

Since it began in 1946, the National School Lunch Program has provided nutritious meals in schools across the country. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has worked to ensure that these meals include fresh fruits, vegetables, and milk and that they meet dietary recommendations so children limit fat, sodium, cholesterol, and excess calories in their diet.

By learning to eat well, children can avoid problems that can lead to serious long-term health problems, including heart disease, asthma, and diabetes. Team Nutrition, part of the USDA Food and Nutrition Service, is playing an important role in promoting good nutrition to children in thousands of our Nation's schools, providing training and resources to food service professionals across our country.

National School Lunch Week is an opportunity to recognize food service professionals, school officials, and parents for their dedicated efforts to provide healthy foods to America's children. This week, we recommit ourselves to encouraging children to make nutritious food choices and lead healthy lifestyles.

In recognition of the contributions of the National School Lunch Program to the health, education, and well-being of America's children, the Congress, by joint resolution of October 9, 1962 (Public Law 87-780), as amended, has designated the week beginning on the second Sunday in October of each year as "National School Lunch Week" and has requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this week.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim the week of October 14 through October 20, 2007, as National School Lunch Week. I call upon all Americans to join the dedicated individuals who administer the National School Lunch Program in appropriate activities that support the health and well-being of our Nation's children.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 8191 of October 12, 2007**White Cane Safety Day, 2007**

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

Our country upholds the value of every person, and all Americans deserve an opportunity to realize the American dream. Many citizens who are blind or visually impaired use white canes to achieve greater independence and increase mobility and productivity. On White Cane Safety Day, we celebrate the symbolism of the white cane, and we underscore our dedication to ensuring more individuals have the ability to lead active lives and achieve their personal and professional goals.

Proclamations

Proc. 8192

My Administration is committed to helping Americans with disabilities live and work with greater freedom. Through the New Freedom Initiative, we are building on the progress of the Americans with Disabilities Act and helping our citizens who are blind or visually impaired gain greater access to the workplace, school, and community life. By working to tear down barriers, we are creating a society where all people are encouraged to reach their full potential and where the promise of our great Nation is accessible for everyone.

The Congress, by joint resolution (Public Law 88–628) approved on October 6, 1964, as amended, has designated October 15 of each year as “White Cane Safety Day.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 15, 2007, as White Cane Safety Day. I call upon public officials, business leaders, educators, and all the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Proclamation 8192 of October 19, 2007

National Character Counts Week, 2007

*By the President of the United States of America
A Proclamation*

The greatness of a nation is measured not by power or wealth but by the character of its people. During National Character Counts Week, we underscore our dedication to promoting values for our young people and encourage all Americans to demonstrate good character.

As America’s youth strive to become responsible adults, they carry with them the values and traditions they were taught as children. At home, parents and families can teach universal values such as respect, tolerance, self-restraint, fairness, and compassion. In the community, we all can set good examples and demonstrate the virtues of leadership, patriotism, and responsible citizenship. The members of our Armed Forces demonstrate the strength of America’s character by answering the call of service to our Nation.

Through the Helping America’s Youth initiative, caring adults are connected with at-risk youth so that they have a mentor and an example as they navigate the challenges young people face. By working together, we can give children the skill and habits they need to reach their full potential.