

SPECIAL FAMILY ACTIVITIES



I HAVE A DREAM

In observance of the Martin Luther King holiday, the video, "I Have a Dream," will be shown Saturday, January 19 through Monday, January 21.



PRESIDENT FOR A DAY

Visitors who "elect" to stop by the White House Visitor Center on Monday, February 18 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. may be sworn into office as "President for a Day" with the assistance of National Park Service rangers and President's Park volunteers. During this full day of free activities, visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to sample some of the sounds, sights, activities and personages that have helped to make the White House America's most significant residence. Come and experience many aspects of White House life from times gone by thanks to the participation of actors from the acclaimed American Historical Theater and National Park Service rangers and volunteers. The day's events include games, candlemaking, and other crafts and activities for both children and adults. Chat with Abraham Lincoln or pull up a seat at Dolley Madison's dinner table, practice presidential correspondence with a quill pen or step up to the "Bully Pulpit" like Teddy Roosevelt! *For additional information, call the White House Visitor Center in President's Park at (202) 208-1631.*



A MARCH OF FIRST LADIES

On Saturday, March 8, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the White House Visitor Center, "A March of First Ladies" will celebrate the contributions of America's Presidential spouses. Learn about the humanitarianism of Eleanor Roosevelt, Lou Hoover's role as President of the Girl Scouts, and Frances Cleveland, the only First Lady to be married in the White House, as well as other prominent First Ladies. Enjoy crafts popular in the 19th century and join an interpretive discussion focusing on the contribution made by these women to define the critically important role of First Lady of the United States.



EGGS....EGGS....AND MORE EGGS!

The White House Visitor Center will present a full day of "eggsellent" free programs from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, March 24. Visitors of all ages will enjoy trying their hand at a host of crafts and activities available at the White House Visitor Center while the annual White House Easter Egg Roll takes place on the White House South Lawn. No reservations are required for the White House Visitor center program. For additional information contact the White House Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631.



EASTER EGG ROLL JUNIOR RANGER ACTIVITY BOOK

Come and participate in a very special Junior Ranger Activity based on one of the oldest traditions at the White House – the Easter Egg Roll. Complete all of the activities in the book and be sworn in as one of President Park's newest Junior Rangers!



IT'S CHERRY BLOSSOM TIME!

On March 27, 1912 First Lady Helen Herron Taft accepted a gift of 3,020 cherry trees from the Japanese government. This year's annual Cherry Blossom Festival runs from March 29 through April 13 and marks the 96th anniversary of this gift. Join us at the White House Visitor Center on Saturday, March 29 between 12 noon and 3 p.m. Make a tissue paper cherry blossom and hear a Park Ranger's discussion of the history of these beautiful trees.



DAILY PROGRAMS AT PRESIDENT'S PARK

Interpretive programs are presented by Park Rangers daily at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. These programs last from approximately 20 minutes to one hour in length. More detailed descriptions are available at the White House Visitor Center Information Desk which is the starting point for all daily programs at President's Park.



THE NEIGHBORHOOD

"Washington's Washington" – It took land from Virginia and Maryland to create a new capital city for the United States. Join a Park Ranger's discussion of Washington, the man and Washington, the city.

"The Commonwealth of Virginia" – More presidents were born in Virginia than any other state in the union. Can *you* name all eight of these men?

"Stepping through History" – Stay warm and "walk" through history indoors! The Visitor Center is home to many special exhibits on White House history and a film on life in the White House.



WALKS THROUGH THE PARK

"A Winter Wonderland" – How do the changing season affect the animals, plants and trees in President's Park?

"Frozen in Time" – The lives of many distinguished people are celebrated by the statues, monuments and memorials in President's Park.

"A Walk Around President's Park" – Discover some fascinating facts about this parcel of federal parkland surrounding the gates of the White House



1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

"Except One" – In observance of President's Day (and week and month!) join a Park Ranger and learn about all the presidents who lived in the White House and especially, the one who didn't.

"Presidents and Baseball" – It's called "America's national pastime," but what is the connection between baseball and presidents?

"Twenty Two and Twenty Four" – No, it's not a lesson in presidential history, but it's a fact! The 22nd and the 24th presidents were the same man. Who was he?

"Four score and seven..." – Our sixteenth president wrote a short speech for the dedication of a cemetery in Gettysburg honoring our Civil War dead.



GREAT PEOPLE IN HISTORY

"The Last Great Battle" – While victorious on the battlefield and in the political arena, there is a greater story of Ulysses S. Grant's struggle against his most daunting opponent.

"Thank You, Mrs. Taft" – A wise First Lady sought to make our capital city a place of beauty. It was a simple gift of cherry trees made almost ninety six years ago.

"God and Country – Guts and Glory" – The First Division of the U.S. Army, referred to as the "Big Red One," fought on many battlefields. Join a Park Ranger to hear of this heroic story.



The Zero Milestone, left, is one of the many monuments in President's Park you will see on one of our walking tours.

	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 whbo_presidents_park@nps.gov.

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



WINTER 2008

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

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Week

Easter Egg Roll Fun

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The Annual Easter Egg Roll: A White House Tradition



The White House Easter Egg Roll is an annual tradition dating back to 1878 and the administration of President Rutherford B. Hayes. On the Monday after Easter, hundreds of children flock to the South Lawn of the White House to roll colorful eggs through the grass.

Appearances by the White House Easter Bunny, souvenir eggs, celebrities and maypole dances have surprised and delighted children at this event for years. A special Easter Egg Roll Junior Ranger Activity Book will be available for children of all ages!

This year's event will be held Monday, March 24. The event is free to the general public, however, tickets are required. In case of inclement weather, the Egg Roll will be cancelled.

For more information about the Easter Egg Roll, please call the White House Visitors Office 24-hour information line at (202) 456-7041.

On Exhibit: Only at the White House Visitor Center



The Presidential Seal – The Presidential Seal was inspired by the Great Seal of the United States, created in 1782. The seal began as a small, hand-held die which the President pressed into wax to seal important messages. An early die, probably created by President James K. Polk in 1845, was also used by President Abraham Lincoln during the Civil War. During the Truman administration changes were made to the Presidential Seal, resulting in the creation of this symbol of the Presidency as we know it today.

White House Pets - From the earliest days of the White House, horses, goats, chickens, dogs, cats, songbirds, and other small pets became a part of daily life at the White House, providing companionship to the president and his family. You might be surprised by some of the variety of creatures that Presidential families have called pets over the years!



Woodrow Wilson's sheep graze on the White House South Lawn, ca. 1918. Photo: Library of Congress

First Division Monument

The First Division Monument is located on the west side of the White House and south of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. As you stroll around President's Park, take a few moments to admire this beautiful monument.

The First Division of the American Expeditionary Forces was created during World War I and has played a vital role in almost every United States military engagement since that time. This monument was created to commemorate the dead of the First Division as well as to convey the spirit of triumph and sacrifice of all American divisions and services.

On the very top of the monument is a statue designed by sculptor Daniel Chester French called "Victory." The statue is made of gilded bronze and sits atop a tall column

of pink granite quarried in Milford, Massachusetts.

In addition to the names of those who died in World War I, two side panels were added to honor those who died in World War II and Vietnam, and a plaque was added for those who died in Operation Desert Storm. The monument was paid for by members of the First Division and was dedicated in 1924.

Today the monument and grounds are maintained by the National Park Service. The large flower bed in the shape of the First Division's "Big Red One" shoulder patch, located south of the monument, was created in 1965 as part of Lady Bird Johnson's landscaping plans to beautify the District of Columbia.

