



President's Park  
White House Visitor Center



# SUMMER 2010

## ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

### INSIDE:

Independence Day Festivities  
at the Visitor Center

Boy Scout Memorial Reopens  
This Summer

Celebrate the Constitution  
at the Visitor Center

White House Visitor Center  
1450 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC  
[www.nps.gov/whho](http://www.nps.gov/whho)

## Join Our Independence Day Festivities at the Visitor Center



On Sunday, July 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the White House Visitor Center will celebrate the momentous events that took place in 1776 at the Pennsylvania State House in Philadelphia as the country moved toward independence. A variety of activities for all ages will take you back to the early days of the United States as the colonists worked to establish a new nation. Participate in our feature activity at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. as we “host” the Second Continental Congress. Delegates from all thirteen colonies will “meet” to approve the Declaration of Independence, one of the most important documents in United States history. It represented the first official step toward separation of the thirteen colonies from the control of Great Britain. Participate in this family-oriented program and learn more about the extraordinary individuals who played a role in this historic moment. Grab a quill pen, dust off your famous tricorne hat, and become one of the original “signers.” *No reservations required.* For additional information, please call 202-208-1631.

## Memorial to Boy Scouts of America Reopens this Summer

In keeping with the National Park Service mission to “preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations,” President’s Park recently completed a thorough rehabilitation of the Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute Memorial, usually referred to as the Boy Scout memorial.

Erected and dedicated in 1964, the memorial to the Boy Scouts of America stands on the site of the first National Boy Scout Jamboree in 1937. It is one of the few memorials in Washington, D.C. commemorating a living cause. The funds to build the memorial were raised by Scout units throughout the United States, and each donor signed one of several scrolls that were placed in the pedestal of the statue.

The statue is a prominent feature on the Ellipse, just south of the White House grounds. The central bronze figure represents a Boy Scout in uniform as he hikes into the future. On each side of him stand classical statues representing American Manhood and Womanhood. The elliptical pool south of the main sculpture group forms the central feature of a small plaza.

Please join a Park Ranger every Saturday in July and August at 1:30 p.m. for 20-minute Ranger Program about the history of the memorial. As a special note, 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of scouting in America!



## Celebrate the Constitution at the White House Visitor Center



From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 18, President’s Park will present a special program, “We the People,” celebrating the 223rd anniversary of the signing of the Constitution, which took place on September 17, 1787. Visitors will have the opportunity to travel back in time to 1787 and add their names alongside the signatures of Benjamin Franklin, George Washington, James Madison, and other Founding Fathers. At 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., the Center will “host” the Constitutional Convention with many signers in attendance. Everyone is invited to recite the Preamble to the Constitution at 1:00 p.m. The “town crier” will invite all guests to join us for a day of games, crafts, and historical activities! *No reservations required.* For additional information, call 202-208-1631.

## SPECIAL ACTIVITIES AT PRESIDENT'S PARK

### Exciting New Educational Programs at the Visitor Center

We have a special announcement for teachers across the country! The National Park Service and President's Park will be offering five new curriculum-based education programs during the 2010-2011 school year:

- **Grades 2-3 "Witness to History"** – Students will be introduced to some of our former Presidents and First Families using the children's book, "If Walls Could Talk." This program can be conducted at school or in President's Park. It can be used as a pre-visit activity or stand alone.
- **Grades 4-8 "President's Park — A Sense of Place"** – The complex relationship we have with special places is explored in this program that will examine the historical significance of the White House as an international symbol of freedom and democracy.
- **Grades 4-6 "Building a National Symbol"** – During a field trip to President's Park, students will use a study guide to explore the White House architecture and interiors exhibits in the White House Visitor Center, and will study the unique architectural details while observing the house from the outside.
- **Grades 5-8 "Stepping into History at President's Park"** – Students will use GPS units and historical images to "travel through time" as they explore and discuss historical events that have taken place here over the last 200 years.
- **Grades 6-8 "If Statues Could Talk"** – Students conduct an in-depth examination of the statues in Lafayette Park, the park area north of the White House, and learn about conservation issues and processes.

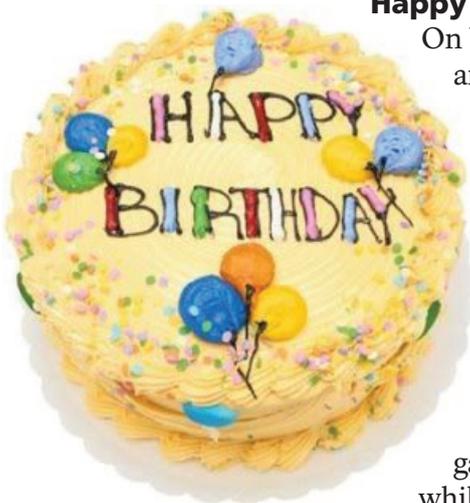
Please call 202-208-1631 for additional information, reservations, and to join our educators' mailing list.

### Happy Birthday, National Park Service!

On Wednesday, August 25, between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., visitors are invited to join us

as we celebrate the 94th birthday of the National Park Service. The Visitor Center will host an interactive program called "Are You Smarter than a Park Ranger?" During this fun half-hour game show at 10:00 a.m., 12 noon, and 1:30 p.m., members of the audience will compete for prizes by testing their knowledge of the National Park Service. The day's events will also include art and craft activities and games suitable for all family members. And while you're here, pick up a copy of the Junior

Ranger program! *No reservations required. For further information, call 202-208-1631.*



### Observe National Public Lands Day at President's Park

On Saturday, September 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., President's Park will celebrate National Public Lands Day. This event builds partnerships between the public sector and the local community by having volunteer groups work hand-in-hand with Park Service personnel on preserving and protecting America's national heritage. *Reservations are required for these projects. Please call 202-208-1631 for additional information.*

## ASK A PARK RANGER

### Welcome Visitors

Our Park staff is ready, willing, and able to answer all your questions. Look for the unique hat every Park Ranger wears. These President's Park employees

have a wealth of information and can handle almost all

presidential trivia questions, too! Our Park volunteers wear yellow baseball hats and also know about what's happening in the area. Brochures and maps can be obtained at the Information Desk in the Visitor Center, as well as at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion.



### Talks and Walks

Park Rangers and volunteers present interpretive talks daily at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on topics of interest about the White House and President's Park. These talks and walks, posted daily in the Visitor Center, last 20 minutes to one hour, and give you a bird's eye view of President's Park history, as well as people who have lived in the neighborhood, the many events held within the Park, and the monuments and memorials.

### Lunch in Lafayette

Lafayette Park is rich with history! Named for the Marquis de Lafayette after his 1824 state visit, the park is located just north of the White House. An equestrian statue of President Andrew Jackson welcomes visitors to the square. The surrounding neighborhood retains much of its historical flavor and charm and, in centuries past, was among the city's most fashionable residential areas. Today it's enjoyed by visitors from out of town, people who work nearby, and those walking through the park between meetings. Why don't you join them for lunch in Lafayette? Please look for a Park Ranger Monday through Friday at 12:15 p.m. near the Jackson Statue and learn more fascinating facts about the capital's most famous neighborhood.

## On this date: August 24, 1814

British troops burned many buildings in Washington D.C., including the President's House. The inferno was so great that the glow in the night sky was seen from 50 miles away on warships in the Patuxent River. While the occupation of Washington, D.C. by British troops lasted only about 26 hours, the devastation left in their wake affected the city for years.

The fire at the President's House caused the interior walls to collapse. Rain began that evening and left a soot-streaked shell of the building. Today, some of the blocks of Aquia sandstone that made up the original walls of the White House still bear black scorch marks. They are the indelible reminders of the fire in 1814.

*Etching: Library of Congress*



### 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 would like to be added to our mailing list, e-mail us at [whho\\_presidents\\_park@nps.gov](mailto:whho_presidents_park@nps.gov).

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