

President's Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Washington, D.C.



PRESIDENT'S P · A · R · K

© SM

JUNIOR RANGER ACTIVITY GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

Explore, Learn, Protect Be a Junior Ranger!



Welcome to the President’s Park Junior Ranger Program. Young people will learn about the history and resources of an urban national park in Washington, D.C.

What is President’s Park?

President’s Park is a national park in the middle of Washington, DC, the nation’s capital. President’s Park includes the Ellipse, Sherman Park, Lafayette Park and First Division Monument. All of these are parklands that surround the White House, which is also part of the National Park System. You can learn all kinds of facts about the White House, Presidents and First Families, and America’s history when you explore President’s Park and when you visit the White House Visitor Center.

There’s a good reason the White House is known as “the People’s House.” Through its architecture, stories, paintings and objects, the White House is an example of the continuum of the country’s history, as well as being a home, an office, and a museum.

What is a Junior Ranger?

Junior Rangers are important people because they help park rangers protect and take care of the resources of President’s Park, as well as other national parks. This is a big job because there are more than 400 areas in the U.S. National Park System! A Junior Ranger also learns about the buildings, objects, plants, animals and history of the national parks, and shares that knowledge with their friends and family.



Hello Friends!
I’m a President’s Park Ranger.
Watch for us and our Fun Facts
throughout this book!

How to Become a President's Park Junior Ranger

It's as easy as



First, complete at least TWO of the activities available to do in the Visitor Center and/or the park.

- a. We encourage you to do at least ONE activity *inside* the Visitor Center and ONE activity *outside* in the park.
- b. Take a look at the next page for a guide to the many activities that you have to choose from.



Attend a ranger-guided program such as a tour; watch the film *The White House: Reflections from Within* in the theater; or do the *Interview with a Park Ranger* or *Volunteer* activity.



Present your booklet to a ranger after you complete steps 1 and 2 to be sworn in as an official Junior Ranger and receive your badge and certificate.

Did you know . . . Rebecca was the unlikely name for one of the more unusual White House pets – a raccoon that was the companion of President Calvin Coolidge and his wife Grace?





Activities in the Visitor Center ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

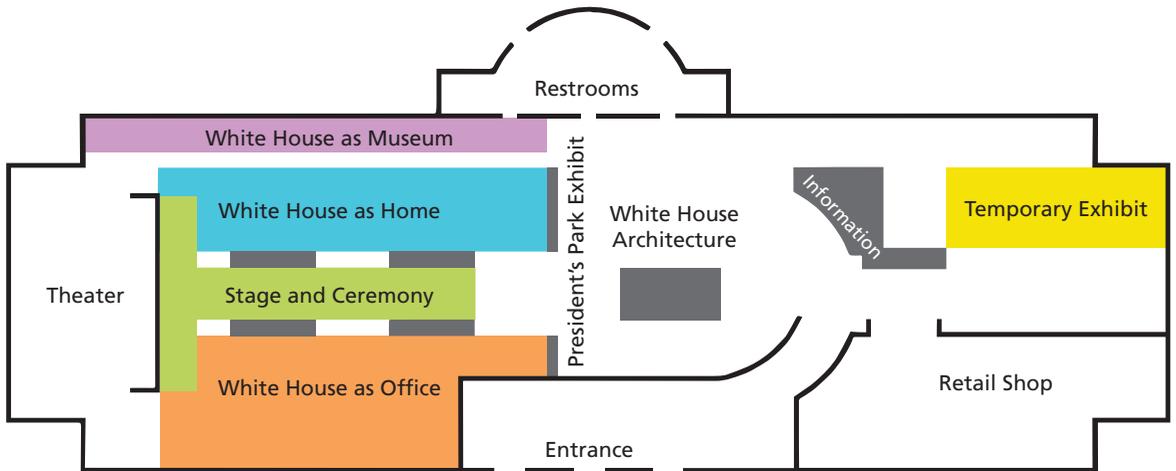
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Activities in the Park ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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Use this map to find exhibits in the Visitor Center activities.



Answers on pages 18–19

White House Visitor Center Map

A Day With the President

As the leader of the most powerful nation in the world, the President works hard every day to serve the pressing needs and demands of the United States, and of the international community. Look at the schedule below, outlining one possible day in the life of the President. You can also go to *The Daily Schedule* exhibit in the *White House as Office* section to see some actual Presidential schedules.

6:00 a.m.	Fitness program	3:00 p.m.	Meets and greets Super Bowl winners in the Rose Garden
7:00 a.m.	Reads the newspapers	5:30 p.m.	Working at his desk in the Oval Office — signs a bill into law
9:00 a.m.	Meets with Cabinet advisers	6:30 p.m.	Dinner with family
10:30 a.m.	Goes to the Capitol to talk to lawmakers about an upcoming program	8:00 p.m.	Gives a speech to the nation on television
12:00 p.m.	Working lunch meeting with the President of France	9:00 p.m.	Returns to the Oval Office to make some business calls

Presidential Schedule:

If you were the President and had to schedule your day, what would you do?

6:00 a.m. _____

7:00 a.m. _____

9:00 a.m. _____

10:30 a.m. _____

12:00 p.m. _____

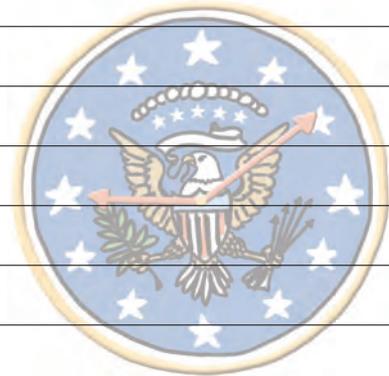
3:00 p.m. _____

5:30 p.m. _____

6:30 p.m. _____

8:00 p.m. _____

9:00 p.m. _____



Suggested At-Home Activity: Write a letter to the President telling him your suggestion(s) about an important issue that you think he should work on. Send your letter to: The President, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20500. (You can also see sample letters to the President and submit ideas for changes you would like to see in the *What Would You Do?* exhibit in the *White House as Office* section.)



Champions for Change

Unlike the President, the first lady's duties and responsibilities are NOT outlined in the United States Constitution. This provides a unique opportunity for each first lady to support a cause or pursue an interest of her choice.

Go to the *First Ladies section of the White House as Office exhibit* to find the answers. Write the matching number of each first lady's description in the circle next to her picture.



Eleanor Roosevelt



Abigail Adams



Dolley Madison



Nancy Reagan



Michelle Obama



Betty Ford

Who Am I?

1. This forthright first lady spoke openly and candidly about her own breast cancer at a time when it was seen as a subject not fit for public discussion, thus launching the first national campaign for breast cancer awareness.
2. Known for her charm and also as a renowned hostess, this first lady made the White House the center of Washington society.
3. While first lady she took on the challenge of childhood obesity and launched the "Let's Move" program to promote family health and activity.
4. This first lady helped to transform the role by actively participating in national affairs through radio addresses, newspaper columns and speaking tours.
5. This first lady and wife of our 40th president campaigned to "Just Say No" to drugs.
6. Critics of this first lady called her "Mrs. President" to express their disapproval of her activity in political affairs.

Did you know . . . that First Lady Ellen Louise Axson Wilson, married to President Woodrow Wilson, saw two daughters married in the White House?



ART HUNT

Can you find it?

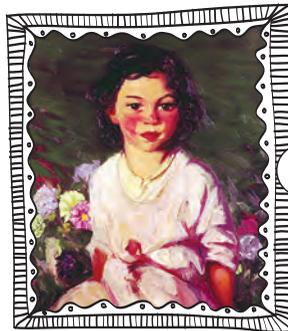
In addition to being a home for the President and the First Family, the White House is also a living museum of American history. It includes many gifts from leaders of other countries. It also has important American paintings, sculpture, furniture, and other art objects that represent the geographic diversity of the nation.

Every first family gets to choose paintings and objects to display in the White House during the President's term in office. Do you have a favorite piece of art? What would YOU display in the White House if you were the President?

Find at least three of the following five art objects in the White House as Museum exhibit. Check off each item in the circle next to the illustration when you find it.



Find the white dog in the portrait of First Lady Grace Coolidge.



Find the gypsy girl holding a bouquet of flowers.



Find the baby sitting on the mother's lap.



Find the American eagle on the mahogany bracket clock on display.



Find the statue of an American Indian on horseback.



LIVE on Stage!

It would be great to live at the White House,
and — oh! — the parties I would throw . . .

As well as a home, an office, a park, and a museum, the White House is also a stage for many important ceremonies and events. Most presidents, while living in the White House, have hosted many State Dinners, medal ceremonies and artistic performances, just to name a few possible events, according to their and the nation's interests.

Take a look at the *National Stage* exhibit in the *Stage and Ceremony* section to see some of the many events that have taken place on the White House grounds, both inside and outside. Then think about what kind of event YOU might want to host at the White House.

Who would you choose as a
guest of honor?

Who else would you invite?

What would you
serve for dinner?

Guest List

Guest of Honor:

Other Guests:

Menu



What entertainment would you have?



One Big Family: The White House Staff

“They are what make the house a home.”

— Susan Ford Bales (Daughter of President Gerald Ford)

The White House workers embody the “People’s House” as they make a home for the First Families through their loyal service. Enslaved workers, free African-Americans, European-born Frenchmen, Irishmen and Belgians, as well as Filipinos are among the many who have given their service in the White House. Their diversity has long reflected the diversity of the nation.

Go to the White House Workers exhibit in the White House as Home section and match the illustration to the staff member described. Write the number of the matching worker(s) in the circle next to the illustration.

1. 1941–45: Seamstress who made blackout curtains for White House windows during WWII
2. 1877: First posed photograph of White House staff members
3. 1901: Worked at White House for more than 30 years as butler, cook, doorman and footman
4. 2005: First female Executive Chef at the White House
5. 1980s: Used special chocolate molds to emboss White House chocolates with the Presidential seal



Roland Mesnier



Jerry Smith



Lillian Rogers Park



Cristeta Comerford



Did you know . . . that to prepare for thousands of visitors daily, the staff rolls up the carpets and places mats on the floors?



White House Staff



★ President's Park Word Search ★

D H O P M X Z I B X O P S N Z
 X N F B P R E S I D E N T V T
 W E T S T A T U E S Z X L X F
 H R S E J A C K S O N H C A O
 I L B E C G L B O Q Z F A Q U
 T A P Y Y R O S E G A R D E N
 E F K N H N I K I G Q X I W T
 H A P E N N S Y L V A N I A A
 O Y U Q R P S O N W A U Q A I
 U E X Q N H G H N M M A R P N
 S T P V V D K F R Y H V A D Q
 E T U F K C R E U Y N H N V L
 O E T V S R H B C I I U G S G
 X T L H P S P A T E N T E E S
 A Q K E L L I P S E X I R I V

Find the following words hidden in the word search.

NPS

Ranger

Statues

Rose Garden

Lafayette

Fountain

Ellipse

Sherman

White House

President

Jackson

Pennsylvania

Patentees



Arrowhead Activity

National Parks are managed by the National Park Service, which is part of the federal government. But who owns the national parks? All Americans, even YOU! As a Junior Ranger, you have an important responsibility to help take care of your national parks.

National park sites are located throughout the United States, including in the middle of our nation’s capital! The entire park system includes over 80 million acres of land. Individual sites come in all shapes and sizes, such as national parks, monuments, memorials, battlefields, historic sites, recreation areas, rivers, lakeshores, seashores, scenic trails, preserves, military parks, and parkways.



All of our national parks have one thing in common, though; they are set aside “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

The National Park Service arrowhead is a symbol of stewardship — it reminds us of the reasons we protect park resources for the future.

Arrowhead Activities

Can you find these items in the arrowhead above?				
				
Draw a line to match each part of the Arrowhead with what it stands for.	1. Arrowhead	A. Wildlife		
	2. National Park Service	B. Vegetation		
	3. Mountain	C. U.S. Government Agency		
	4. Sequoia Tree and Grass	D. History and Archaeology		
	5. Lake	E. Land Formations		
	6. Bison	F. Clean Water		

Suggested At-Home Activity: Design your own arrowhead for President’s Park. What do you think should be represented?



THE ABC'S OF ARCHITECTURE

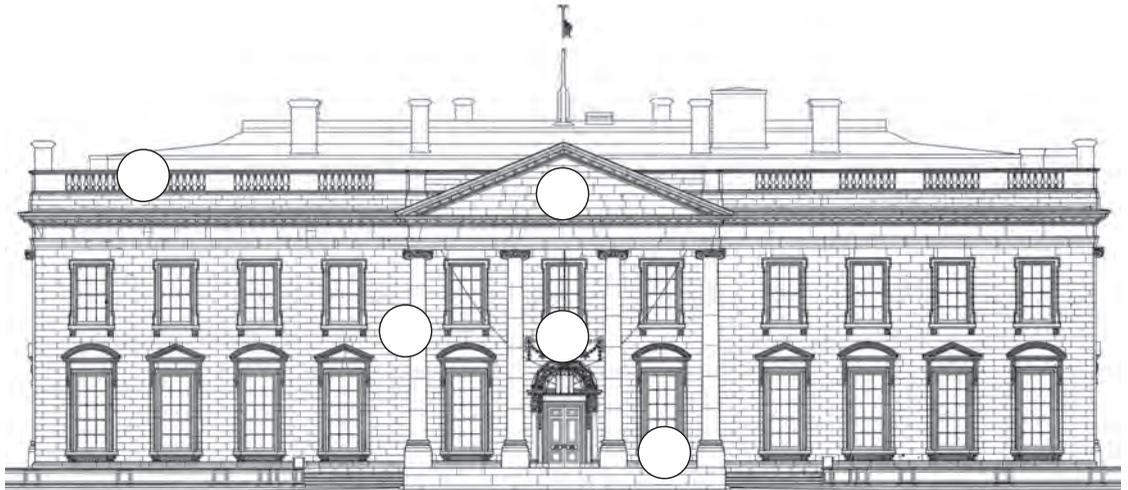
on the North Side of the White House

What style of architecture *is* the White House? Built between 1792 and 1800 the White House reflects the preferences of George Washington, the first president.

Large and small architectural pieces came together to create a building that is personal as the home of the president and his family; and national, as the office of the Chief Executive of the United States.

The House is an expression of the new American democracy, and was modeled on the Irish and English homes of the mid-18th century in the Georgian architectural style.

Look closely at the drawing below of the north side of the White House. Take a walk from the Visitor Center going two blocks north, then turn left (west) on Pennsylvania Avenue and view the White House from the sidewalk. See if you can find the following architectural elements, and write the letter of each element in the correct circle below. *This activity may also be completed by using the scale models of the White House found in the Visitor Center.*



- A. **Balustrade:** a rail and row of posts that support it.
- B. **Column:** a vertical support that is usually cylindrical.
- C. **Fanlight:** a window, often semi-circular, with sash bars arranged like a fan placed above a doorway.
- D. **Pediment:** the triangular area under the roofline.
- E. **Portico:** a walkway or porch supported by columns.

Who Am I?

This man, our 38th president, was born in 1913. He played varsity football throughout college and graduated from the University of Michigan in 1935. He began working at Yale University as an assistant football coach and also taught cheerleading.

During the summer of 1936, he worked as a seasonal park ranger at Yellowstone National Park. He recalled his time as a park ranger as “one of the greatest summers of my life.” He graduated from Yale Law School in 1941, and served four years in the United States Navy. He served as president from August 9, 1974 to January 20, 1977. During his time in office he added eighteen new areas to the National Park System.

Instructions:

When unscrambled, the following four words — all found in the above text — will name the president!

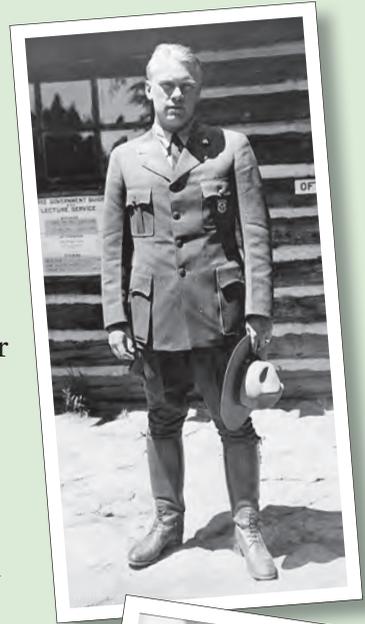
LOTBLAFO _ _ _ T _ _ L L (1st letter)

LENOSTYLOWE Y _ _ _ _ _ N (5th letter)

REGNRA _ _ _ N _ R (1st letter)

IDENTPRES R _ _ _ _ T (6th letter)

I AM PRESIDENT _ _ _ _ _ .



Did you know . . . of the eighteen new areas this president added to the National Park System, eleven are east of the Mississippi River and seven are west of it, with battlefields, fossil beds, forests and swamps among the resources being protected?



Mapping President's Park

Take some time to explore President's Park. Walk out of the White House Visitor Center and make your way north on 15th Street to Lafayette Park or straight down Pennsylvania Avenue South to E Street and the Ellipse. Find as many of the following items as you can on either the North side OR the South side of the White House and identify where you found them by placing the item numbers in the circles by the map. (If you have time, look for *all* the items on the map.)

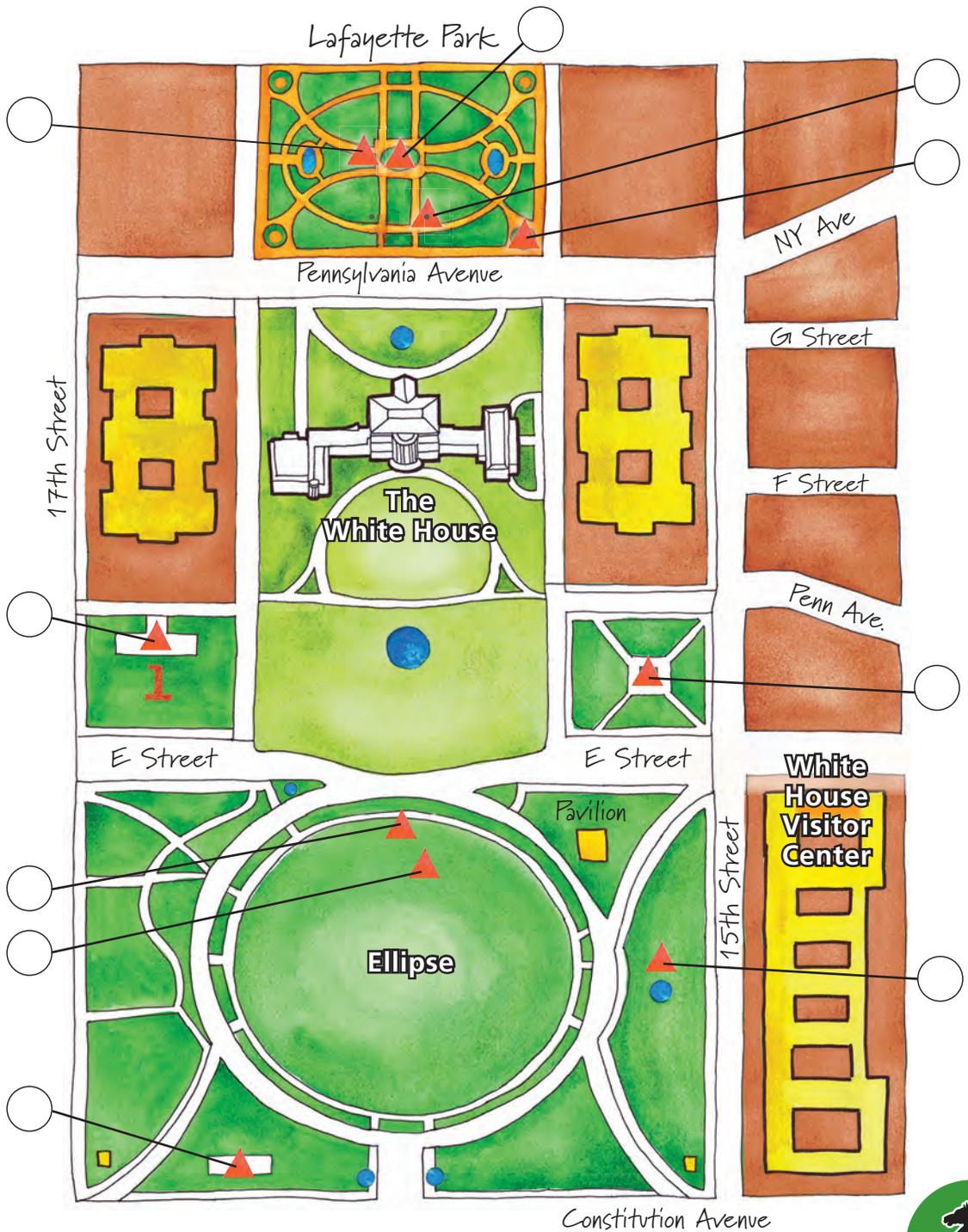
North Side:

1. **Jackson Statue** — Look for the statue of General Andrew Jackson on a rearing horse, raising his hat in the air.
2. **Lafayette Statue** — Look for the statue of a man that has a female figure in the front, symbolizing America, turned towards him and lifting a sword.
3. **Baruch's Bench of Inspiration** — Look just northwest of the statue of General Andrew Jackson on a horse for the bench, marked with a plaque, commemorating the "Park Bench Statesman," Bernard Baruch.
4. **Urns** — Look for the large bronze urns on granite pedestals, which were cast at the Navy Yard in Washington using melted cannon from the Civil War.

South Side:

5. **Sherman Park** — Look for the statue of Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman, on horseback.
6. **Second Division Memorial** — Look for the flaming gold sword in the middle of a granite gateway, located just off the Ellipse near the intersection of Constitution Avenue and Seventeenth Street.
7. **National Christmas Tree** — Look on the Ellipse for the Colorado blue spruce.
8. **Zero Milestone Marker** — Look for the vertical rectangle of pink granite with a compass on the top.
9. **Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute Memorial** — Look east of the Ellipse for a statue depicting a man, a woman and a Boy Scout with a round pool in front of it.
10. **First Division Monument** — Look west of the White House for the large granite shaft with a winged female figure atop it. Most times of the year, the monument has a garden of red flowers in front of it in the shape of a Big Red One, to commemorate the First Division.





President's Park

- ▲ Points of Interest
- Fountain



Picturing President's Park

In the space below, capture your favorite view in President's Park by drawing a "snapshot" of what you see.



Give your drawing a title: _____



STEPPING INTO HISTORY

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”
—First Amendment, U.S. Constitution

Look at the 1922 photograph, to the right, of citizens exercising their First Amendment rights in Lafayette Park, located on the north side of the White House.

Parents and children appeal to the President for the release of political prisoners.



How many years ago was it taken?

Today's Year - 1922 = _____

Stand at the **X** in the picture facing the White House. How has this place changed?

List one or two things that are the SAME.	
List one or two things that are DIFFERENT.	

Do you think it's important to have First Amendment rights?

Is there a demonstration in the park today?



Did you know . . . that the 18th century uses of Lafayette Square included a family graveyard, an apple orchard, and a market?



Interview a President's Park Ranger or Volunteer

Park rangers, whose gray and green uniforms and Stetson hats make them easy to find, volunteers, and other President's Park employees have many different jobs at the park. They do things such as: take care of the statues and buildings, collect trash, answer questions at the Visitor Center, patrol the park and answer visitors' questions, or give guided walks and talks through the park area surrounding the White House.

Here are a few questions to get you started. Add two questions of your own.

1. What is your name and job title?

2. How long have you worked at President's Park?

3. List 3 things you do:

4.

5.



National Parks are staffed by park rangers. Along with you, the Junior Ranger, this group of men and women is entrusted with caring for these wonderful places. The most identifiable symbol the rangers wear is the arrowhead shown above.



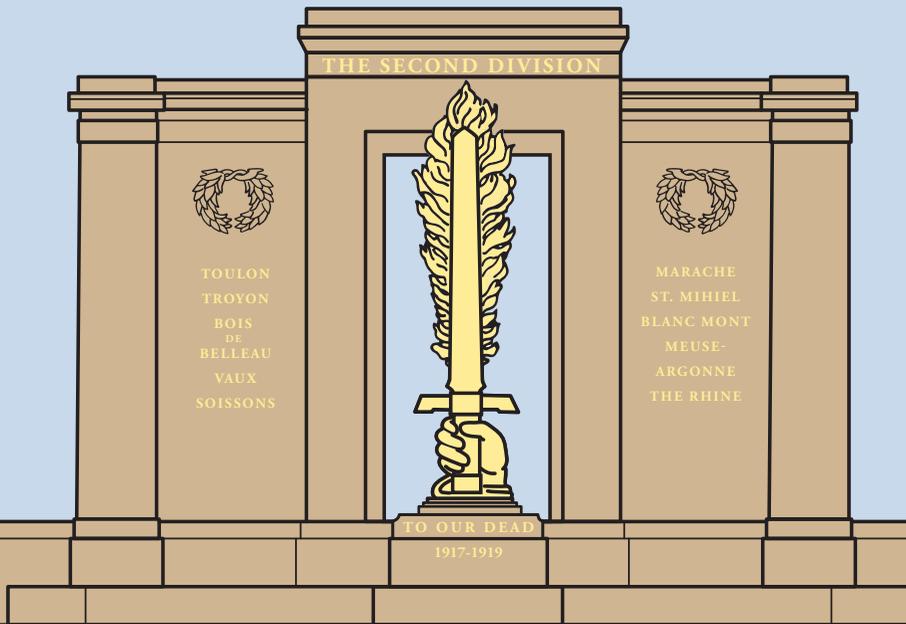
Honoring the “Indianhead Division”

President’s Park contains more than simply the White House. It is also a park, filled with gardens, trees, flowers, and open green space. In addition to these natural elements, many statues and monuments that mark significant aspects of American history are a mainstay of the park.

One of these monuments is the Second Division Memorial that honors the 17,669 dead who served in the Second Division of the US Army during three wars — World War I, World War II

and the Korean War. The distinctive insignia of the Second Division is also found on the monument. The design of an American Indianhead within a star portrays the All-American traditions of the division, as well as its place of origin.

Go to the southwest section of the park below the Ellipse to find the Second Division Memorial. When you get to the memorial, find the Second Division patch. Draw a star on the illustration below to show where the image of the patch is located.



Did you know . . . that outdoor bronze sculptures, which are subject to corrosion, dirt and grime, have to be regularly power washed and then coated with wax to protect them from the elements?



Answers

Champions for Change (pg. 4)

1. Betty Ford, 2. Dolley Madison,
3. Michelle Obama, 4. Eleanor Roosevelt,
5. Nancy Reagan, 6. Abigail Adams

White House Staff (pg. 7)

1. Lillian Rogers Park, 2. White House Staff,
3. Jerry Smith, 4. Cristeta Comerford,
5. Roland Mesnier

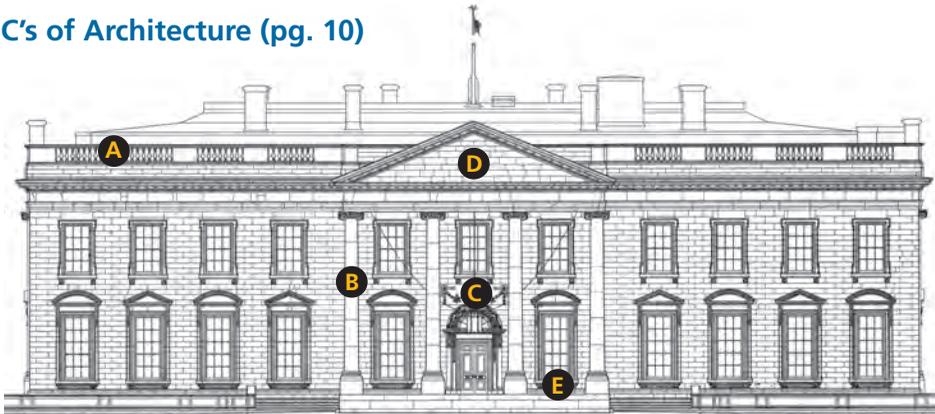
Arrowhead Activities (pg. 9)

1. Arrowhead = D. History and Archaeology
2. National Park Service = C. U.S. Government Agency
3. Mountain = E. Land Formations
4. Sequoia Tree and Grass = B. Vegetation
5. Lake = F. Clean Water
6. Bison = A. Wildlife

President's Park Word Search (pg. 8)



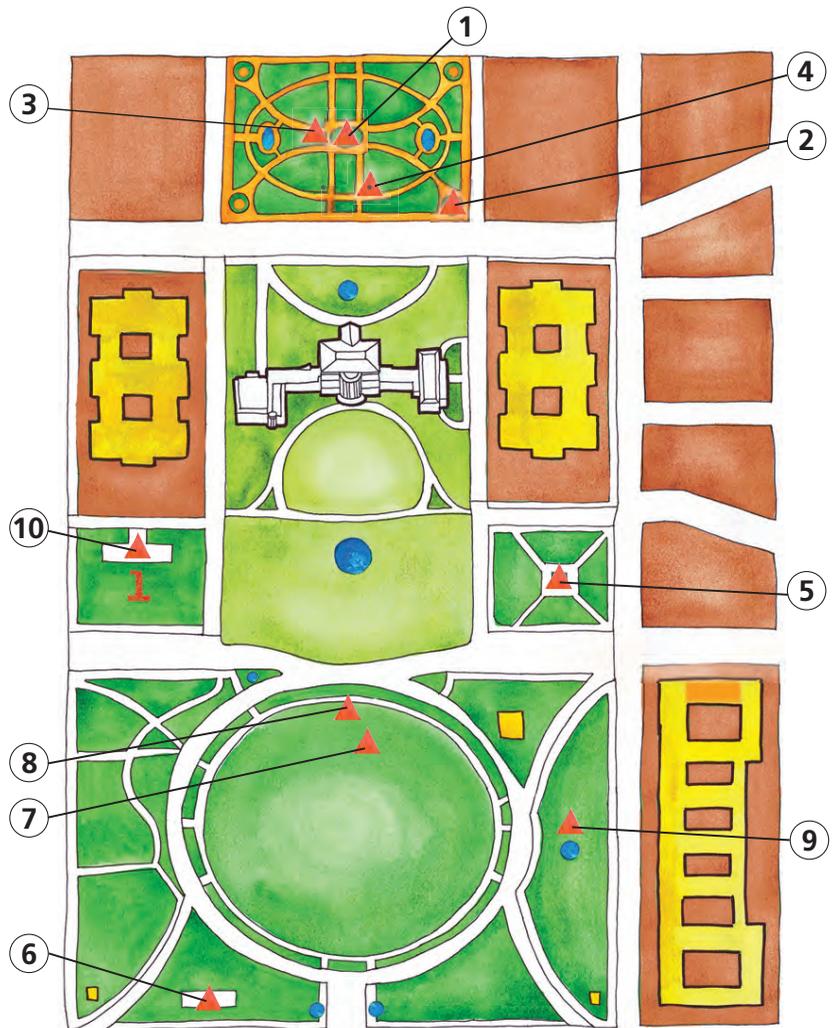
The ABC's of Architecture (pg. 10)



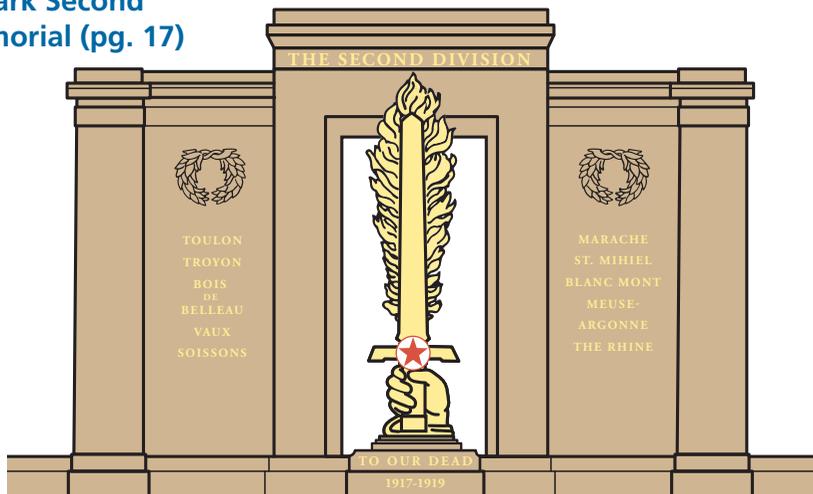
Who Am I? (pg. 11)

1. Football = F, 2. Yellowstone = O, 3. Ranger = R, 4. President = D

Mapping
President's Park
(pg. 12-13)



President's Park Second
Division Memorial (pg. 17)



Want to Learn More?

Junior Ranger Programs

Are you interested in exploring? Do you like art, science, history or nature? How about animals, sailing ships, dinosaurs or trains? Would you like to learn more about the national parks that belong to YOU? Find out more about National Park Service Junior Ranger programs at: www.nps.gov/kids

WebRanger Programs

As a WebRanger you will have one important job: to have fun while learning new things. You will solve mysteries and puzzles, play games, take part in stories, and gather secret works while exploring some of the greatest places on earth! Find out more about National Park Service WebRanger programs at: www.nps.gov/webrangers

Contact

President's Park
White House Visitor Center
1450 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20230
(202) 208-1631
Website: www.nps.gov/whho

This Junior Ranger Booklet is made possible through the generosity of the White House Historical Association, a private, non-profit educational organization, and the National Park Service.

Credits

GFL: Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library GWBL: George W. Bush Presidential Library LC: Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division RBHC: Rutherford B. Hayes Presidential Center, Fremont, Ohio WHC: White House Collection WHHA-WHC: White House Historical Association (White House Collection)

Page 4 LC (first ladies)

Page 5 WHHA-WHC (Coolidge portrait by Howard Chandler Christy); WHC (*Gypsy Girl with Flowers* by Robert Henri); WHHA-WHC (*Young Mother and Two Children* by Mary Cassatt); WHC (mahogany bracket clock); WHC (*Appeal to the Great Spirit* by Cyrus Edwin Dallin)

Page 7 WHC (chocolate molds); LC (Jerry Smith); WHC (sewing machine); GWBL (Cristeta Comerford); RBHC (1877 White House staff)

Page 11 GFL (Gerald Ford)

Page 15 LC (demonstrators)

Writer Kathleen Grathwol

Graphic designer Ann Silberlicht



Did you know . . . that Theodore Roosevelt's children once smuggled their pony Algonquin upstairs in the White House elevator to visit their brother, Archie Roosevelt, when he was ill?



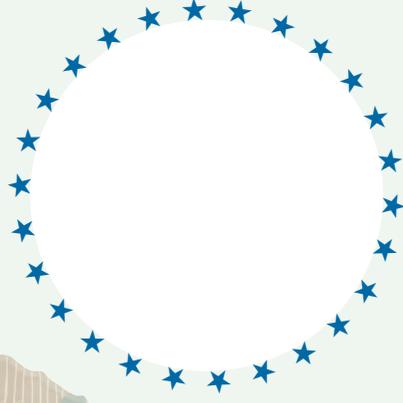
CONGRATULATIONS!!!

Great work!

NATIONAL
PARK

JUNIOR RANGER PLEDGE

I, _____, am proud to be a National Park Service Junior Ranger. I promise to appreciate, respect, and protect all National Parks. I also promise to continue learning about the landscape, plants, animals, and history of these special places. I will share what I learn with my friends and family.



Junior Ranger Signature

Ranger/Parent Signature

Use President's Park
Passport Stamp here!

President's Park

Junior Ranger Activity Guide



PRESIDENT'S PARK

White House Visitor Center
1450 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20230

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