

Visitors will have a special opportunity to visit the White House grounds this summer on Saturday, July 12 and Saturday, August 9, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

The event is open to the public; however, a ticket is required for all attendees, including small children. The National Park Service will distribute free, timed tickets at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion, located at 15th and E Streets, on tour days beginning at 8:00 a.m. Tickets will be distributed – one ticket per person – on a first-come, first-served basis.

Don't miss your chance this summer to experience the “living” and “growing” history that abounds in the gardens and grounds of the White House. Then, stop into the White House Visitors Center and complete your Junior Ranger program – available free to all!

Free same day timed tour tickets may be obtained at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion (15th and E Streets, NW) beginning at 8:00 a.m. on the above dates. For additional information, call (202) 208-1631.



Return to 1787 and Sign the United States Constitution!



Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 13, President's Park will present a special program, “We the People...” celebrating the Constitution. Visitors will have the opportunity to return to the year 1787 and add their names alongside the signatures of Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, James Madison and other Founding Fathers. Copies of the United States Constitution will be available to the first 400 visitors.

At 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., visitors will have an opportunity to take the role of one of the 55 delegates to the Constitutional Convention and help create a more perfect union between the states in an interactive program suitable for all ages. A host of fun and engaging activities will be available for delegates young and old. Everyone is invited to recite the Preamble to the Constitution at 1:00 p.m. Attendees are encouraged to take METRO as no horse or carriage livery will be provided!

Constitution Day will be celebrated at the White House Visitor Center from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with crafts, activities, games. A special program “We, the people...” will be offered at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. For additional information, call (202) 208-1631.

SPECIAL FAMILY ACTIVITIES

★ "INDEPENDENCE FOREVER!"
On Friday, July 4, "1776", the Visitor Center will become the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Join us as we "host" the Second Continental Congress. Delegates from all thirteen states will "meet" to approve the Declaration of Independence, one of the most important documents in the history of the United States. It represents the official first step toward the separation of the thirteen colonies from the control of Great Britain. Participate in this momentous occasion and take part in the many Center festivities during the day!
No reservations needed, festivities from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

★ BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
On Monday, August 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., celebrate the birthday of the National Park Service. Book readings, crafts and games will be available for all family members.

★ CELEBRATE THE CONSTITUTION
Beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 13, President's Park will present a special program, "I Signed the Constitution" celebrating the Constitution. Visitors will have the opportunity to return to the year 1787 and add their names alongside the signatures of Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, James Madison and other Founding Fathers. Copies of the Constitution will be available to the first 200 visitors. At Noon, the Center will host the Constitutional Convention with many "signers" in attendance. Everyone is invited to recite the Preamble to the Constitution at 1:00 p.m. The "town crier" will welcome all guests.

★ SUMMER READING PROGRAM
A special one hour reading and crafts program, "Page By Page," for children under the age of 6 takes place Wednesdays through August 27 from 11:00 a.m. to Noon. Learn about history of the White House, some four legged residents of the White House, special places in our community and our Presidents' roles in conservation.



★ TRAILS ACTIVITIES AT PRESIDENT'S PARK
On Saturday, September 20, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. President's Park will hold its Fall National Trails Day celebration. President's Park staff and volunteers, with assistance from several community groups, will embark on a full day of clean-up chores focused on the Ellipse and Lafayette Park. Everyone is invited to come and join the fun! We will be weeding, edging, trimming, blowing leaves, and picking up litter. Tools, safety equipment and supervision are provided. Participants in trail restoration maintenance will receive special rewards! Afternoon activities will include walking tours, costumed interpretation and colonial games.
Reservations are required for the morning trail projects ONLY, please call (202) 208-1631, Ext. 228.

WALKS, TALKS AND OTHER THOUGHTS

Interpretive programs are presented by Park Rangers daily, Monday through Saturday at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. These programs last from twenty minutes to one hour. More detailed descriptions of today's program are available at the Visitor Center Information desk.

👟 SUMMER WALKS THROUGH THE PARK
"A Walk Around the Park" – Walk through President's Park with a Park Ranger and discover some fascinating facts about this historic parcel of land surrounding the White House.
"Lafayette, We Are Here!" – Join a Park Ranger's walk through Lafayette Park and listen to stories of past events at this historic site.
"A Walk Through President's Park" – Witness the layer of history that abounds in President's Park while enjoying the artistry embodied in the park's statues, fountains, memorials and monuments.

👒 THE NEIGHBORHOOD
"Lincoln's Washington" – What did President Lincoln do when the Civil War threatened the Washington area? A Park Ranger talks about this challenge to national security.
"Are We There Yet?" – Hear about a future President's connection to the Zero Milestone.



The Zero Milestone, located on the Ellipse.

👒 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
"Presidents and Baseball" – Hear the story of many Presidents' connections with our national pastime, the sport of baseball.



"Inside the West Wing" – A Ranger's talk focuses on the Presidential workplace.

ON THIS DATE

August 24, 1814

The British burned the White House. Only the exterior sandstone walls remained. A portrait of George Washington by Gilbert Stuart, first hung in 1800, was an important item saved.

PULL UP A SEAT!

🎬 The video, "Gardens and Grounds of the White House," will be shown continually on Saturday, July 12 and Saturday, August 9.

- 👒 Interpretive Program**
- 👟 Walking Tour**
- 🎬 Video Presentation**
- ★ Special Event**



EXPERIENCE
Your **AMERICA**

Programs may change due to reassignment of rangers to other duties that serve the National Park Service. Every effort is made to maintain the schedule as printed. Please contact the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631 to confirm programs and dates. The Center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you wish to be added to our mailing list, e-mail us at whho_presidents_park@nps.gov.

This calendar is sponsored by the National Park Service and the White House Historical Association.