

First Ladies

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
National Historic Site
Ohio



Book A

8 Years Old & Under

Future First Lady Ida McKinley was born in this house in 1847. She lived in this house with her family, including President William McKinley for about 28 years.



First Ladies National Historic Site is now run by the National Park Service and National First Ladies' Library. Together, we tell the stories of the First Ladies of the United States.



BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER!

A Junior Ranger is someone who helps care for and learn about national parks!

By completing the activities in this book, you can be a Junior Ranger too!



How to Become a First Ladies NHS Junior Ranger

1. Complete 4 activities
2. Have a ranger check your book
3. Say the Junior Ranger oath
4. Earn a badge and certificate!

If you do not finish your activities during your visit, mail your completed Junior Ranger book to First Ladies NHS.

**First Ladies National Historic Site
Education Center
205 Market Avenue South
Canton, OH 44702**



Activity #1

What is a First Lady?

A First Lady is a partner to the President of the United States. Most have been their wives but some have been daughters and sisters. All have been women. First Ladies can have many different responsibilities and jobs. Fill in the blanks below to learn about some of their responsibilities.

First ladies have helped _____ social events or dinners at the White House. They also act as an _____ to the President of the United States by giving them advice or listening to their concerns. Many first ladies want to be an _____ because they can use their role to create positive change. A first lady may also be a _____ because people admire their fashion, personality, or work.

Word Bank

Symbol

Host

Advisor

Activist

Activity #2

“I have an independent streak. You know, it's kind of hard to tell an independent woman what to do.”



Betty Ford

What Do They Do?

First ladies have no official responsibilities, but there are expectations. Many first ladies have supported a cause. Circle the cause you like most.



Michelle Obama
Get Outdoors



Hillary Clinton
Health Care



Jacqueline Kennedy
Preserving History



Nancy Reagan
Just Say No To Drugs



Laura Bush
Education



Lady Bird Johnson
Nature

Activity #3

“Where flowers bloom,
so does hope.”



Lady Bird Johnson

State China

First ladies have the option of designing White House china. The plates are usually decorated with things that are important to them, like details reminding them of home or causes they support. Lady Bird Johnson cared about the nature of the United States, so wildflowers were part of her china design.



Now it's your turn!

Choose something important to you and use it in your china design.

Activity #4

“... in this audience may even be someone who will one day follow my footsteps...as the president's spouse. I wish him well!”



Barbara Bush

First Spouse

The United States has only had male presidents. That will not be true forever. What should we call a first spouse who is not female? Circle the title you like.

White House Host

First Gentleman

First Man

Make your own title: _____

How do you think the expectations of the role will change if it is filled by a man? Cross out the responsibilities and expectations you think a “First Man” would NOT do?



Advocate for Women & Children



Fashion Trendsetter



Social Event Organizer & Host



Girl Scouts' Honorary President

Did you cross any out? Why? _____

Activity #5

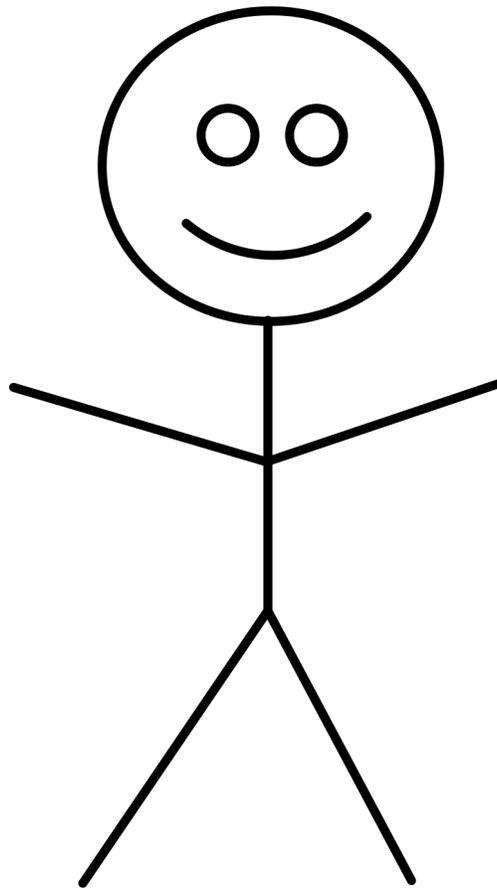
“Make sure no one has exactly the same dress I do...”



Jacqueline Kennedy

First Spouse

Unfortunately, first ladies are often judged by their appearance. If there is a “first man,” what do you think he should wear?



Draw an outfit on the first man!



Activity #6

Saxton House Tour

Homes were very different in the 1800's. Take a look at the picture of the formal parlor above. What do you notice that is different from your living room at home? Think about how it would sound in this room too. What sounds do you think you would hear in your living room, that you would not hear in this room? Compare how they're the same and different below.

Saxton House Formal Parlor

Your Living Room

Both

Activity #7

“I wore a sleeveless ... dress for my official White House photo, and suddenly my arms were making headlines.”



Michelle Obama

First Spouse

First ladies are watched all the time. They have been frequently criticized for their appearance and actions. Imagine you are the “first spouse” and write a headline about yourself that you would be shocked to see in the news.

Breaking News

WEDNESDAY MORNING NEW ISSUE



Activity #8

Be Our Guest

Being a first lady means being host of the United States' most famous house. If you threw a party at the White House, what would you celebrate?

Decorate the outside of the White House for your celebration!



JUNIOR RANGER

Certificate of Achievement

has completed the requirements to become an official National Park Service Junior Ranger at
First Ladies National Historic Site



National Park Service Ranger

