



SPRING 2009

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

INSIDE:

- Spring Garden Tours
- Showcase White House Grounds
- Second Division Memorial Honors Our Military
- Boy Scout Memorial Rehabilitation

White House Visitor Center
1450 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC
www.nps.gov/whho

Spring Garden Tours Showcase White House Grounds

Spring Garden Tours provide a special opportunity to visit the grounds around the White House. Over the years the eighteen acres that comprise the White House grounds have been subject to constant change.

As the first president to occupy the White House, President John Adams ordered the first planting of a garden. President Thomas Jefferson undertook a complete redesign of the grounds. He started the tradition of planting trees and it was his idea to plant groves.

President John Quincy Adams was an experienced gardener and found pleasure in working in the gardens of the White House. President Rutherford B. Hayes began the tradition of planting commemorative trees. Today, there are more than three dozen such commemorative trees.

In 1913, First Lady Ellen Wilson replaced the colonial style garden with a rose garden on the west side of the White House. Today, the Rose Garden hosts many official functions. The White House grounds are cared for by the National Park Service.

For information on Garden Tour dates and times check our website, www.nps.gov/whho, or call (202)208-1631.



We Honor Our Military

The Second Division Memorial, located on the Ellipse near Constitution Avenue, honors the dead who served in the Second Division of the United States Army during World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. It was originally built to commemorate the Division's casualties in World War I and was dedicated on July 18, 1936. Later, two wings were dedicated on June 20, 1962. Significant battles for World War I are inscribed on the center panels. World War II battles are inscribed on the west panels and the Korean War battles on the east panels.

The granite shaft, built in the form of a great open gateway, has two wreaths carved in relief flanking the entrance. Guarding the gateway is an 18-foot-tall flaming sword, symbolizing blocking the German advance to Paris. The Second Division's insignia, an Indian head within a star upon a shield, is embossed on the sword's handle (or hilt).



The Boy Scout Memorial Rehabilitation

Did you notice the work being done at the Boy Scout Memorial? It is located on the site of the First National Jamboree held in Washington, D.C. in 1937, on the Ellipse, near 15th Street, NW. This four month project will restore the monument and the fountain to its original luster.

The bronze statue was unveiled on November 7, 1964 with an estimated 5,000 Boy Scouts and their leaders, top government dignitaries, business executives, and Scout officials in attendance.

The three-figure statue consists of a Boy Scout – symbolic of all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Explorers striding into the future. The two classic figures represent the sum of the great ideals of past civilizations. The male symbolizes love of country, patriotism, loyalty, honor and courage. The female figure symbolizes the spiritual qualities of good citizenship, faith, high ideals, liberty, and love of humanity.

The project was financed by individual contributions of boys and leaders from every state. It was hoped that every unit throughout the United States would contribute at least ten cents a boy. Each donor was asked to sign his name on a scroll. These scrolls have been placed in the pedestal of the statues.



SPECIAL FAMILY ACTIVITIES AT PRESIDENT'S PARK

April

Eggs....Eggs....and More Eggs....

On **Monday, April 13** from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the White House Visitor Center will present a full day of free "eggcellent" programs. Visitors of all ages will enjoy completing a variety of crafts and activities available in the Center. *No reservations are required for the Visitor Center program. For additional information, call (202) 208-1631.*



National Park Week 2009

National Park Week 2009 will be celebrated in President's Park from Saturday, April 18 through Sunday, April 26. A special free crafts program will be available **Tuesday, April 21 through Saturday, April 25** between 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to complete a booklet, "National Parks Activity Guide," featuring information on six of our 391 National Park Service sites. National Parks protect and preserve cultural, historic, natural and recreational areas throughout the United States. Rangers and Volunteers-in-the-Park provide opportunities to learn and grow, as well as recreational experiences and show off many places of quiet refuge. This year take a moment, an hour, or a day or more to visit National Parks near you.

Junior Ranger Day

On **Saturday, April 25** between 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. all visitors at the Visitor Center will also celebrate National Junior Ranger Day as we host several interactive games of "Are You Smarter Than A Park Ranger?" complete with prizes! Park Rangers will also assist all potential Junior Rangers in activities towards achieving their Junior Ranger badge and certificate. Join our Honor Roll of Junior Rangers online! And don't forget to go online and participate in our national WebRanger program!

May

Lafayette Park: Spirits from the Past

On **Saturday, May 16** at 7:00 p.m., we'd like to introduce you and your family to our family of historical characters who contributed to the 19th and 20th century social scene around Lafayette Park. Our free one hour presentation will begin on the north side of the White House, just follow the "Spirits" sign to the Park Rangers near the White House. Park rangers and volunteers will guide visitors through the 200 year history of Lafayette Park. Stephen Decatur will discuss his plans for the first house on Lafayette Square in 1817. A spy will be trying to stay ahead of the law during the Civil War. Women will be protesting for the right to vote during the early days of the Wilson administration. Also joining our party will be Dolley Madison, Andrew Jackson, Henry Adams, Bernard Baruch, the Marquis de Lafayette, and others as you learn about the historic area across the street from the White House. *No reservations required. For additional information, please call the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631. The rain date will be Sunday, May 17.*

Memorial Day Crafts

On **Monday, May 25** from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., free family craft activities will focus on this day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Originally proclaimed on May 5, 1868, the holiday was first observed on May 30, 1868 at Arlington National Cemetery when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers. *No reservations required.*



June

Flag Day Activities

President Harry S Truman signed an Act of Congress on August 3, 1949 designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day. Years before, Betsy Ross received the following directions for making the first flag:

RESOLVED: That the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes alternate red and white; that the Union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field, representing a new constellation."

With these guidelines, she was free to design the flag as she wished. You too will be able to design a flag. Join our crafts program on **Sunday, June 14** from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We'll have plenty of star stickers, red, white and blue construction paper, scissors and such. Just bring your imagination. *No reservations required. Call the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631 for additional information regarding a host of family activities planned for the summer.*

National History Day

A display of winning exhibits for National History Day will take place in the Visitor Center on **Wednesday, June 17** from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. High school students' displays will explore the 2009 theme, "The Individual in History." Stories of individuals in history are compelling, but pose a challenge. The student must move beyond biographies and descriptions of specific people or events and demonstrate how that person's actions had an impact on history. Come and discuss these winning entries with these young adults.

Page by Page - Children's Reading Club

The second season of our free summer reading club, "Page by Page" for children under the age of six years of age will commence on **TUESDAY, June 23** at 11:00 a.m. at the White House Visitors Center. Each hour long weekly program will feature a book reading followed by a craft activity, suitable for young hands. *Reservations are not necessary, but the program is limited to 20 children. Supervision is required for the entire hour. For additional information, call (202) 208-1631, ext. 216.*

Every Month

New! New! New! First Saturdays

President's Park will be conducting free historical crafts programs and fun activities for children of all ages on the first Saturday of every month beginning **April 4** and continuing on **May 2** and **June 6**. Want to design presidential china? Have you tried your hand at a game of "Graces"? Perhaps



Hooverball? Join us between 9:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the Visitor Center. *A schedule of additional events will be available on our website as well as at the Visitor Center in April, or call (202) 208-1631.*

ASK A PARK RANGER

Welcome Visitors

The Park is greening up, the flowers are blooming, the trees are bursting with green, and our Park staff is ready, willing and able to answer all visitors' questions. Look for the unique hat every Park



Ranger wears, these President's Park employees have a wealth of information and can handle almost all presidential trivia questions, too! Our Park volunteers wear yellow baseball hats, and know more about what's happening in the area than anyone else! Brochures and maps can be obtained at the Information Desk in the Visitor Center, as well as at the Ellipse Visitors Pavilion, which also has an up to date bulletin board for visitor use.

Talks and Walks

Park rangers and volunteers present interpretive talks daily at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on topics of interest in President's Park. These talks and walks, posted daily in the Visitor Center, last twenty minutes to one hour, and give you a bird's eye view of President's Park history, as well as the people in the neighborhood, the many events held within the Park, and the monuments and memorials.

ATTENTION EDUCATORS

Have Trunk, Will Travel

Attention Educators: Schools and home schooling classes may be interested in our traveling trunk filled with period clothing, utensils, books and a curriculum guide focusing on the history of slavery in the United States. *The trunk is available FREE for periods of two weeks. Please contact the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631 ext. 213.*



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 would like 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.