

## INSIDE:

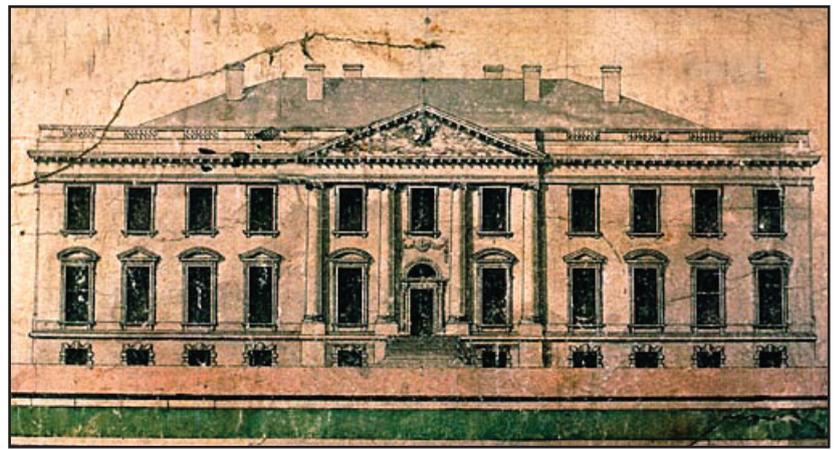
National Trails Day  
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## ON EXHIBIT – James Hoban: Architect of the White House

James Hoban was born in Ireland where he trained as an architect. He came to America in the early 1780s bringing with him an architectural education nurtured by the architectural heritage of his native Ireland as well as the European mainland. He came to the attention of George Washington and they had many discussions as to the design and symbolism of the proposed presidential residence. Hoban won an architectural competition to find the right design for the mansion, now one of the world's most famous buildings.

The exhibit explores Hoban's Irish roots, his early work in South Carolina and his role in building and re-building the White House, and may be viewed during regular Visitor Center hours, daily between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

For more information, call (202) 208-1631.



James Hoban's 1793 north elevation of the White House.  
Maryland Historical Society

## Spring Garden Tours Showcase White House Grounds

Spring Garden Tours provide a special opportunity to visit the grounds around the White House. Over the years, the eighteen acres that comprise the White House grounds have been subject to constant change. Free same-day timed tickets will be available at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion at 15th and E Streets, NW, beginning at 8:00 a.m. each day.

As the first president to occupy the White House, John Adams ordered the first planting of a garden. Thomas Jefferson then undertook a complete redesign of the garden. He started the tradition of planting trees and it was his idea to plant groves.

President John Quincy Adams was an experienced gardener who found pleasure in working in the gardens of the White House. President Rutherford B. Hayes began the tradition of planting commemorative trees. Today, there are more than three dozen such commemorative trees.

In 1913, First Lady Ellen Wilson replaced the colonial-style garden with a rose garden on the west side of the White House. Today, the Rose Garden hosts many official functions. The upkeep of the grounds became the responsibility of the National Park Service during the Kennedy administration.

For information on Garden Tour dates and times call the White House Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631.



## General Marquis de Lafayette Statue

The statue of General Marquis de Lafayette in Lafayette Park, north of the White House, honors a great French patriot of the American Revolution.

In April 1777, Lafayette sailed to America to aid in the American colonists' struggle for independence from the British. Congress granted him a commission of Major General that July. By the end of the year, Lafayette had also received command of his own troops and cemented a strong friendship with General George Washington, who became Lafayette's "adopted father."

Lafayette's popularity in both American and French circles was an important factor in the treaties of February 1778 that ensured French support for the American cause. In 1779, Lafayette returned to France and succeeded in

helping secure 6,000 French soldiers for the war. Lafayette returned to America in 1780. Although the formal end of the Revolutionary War did not come until 1783, Lafayette and his troops held Cornwallis at Yorktown in 1781 and confirmed America's independence.

In 1782, Lafayette returned to France having become the "Hero of Two Worlds." Congress voted to invite Lafayette to America in 1824 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Revolutionary War as the "Nation's Guest."

The statue of Lafayette was completed in 1891, and placed on the southeast corner of Lafayette Park. The statue has served as the backdrop for ceremonies involving the French and American governments. An Act of Congress made Lafayette an "honorary citizen" in 2002.



# SPECIAL FAMILY ACTIVITIES

## ★ NATIONAL PARK WEEK

Our National Parks are living examples of the best this nation has to offer – our magnificent natural landscapes and our varied yet interrelated heritage. Parks can provide recreational experiences, opportunities to learn and grow, and places of quiet refuge. National Park Week will be celebrated from **April 19 to April 27** at the Visitor Center. This event is an annual Presidentially-proclaimed week for celebration and recognition of our more than 390 National Parks. Take a moment, an hour, or a day to visit the National Parks near you, including those in the National Capital Region.



## ★ NATIONAL JUNIOR RANGER DAY

On **Saturday, April 26**, children can take part in free, fun-filled activities during the second annual National Junior Ranger Day in President's Park from **10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** "Explore, Learn and Protect" by participating in a special program introducing children to the urban wonders within our Park as they engage in presidential knowledge hunts and other activities. All children who participate in the program will receive a special commemorative certificate. A complete list of activities in this region is posted online at [www.nps.gov/npweek](http://www.nps.gov/npweek). Come and complete the Junior Ranger booklet and earn your badge and certificate!



## ★ NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

National Trails Day will be celebrated on **Saturday, May 10** from **8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** in President's Park. Scout groups will be joined by others as we embark on a full day of clean-up chores and play Colonial games and activities popular 200 years ago. Tools, safety equipment and supervision are provided. Participants in trail restoration maintenance will receive t-shirts and bags. Afternoon activities will include walking tours through history, costumed interpretation and much more. *Participation is limited and reservations are required for the trail maintenance portion of the program.*

## ★ HAVE TRUNK, WILL TRAVEL

**ATTENTION EDUCATORS:** President's Park has a traveling trunk filled with period clothing, utensils, books and a curriculum guide focusing on the history of slavery in the United States. The trunk can be loaned out to any school or home school group. *For additional information, call (202) 208-1631.*

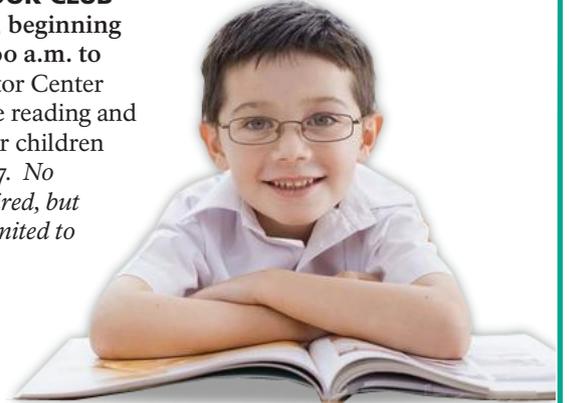


## ★ MEMORIAL DAY

On **Monday, May 26**, craft activities will focus on this day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service. Originally proclaimed on May 5, 1868, the holiday was first observed on May 30, 1868, at Arlington National Cemetery when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers. Activities will be available from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

## ★ CHILDREN'S BOOK CLUB

On **Wednesdays, beginning June 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 12 noon**, the Visitor Center will present a free reading and crafts program for children under the age of 7. *No reservations required, but participation is limited to 25. For additional information, call (202) 208-1631, ext. 216.*



## ★ FLAG DAY

President Harry S Truman signed an Act of Congress on August 3, 1949, designating June 14th of each year as National Flag Day. Join our Crafts Program on **Saturday, June 14** from **9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** and design your own flag. We'll have plenty of star stickers, red and blue construction paper, and lots of surprises!

## ★ NATIONAL HISTORY DAY

On **Wednesday, June 18** from **10:00 a.m. to 12 noon**, visitors can see history come alive in documentaries and exhibits presented by the student winners in the National History Day contest. The theme is "Conflict and Compromise in History"

# DAILY PROGRAMS AT PRESIDENT'S PARK

*Interpretive programs are presented by Park Rangers daily at 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. These programs last from approximately 20 minutes to one hour in length. More detailed descriptions are available at the White House Visitor Center Information Desk which is the starting point for all daily programs at President's Park.*



## WALKS THROUGH THE PARK

"Lafayette, We Are Here!" – Join a Park Ranger's walk through Lafayette Park and listen to the fabled facts on this historic site.

"A Walk Through President's Park" – Witness the layer of history that abounds in President's Park while enjoying the artistry embodied in the park's statues, fountains, memorials and monuments.



## THE NEIGHBORHOOD

"Washington's Washington" – It took land from Virginia and Maryland to create a new capital city for the United States. Join a Park Ranger's discussion of Washington, the man, and Washington, the city.

"The New Capital City" – Join a Park Ranger and discuss the history of Washington, D.C. as our capital city.

"What's In This Place?" – Learn from a Park Ranger about the various themed exhibits in the Visitor Center.



## 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

"Presidents and Baseball" – It's called "America's national pastime," but what is the connection between baseball and presidents?

"Inside the West Wing" – Explore the past and present of this presidential workplace.

"The Last Great Battle" – Ulysses S. Grant's struggle against his most daunting opponent becomes real in this presentation.

"The Man on the Horse" – Many people walk past this statue daily, some even sit and have lunch on the benches nearby while "the man on the horse" silently watches.



Interpretive Program



Walking Tour



Special Event



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 wish 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.**