



Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site



# Junior Secret Service Agent

## ★ Training Manual ★

**CLASSIFIED MATERIAL**



## Introduction

United States Secret Service Agents protected Springwood, the home of Franklin D. Roosevelt in Hyde Park, New York for the 12 years that he was President of the United States of America. Franklin D. Roosevelt was the 32nd President and the only president ever elected to 4 terms, which means he would hold that office for 16 years in a row. President Roosevelt died on April 12, 1945, at the beginning of his fourth term. His death ended the need for the Secret Service to keep the family home and lands here safe for him. Their job at Springwood had started long before that, when he was elected as President for the first time in November 1932.

Today you can explore what it was like to be one of President Roosevelt's Secret Service Agents working here at Springwood. As you visit the President's home, grounds, and different buildings, test yourself to see if you have what it takes to protect the President by finishing your chosen activities in this Training Manual.





## SECRET SERVICE HISTORY



The United States Secret Service started shortly after President Lincoln was shot and killed in 1865. The duties of the Secret Service did not, at first, include protecting the President. The Secret Service agents' work was to fight the illegal printing and spending of phony money (counterfeiting). It was not until 1902, the year after President McKinley was shot and killed that the Secret Service began to protect Presidents full-time. The first President to have this protection was Theodore Roosevelt.

The Secret Service has two groups that serve and protect the Presidents and their families. They must be willing to risk their lives to save the President.

One group is made up of people who dress in regular clothes, called "plain clothes". These are the agents we often see on TV when the President makes a speech or is traveling in his special car. They are a team of plain clothes agents whose assignment is called the "White House detail" and they usually live and work in Washington, D. C., but do travel with the President, too. The plain clothes agents came to Hyde Park with President Roosevelt and his family, but did not usually stay there without him. Their job was to go with him wherever he was. In 1981, a plain clothes agent was shot and wounded while trying to shield President Ronald Reagan from gunfire.

The second group is made up of people who dress in uniforms and wear badges on their uniform shirts. They look like police. In fact, they are the Secret Service uniformed police. They too are part of the "White House detail", and are on duty at the White House where part of their assignment is to protect and patrol the property of the President. The uniformed members of the Secret Service did most of the protection and guard duty at President Roosevelt's house in Hyde Park, New York. In 1951, a Secret Service White House policeman was shot and killed while protecting President Harry Truman from gunfire.

**A NOTE TO ADULTS**  
**WITH JUNIOR SECRET SERVICE AGENT TRAINEES**

- The objective of this activity is to encourage each child, from 7-12 years of age, to have **fun** while learning about President Roosevelt and the duties of the U. S. Secret Service. Plan to spend approximately 2 hours (or more if you wish), including your tour of FDR's home, to complete the requirements needed to earn the Junior Secret Service Badge and Certificate.
- Encourage your children to do as much as possible on their own. However, some children may need some adult assistance with the training activities. If any questions or activities in the book seem too difficult to complete, your child may ask the staff for assistance as well.
- When completed, have each child submit the manual to a tour guide at the Tourist Information Center. An adult must accompany the children.
- Tour guides will be available at 10 minutes before the hour and 20 minutes past the hour (for example: 9:50 AM or 10:20 AM) to review the trainees' manuals [4:20 PM is the last opportunity to pick up badges]. Manuals will be reviewed for completeness.
- The tour guide will then present each trainee with a Badge designed like those worn by actual agents. Adults will receive a Certificate for each trainee, which can be filled in by the adult when convenient.

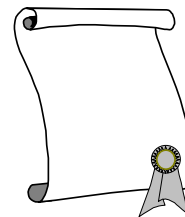
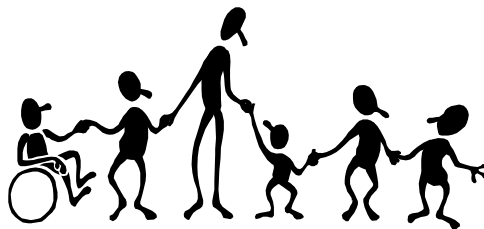
## Boys and Girls

Your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to complete the following pages in the Junior Secret Service Training Manual and earn the Junior Secret Service Agent Badge and Certificate.

Good Luck!

### HOW TO BECOME A JUNIOR SECRET SERVICE AGENT

1. Choose and complete activities from all 3 Sections in the Junior Secret Service Training Manual.
2. When you complete the activities listed on the next page, go with an adult to the Tourist Information Center to hand in your Training Manual to any of the park rangers or tour guides. They will inspect your book and then present you with the Junior Secret Service Agent Badge and Certificate.



# HANDY CHECK LIST

Check each activity that you have completed.

## Section 1: Agents Skills and Knowledge

\*You **must** complete Activity A, **plus** 2 other Activities in Section 1.

*Activity A	<input type="checkbox"/>	Knowing the President Page	LOCATION: Home Tour or Presidential Museum
Activity B	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eyes and Ears Page	LOCATION: In & Around the FDR Home
Activity C	<input type="checkbox"/>	Safety Planning Page	LOCATION: Around the FDR Home
Activity D	<input type="checkbox"/>	Asking Questions Page	LOCATION: In & Around the FDR Property
Activity E	<input type="checkbox"/>	Physical Fitness Page	LOCATION: old FDR Home Rd. or trail to ice pond

## **Section 2: White House Detail Aptitude Test** (Do the whole test.)

## **Section 3: FDR's Challenges Physical Challenges** (Do All)

Activity A	Getting Around Page	LOCATION: Any place to sit down
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**Section 1: Agent Skills and Knowledge**

A good Secret Service agent must have a lot of different skills and know such things as self-defense, the use of guns (firearms), as well as investigation and arrest actions.

**Activity A. Knowing the President [you must complete this]**

**Location: Home Tour and Presidential Museum**

**An agent must have knowledge about the person they are guarding.**

Find out more about President Roosevelt by listening carefully to the guide during your tour of the President's home and by looking carefully at the exhibits in the Presidential Museum. Answer the following questions: (Hint – Reading the Introduction page will help you.)

Where was President Roosevelt born?

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How many times was President Roosevelt elected to be president?

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Name 3 things that you really liked seeing in the Museum:

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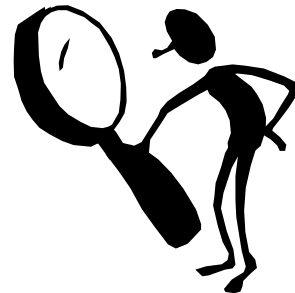
**Activity B. Eyes and Ears**

**(official word: Observation) Location: In & Around FDR Home**

Every 2 hours, from dark until daylight, an agent had to patrol inside the President’s home, Springwood. They inspected all four floors when none of the family was home; and just the basement and first floor when they were home. The second floor has a lot of rooms, connecting doors and an “L” shaped hallway, so it would take longer to patrol and make sure everything was safe. Use your eyes and ears to help you answer these questions:

1. Can you find the one thing the Secret Service used in the second floor hallway so the agents could see around the corner into the “L” shaped part of the hall to see if anyone else was in that hallway?  
(Hint – If you stand right in front of it you can see your reflection)  
Place an X in the box next to the answer you think is right.

- A. A window
- B. A glass door
- C. A long mirror



**[Activity B. Continues on the next page]**



**[Activity B. Continued...]**

2. President Roosevelt's favorite hobby was collecting things. He had many collections. Some of the things he collected are in his home for visitors to see. Using your eyes and ears (observation), look around the President's home (and in the Museum, too) and then answer these questions:

Which of these collection objects were not in the President's home? Circle your answer.

- A. Paintings of ships
- B. Stuffed birds
- C. Baseball cards



Do you have a collection? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, what do you collect? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Part of observation and really looking around you is being able to remember where things are. Whether it is something as big as a tree or as small as a book, an agent needs to know if it has changed or been moved.

Think back to when you were in front of Springwood. How many cannons did you see on the front porch? \_\_\_\_\_(write a number)

Check again as you walk around to the front. Did you remember the right number? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

## **Activity C. Safety Planning**

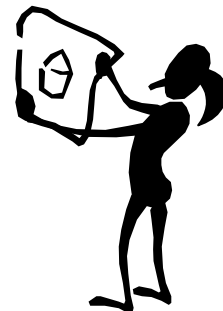
(official word: **Security**)

**Location: Around the Home**

**An agent needs to be able to plan for the safety of any place visited by the President.** During his four terms, President Roosevelt would return to Springwood as many times as he could. The Roosevelt-owned land stretched more than 1500 acres from the Hudson River toward the east with a busy road, the Albany Post Road (Route 9), cutting through the middle of it. With this much property to guard, how could the agents make Springwood safe for the President and his family?

Before World War II, only the Secret Service protected President Roosevelt when he came home to Springwood. After the U.S. went to war in 1941, the agents had help from the Army and its Military Police. The agents and the military guarded the house and grounds 24 hours a day. Using the **MAP** on page \_\_\_\_, prepare these three security steps:

1. After dark, a Secret Service uniformed patrol officer had to inspect the grounds once every hour. *Draw a line on the **MAP** showing how you would patrol around the house, laundry building, garage and stables.*



**[Activity C continues on next page...]**

**[Activity C continued...]**

2. Agents had to protect the grounds at Springwood 24 hours a day. They set up one guardhouse for this at the main gate to Route 9 (the Albany Post Road). The agent on duty at the main gate would stop all cars and people coming into the President's property to check and make sure they were supposed to be there.

The guardhouses were small buildings just big enough for two people to stand inside. There was also room for a small desk and chair, a special telephone, and some special radio equipment. Other guardhouses were near Springwood, the President's home itself. Most times there were a total of 4 of them on the property, but during World War II there were as many as 8. If you were in charge, *draw* squares at 4 different places on the **MAP** where you would put each guardhouse.

3. Part of planning the safety of a place is deciding what to do in case of a fire. Because all the original stairways in the house are in the north end of Springwood, agents had to come up with a way to get President Roosevelt out of the house from the south end of the house, if they had to. A canvas cloth chute was made that President Roosevelt could slide down from the balcony outside his room down to the lawn. On the **MAP**, *draw* an "X" on the south end of Springwood where this chute would have been used.

**Activity D. Asking Questions**

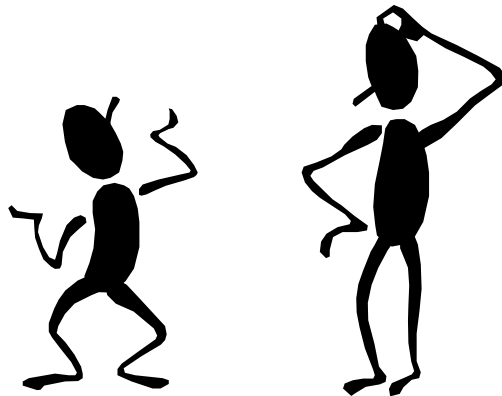
**(official word: Interrogation) Location: Anywhere in this park**

**An agent must be able to question people.** Asking questions is the way agents build a case or find out who needs to be investigated. (Bring your grownup with you when you do this.) Choose another visitor here today [kid or grownup], and ask this person some questions. Before you start, tell this person that you are a Junior Secret Service trainee and ask if it's OK. Here are the questions:

What state or country are you from? \_\_\_\_\_

Is this your first visit to FDR's home? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you on vacation? \_\_\_\_\_



**Activity E. Physical Fitness [ take your grownup with you ]**

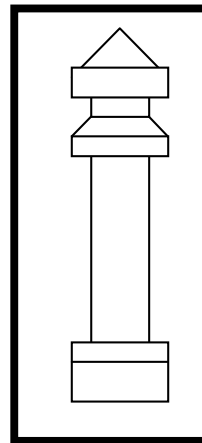
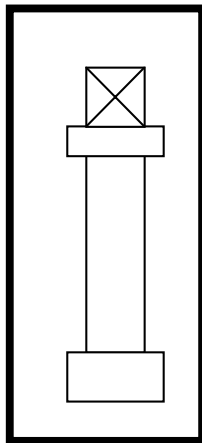
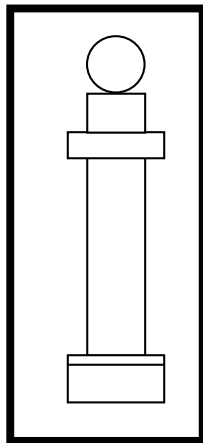
**Location: Old FDR Home Road or trail to ice pond**

**An agent must be strong and able to a lot of different physical activities such as running, jumping, tackling, and leaping.** Using the **MAP** on Page \_\_\_ to help you find your starting place, choose one of the two following assignments:

(Assignment 1. Is suitable for trainees who are physically challenged. The road is flat and wheelchair accessible.)

1. Find the old Home road on the **MAP**. Go to the old Home road in person. *Ride, walk or run* to the locked metal gate, which faces the Route 9 highway. When you get there, look at the gateposts.

Look at the pictures below, *mark* an X inside the picture box of the one that most looks like the gatepost you are looking at.



**[Activity E continues on the next page]**

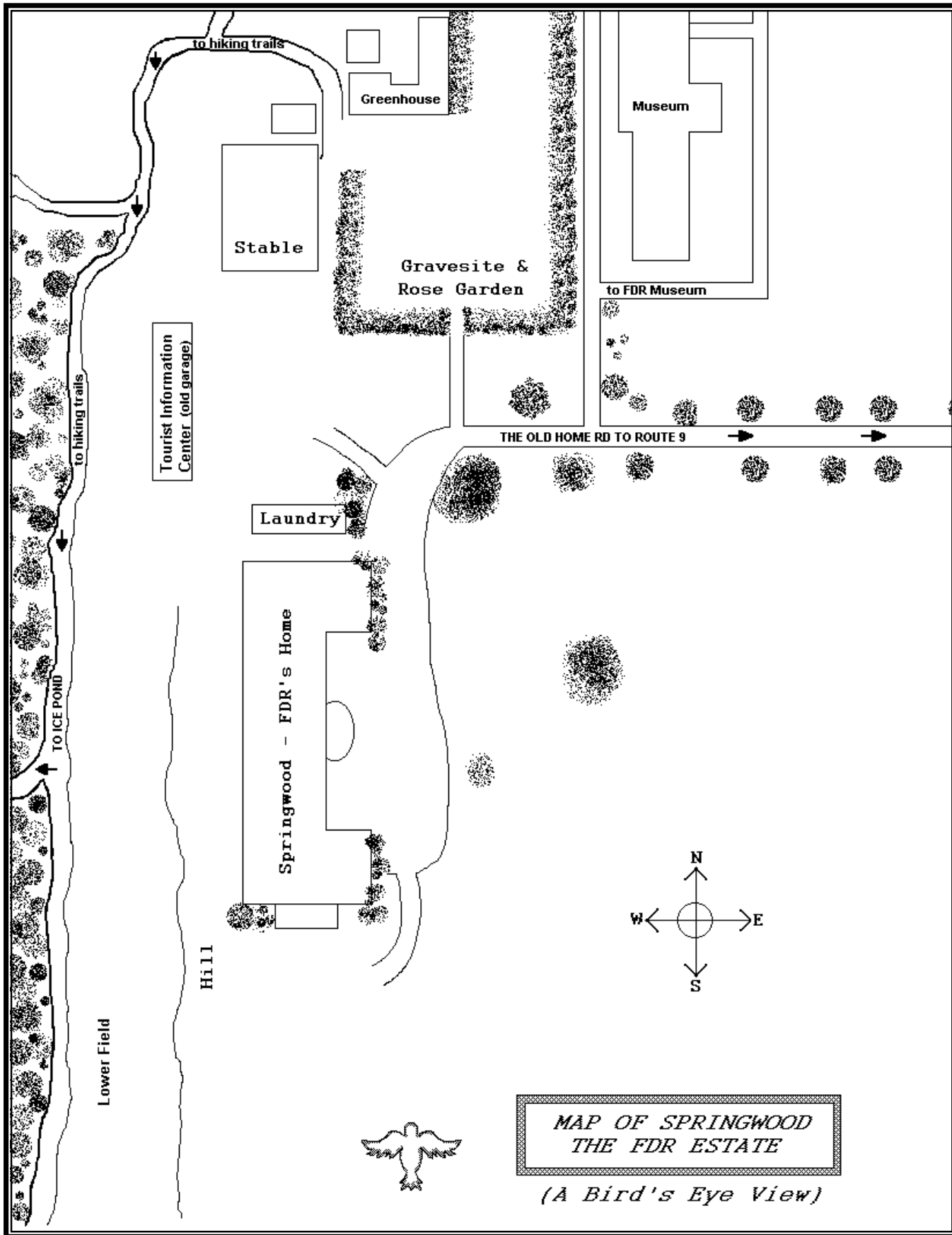
**[Activity E continues ...]**

2. Find the trail to the ice pond on the **MAP**. Go to the ice pond trail in person. *Find your way* to the ice pond. When you get there, look around. Which of the following things did you not see there? Circle the answer.

- a) a waterfall
- b) a No Swimming sign
- c) a water fountain

When you are done choosing, *find your way* back to your starting place.





## **Section 2: Roosevelt Presidential Detail Aptitude Test**

### **\*Complete All of This Section\***

Not every Secret Service agent has the personality to work in the Presidential Detail. Answer the following questions to see if you would do well if assigned to protect President Roosevelt.

1. When protecting the President at Springwood or at the White House, one of your duties is to keep people away from the home who are not invited. Mrs. Roosevelt often invited lots of people to visit her and President Roosevelt, sometimes people that she just met or who disagreed with the President. Could you deal with Mrs. Roosevelt bringing all these types of people to see President Roosevelt?

YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

2. By 1944, President and Mrs. Roosevelt had 13 grandchildren and loved for them to stay with them to say good morning by going into his room and jumping into his bed while he read the newspapers in bed in the morning. Would you be willing to work with 13 grandchildren running around, in and out of the President's room?

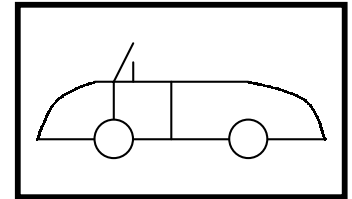
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**[Section 2 Continues on the next page ...]**



**[Section 2 Continued...]**

3. President Roosevelt loved to drive his Ford convertible car on the trails and roads through the land around Springwood. The President knew the roads so well that sometimes the agents driving the car following his Ford



couldn't keep up. Do you think you could drive well enough to keep up with President Roosevelt? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

(See FDR's Ford car in the Presidential Museum)

4. Protecting a President can be a dangerous job. Just after Franklin was elected in 1932 (but before he took the Oath of Office) a man tried to shoot him and the Mayor of Chicago in Miami, Florida. The mayor was killed.

Would you be willing to sacrifice your life to save the President? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

(See a real bullet from this event in the Presidential Museum)

5. Being a Secret Service agent was not always dangerous and exciting. Springwood had to be protected and kept safe even when President

Roosevelt was not here. The uniformed Secret Service men had to walk around the grounds through snow and rain every day and night to make sure everything outside was all right. Could you walk for long hours at night whether it is hot or freezing?

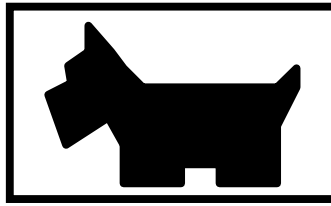
YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

**[Section 2 Continues on the next page...]**

**[Section 2 Continued...]**

6. The President wanted everyone who lived and worked on the Roosevelt property to continue living here just as they had been. The agents had to learn all the workers' names and jobs so they could know who belonged here at Springwood and who didn't. Can you memorize the names and faces of 50 people?

YES \_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_



7. The President was given a little, black Scottie dog from his cousin Daisy. He named the dog Fala. President Roosevelt took Fala with him to the Oval Office and on some of his long trips. Could you work with Fala always around the President? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

(See some of Fala's toys in the Presidential Museum)

If you answered "YES" to 5 or more of the above question you will probably perform well as a member of the Roosevelt White House Secret Service detail. If you didn't have five or more "YES" answers, don't worry. You can still qualify but you might not enjoy it as much. The Secret Service is part of the Department of the Treasury. As department agents, they perform many other tasks in addition to protecting the President. You might like one of those jobs better.

### **Section 3: FDR's Physical Challenges**



In August of 1921, Franklin D. Roosevelt got sick from the virus poliomyelitis (called polio for short). At the time, there was no cure or even a way to prevent polio from making people sick. Usually, only children and teenagers got sick from this virus, grownups hardly ever did. Once people had the virus in them, it damaged the nerves in their bodies sometimes, causing these people to be unable to move their legs, or their arms, or even to breathe.

Franklin probably got sick while visiting a summer camp. He didn't know it because he didn't feel sick right away. By the time he joined his family for vacation at Campobello Island, Franklin started to feel tired and achy. The virus damaged some of the nerves in his back, which control the muscles in his legs. His legs were paralyzed; they couldn't move. From then on, the only way Franklin Roosevelt could move around was by wheelchair or by putting hard metal braces on his legs to help him stand up and move around.

**[Section 3 Continues on the next page...]**

**[Section 3 Continued...]**

**Activity A: Getting Around**

**(official word: Transportation) Location: Any place to sit down**

When you visit the President Roosevelt's home, Springwood, and the Presidential Museum you will see two of his wheelchairs. He wanted his wheelchairs to look like everyday chairs, so they were made out of plain old wooden kitchen chairs. This way, when you talked to Franklin, you would not pay very much attention to the wheelchair.

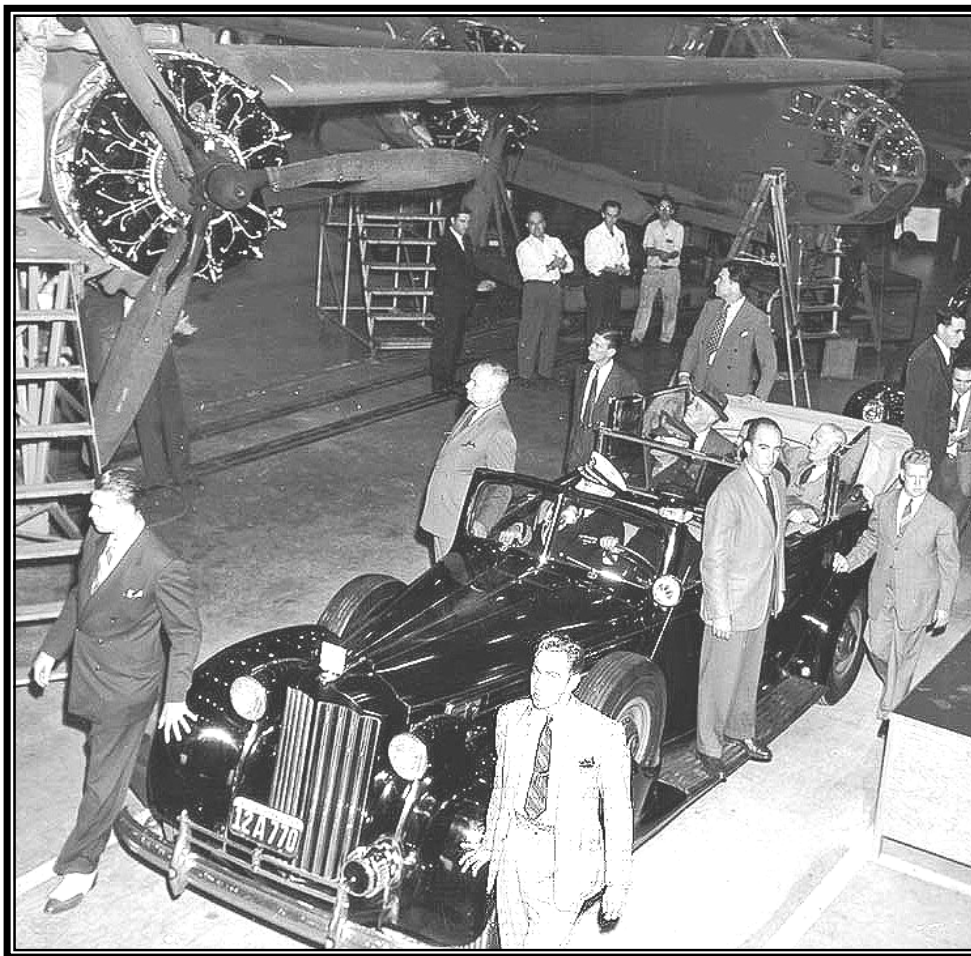
1. If you had to build your own wheelchair, what would it look like?  
*Draw one in the box below.*



**[Section 3 Continues on the next page...]**

**[Section 3 Continued...]**

The Secret Service Agents had to plan very carefully for those big events where the President would have to wear his leg braces. They had to know where President Roosevelt might sit, stand, and how far he had to move while standing up. They had to plan the shortest and easiest way in for President Roosevelt.



**Secret Service Agents Protect President Roosevelt as he inspects an airplane factory during World War II. (FDR Library)**

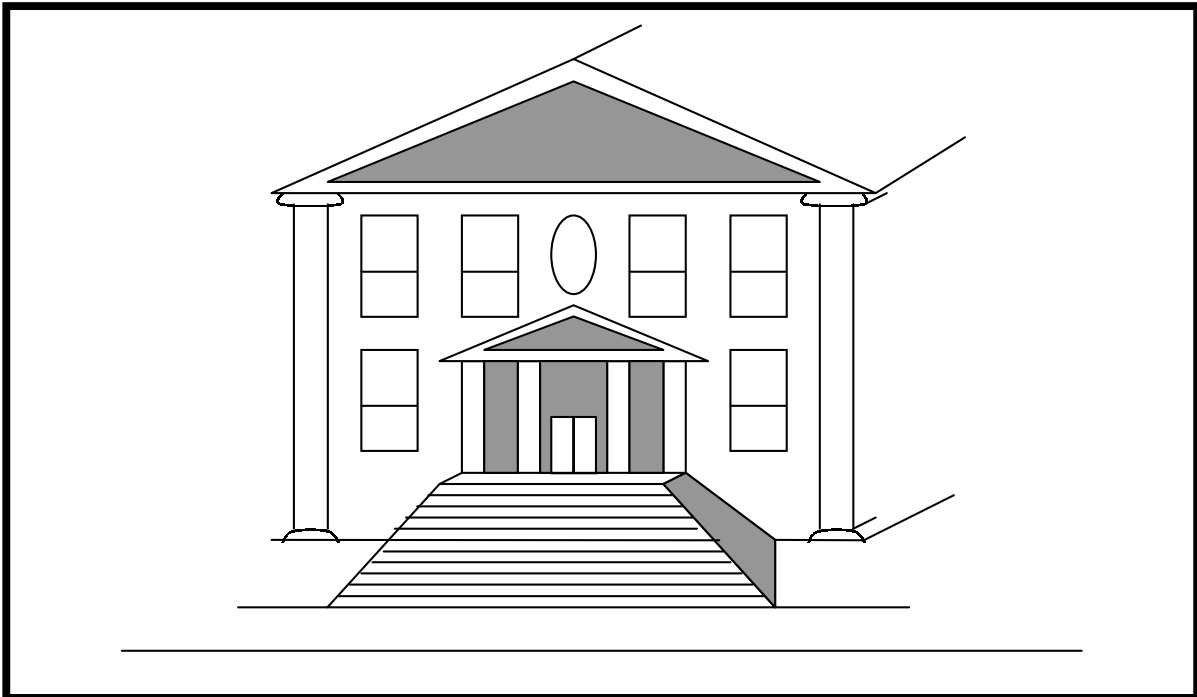
**Section 3 Continues on the next page...]**

**[Section 3 Continued...]**

After FDR got sick from polio he could no longer walk up the stairs. When Franklin became President, the Secret Service not only protected him; they also learned to help him.

Agents learned that President Roosevelt could not easily go up steps while wearing leg braces, so they figured out other ways for him to go up stairs. For some buildings that had stairs going up to their front doors, the Secret Service would build huge ramps over the stairs. That way the President's car could drive up the ramp from the street right to the front door.

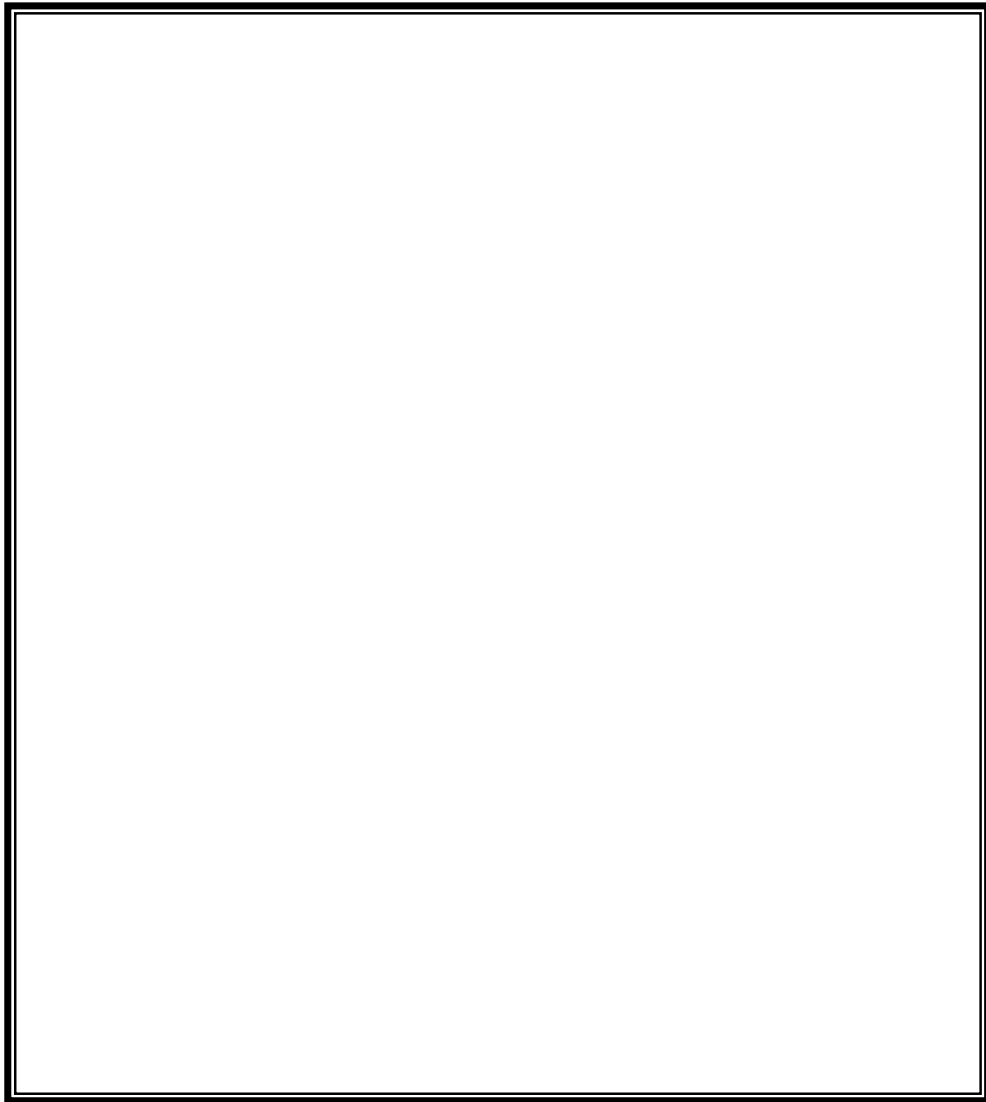
2. *Draw a ramp for the building below so that President Roosevelt's car can drive up to the front door. (Remember that this is so he doesn't have to walk up any stairs.)*



## **FOLLOW UP ACTIVITY**

**DRAW YOURSELF ON-DUTY AS AN  
OFFICIAL JUNIOR SECRET SERVICE AGENT !**

(Sign your name and date it when you are finished.)



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**Visit the Secret Service webpage for kids at:  
[www.ustreas.gov/usss/kids\\_faq.htm](http://www.ustreas.gov/usss/kids_faq.htm)**





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