

White House VISITOR CENTER

1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

On Exhibit: "The President's Own" U.S. Marine Band

For more than 200 years, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band has played an integral part in life at the White House.

From State visits and ceremonies to intimate gatherings in the mansion's private living quarters, the Marine Band has provided music for every president since John Adams.

The Visitor Center is welcoming back a special exhibit commemorating the Marine Band's bicentennial celebration in 1998. This exhibit,

developed by the Marine Band and the White House Historical Association, has recently been on display at several Presidential libraries.

Visitors will see the band's history chronicled in a variety of interesting documents, photographs and memorabilia, including the 1798 Act of Congress establishing the band, mementos of John Philip Sousa's term as director, and the program for Alice Roosevelt's highly publicized wedding at the White House.

This exhibit truly gives Visitor Center guests an inside view of the daily routine of "The President's Own" at the White House.



Celebrate a Holiday Tradition on the Ellipse

The Christmas Pageant of Peace is a Washington tradition during the holiday season.

The Pageant begins in early December with the lighting of the National Christmas Tree on the Ellipse and musical groups from throughout the region perform nightly on an outdoor Pageant stage through the end of the year. Visitors may also stroll among the 56 smaller trees, representing the fifty states, the five territories and the District of Columbia.

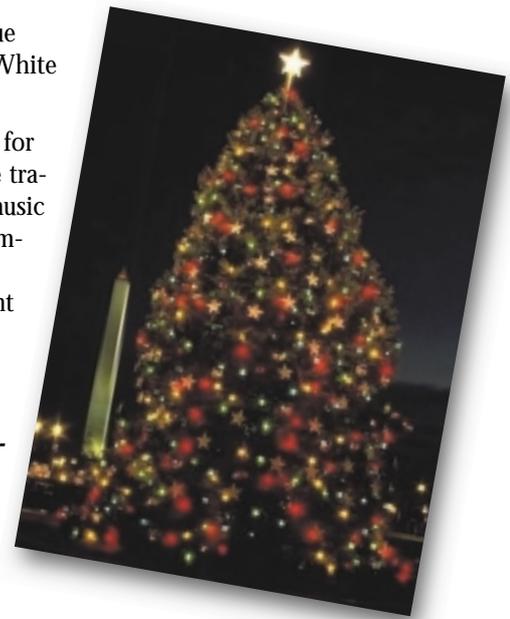
In November 1923, First Lady Grace Coolidge gave permission for the District of Columbia Public Schools to erect a Christmas tree on the Ellipse, south of the White House. The organizers named the tree the "National Christmas Tree."

Much has changed over the 80 years to follow. Today's National Christmas Tree was transplanted from

Pennsylvania in 1978. The living Colorado Blue Spruce grows on the Ellipse just south of the White House.

Check at the Visitor Center Information Desk for the date of the Opening Night ceremony. The traditional hour-long program includes holiday music by a U.S. military band and celebrities, performances by choral groups, a cheery welcome by Santa and a holiday message from the President of the United States.

The Pageant site will be open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. through January 1, 2004. For additional information call 202-208-1631, TTY 202-219-5246, or visit us on the Internet at <http://nps.gov/whho>.



Second Division Memorial

This memorial honors the 17,669 dead who served in the Second Division of the United States Army. Originally built to commemorate the Division's casualties in World War I ("The War to End All Wars"), it was dedicated on July 18, 1936.

On June 20, 1962, during a reunion of the Second Division, two wings were dedicated, with the battle honors of World War II inscribed on the west and the Korean War on the east. This granite shaft, built in the form of a great open doorway has two wreaths carved in relief flanking the entrance to this gateway.

Guarding this gateway is an 18-foot-tall flaming sword, made of gilded bronze. The sword symbolizes the blocking of the German advance to Paris. The Division's insignia – the head of an Indian chief on a star – is embossed on the sword's handle (or hilt).

The memorial is located on Constitution Avenue, NW, near 17th Street at the south end of the Ellipse.

OCTOBER

DAILY, OCTOBER 1 – 4

Interpretive Program – “The Most Demanding, Unpaid, Unelected Job in America” Join a Park Ranger and learn about the changing roles of the First Lady over the past two hundred years. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 1

Documentary Day – “White House Cornerstone” George Washington laid the White House cornerstone, but where is it? *Screening at 11:30 a.m.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

“Air Force One” – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. *Screening at 1 p.m.*

DAILY, OCTOBER 4 – 5

D.C. Open House – The Neighbors to the President Consortium is sponsoring several programs in the area on historical events. *Check at the Visitor Center Information Desk for further details.*

DAILY, OCTOBER 7, 8, 10, 11

Interpretive Program – “Washington’s Washington” Discover how a dismal swampy lowland developed into the beautiful parkland that today includes the White House. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

Living History Program – Join us as we welcome John and Abigail Adams. Our second President and First Lady moved into the incomplete White House in 1800. What did Mrs. Adams do with the wash? *Free presentations at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.*

DAILY, OCTOBER 14 – 18

Interpretive Program – “Explore President’s Park” Take a walking tour with a Park Ranger and discover the many monuments and statues in President’s Park. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Lecture Series – *Details available at the Visitor Center Information Desk.*

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18

“White House Gardens & Grounds” – A video explores the beauty of the White House grounds. *Screening at 1 p.m.*

DAILY, OCTOBER 24, 25

Interpretive Program – “Badge of Honor: The U.S. Park Police” Join a Park Ranger’s discussion on their history and important role in the national parks in Washington, D.C., New York City and San Francisco. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

Fall Concert Series – The Air Force Clarinet Choir presents a special one-hour concert. *Program begins at 1:30 p.m.*

DAILY, OCTOBER 27 – 31

Interpretive Program – “Ghosts of President’s Park” Join a ranger-led program that will focus on the boos and chills within Presidents Park...AND the White House! *Program begins at 12 noon.*

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1

“Air Force One” – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. *Screening at 1 p.m. Repeated on November 15 and 29.*

DAILY, NOVEMBER 3 – 7

Interpretive Program – “The Impeachment of Andrew Johnson” Join a ranger-led discussion and discover the reasons for impeachment proceedings against our 17th President. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Documentary Day – “American Presidents (Part 1)” From George Washington to Chester Arthur, explore the men behind the Presidency. *Screening at 11:30 a.m.*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Fall Concert Series – The Air Force Brass Quintet presents a special one-hour concert. *Program begins at 1:30 p.m.*

DAILY, NOVEMBER 10 – 12

Interpretive Program – “A Walk Around the Park” Join a Park Ranger for a stroll through beautiful President’s Park. See the Boy Scout Memorial, Zero Milestone and other monuments and memorials in the Park. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Living History Program – Join us as we welcome the third President of the United States, Thomas Jefferson. Appearing with the President will be Meriwether Lewis, the great explorer of the Louisiana Territory. *Programs at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.*

DAILY, NOVEMBER 18 – 22

Interpretive Program – “The Most Demanding, Unpaid, Unelected Job in America” Join a Park Ranger and learn about the changing roles of the First Lady over the last 200 years. *Program begins at 12 noon.*



DAILY, NOVEMBER 25, 26, 28, 29

Interpretive Program – “Explore President’s Park” Take a walking tour with a Park Ranger and discover the many monuments and statues in President’s Park. *Program begins at 12 noon.*



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 27
The Visitor Center will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.

DECEMBER

DAILY, DECEMBER 2, 4, 5, 6

Interpretive Program – Washington’s Washington Discover how a dismal swampy piece of lowland developed into the beautiful parkland that today includes the White House. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Documentary Day – “American Presidents (Part II)” Explore the lives of our Presidents from Grover Cleveland through Bill Clinton. *Screening at 11:30 a.m.*

DAILY, DECEMBER 9, 10, 12, 13

Interpretive Program – “Badge of Honor: The U.S. Park Police” See description on September 24. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Living History Program – George Washington held a contest to design “The President’s Mansion” and Irish architect James Hoban was the winner. Join us as these two men talk about the now-famous White House. *Programs at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m., and 12:30 p.m.*



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

“Air Force One” – See description on October 4. *Screening at 1 p.m. Repeated on December 27.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

Fall Concert Series – “Music of the Holidays” presented by the U.S. Air Force. *Program begins at 1:30 p.m.*

DAILY, DECEMBER 15 – 19

Interpretive Program – “Harry Truman” Learn about a little known, but gutsy Vice President who became President on April 12, 1945. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Lecture Series – *Details available at the Visitor Center Information Desk.*

DAILY, DECEMBER 22 – 23

Interpretive Program – “The Pipsqueak that Roared” Discover how a child who grew up in poor health became a famous “Rough Rider” and our 26th President. *Program begins at 12 noon.*

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

The Visitor Center will be closed on Christmas Day.

DAILY, DECEMBER 29 – 31

Interpretive Program – “Presidential Assassination Attempts” A Park Ranger will present a program outlining who lived and who died after attempts on Presidents’ lives. *Program begins at 12 noon.*



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.

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