

White House VISITOR CENTER

1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

Twilight Tattoo: A Tradition on the Ellipse

Forget what you normally think about when you hear the word "tattoo." To the Army, the Tattoo is a brilliant military pageant dating back to the 19th century that leads the audience on a stroll through the years of American military history, including performances by the Army Drill Team, the Fife and Drum Corps, the Army Band, and the Army Blues Jazz Ensemble.

Beginning in late Spring and usually concluding in July, Twilight Tattoo is held every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. on the Ellipse. An interpretive program about the history of the Twilight Tattoo will be offered at the Visitor Center on Wednesdays.

These programs are made possible through the U.S. Army Military District of Washington. The Twilight Tattoo Program is the winner of the Department of the Army's 2001 Chief of Public Affairs Community Relations Award for Distinction for Ongoing Community Relations Programs.



Celebrate Our Symbol of Freedom

In August 1949, President Harry S Truman proclaimed June 14th "Flag Day." Ever since, the President has proclaimed the commemoration yearly and encourages all Americans to proudly display the "Stars and Stripes" outside their homes and businesses.

National flags are not merely symbols of a country. Their colors and designs convey past history and future goals. The first flag, called the Grand Union, was first flown at the headquarters of the Continental Army on January 1, 1776. Betsy Ross, a seamstress, is said to have contributed to this design.

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress proposed that the United States adopt a national

flag with 13 stars and stripes representing each of the 13 new American states.

There were few public ceremonies honoring the Stars and Stripes until 1877, when on June 14, it was flown from every government building in honor of the centennial of the adoption of a national flag. The first official Flag Day was observed in Pennsylvania in 1893.

All Americans should pause for a moment on Flag Day, June 14 at 7 p.m. (EDT), to simultaneously recite the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The effect of this simple ceremony each year is a stimulating patriotic experience.

*"The Avenue in the Rain," 1917, by Frederick Childe Hassam (1859-1935)
Reproduced courtesy of the White House Historical Association.*



The First Division Monument

The First Division of the Army Monument is located west of the White House and south of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building. As you stroll around President's Park, take a few moments to admire this beautiful monument.

The First Division of the American Expeditionary Forces was created during World War I and has served honorably in almost every United States military engagement since. This monument was created to honor those who died in World War I; their names appear on the bronze plates at the base of the memorial.

The statue on top is called "Winged Victory," and was designed by sculptor Daniel Chester French. She is made of bronze plated in gold and sits atop a 65 foot column of pink Massachusetts granite – one of the largest pieces ever quarried in the United States.

Panels have subsequently been added to bear the names of those who died in World War II, Vietnam, and Operation Desert Storm. The memorial was paid for by members of the First Division and was dedicated in 1924. Today the monument and grounds are maintained by the National Park Service. The nickname of the First Division is "The Big Red One" and a bed of flowers in front of the memorial spells out a huge numeral "1" almost every summer.

APRIL

DAILY, APRIL 1 – 4

“Crazy or Not...” – Join a Ranger and hear all the rumors about President Lincoln’s wife. Is her life a story of tragedy? *Programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2

Documentary Day – “Upon these Grounds” – Explore the beautiful gardens and grounds surrounding the White House. *Screening at 11:30 a.m.*

DAILY, APRIL 8, 9, 11, 12

“Washington’s Washington” – Join a ranger and discuss how a dismal swampy lowland developed into a beautiful parkland surrounding the White House. *Programs begin at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

THURSDAY, APRIL 10

Living History Program – Meet “Teddy Roosevelt,” our youngest President and a leading environmentalist.

Free presentations at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

“Air Force One” – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. *Screening at 1 p.m. Repeated on April 26.*

DAILY, APRIL 15, 17 – 19

“Explore President’s Park” – Join a Park Ranger for a walking tour of the grounds outside the White House fence. *Programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16

Monthly Lecture Series – “The Good Friday That Wasn’t” – Hear about the plots, conspiracies and attempts to overthrow the government and how they relate to April 14, 1865. *Lecture runs from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*

DAILY, APRIL 20 – 26

National Parks Week – Visit the Center’s Information desk for details about special activities and programs throughout the week.

DAILY, APRIL 22 – 26

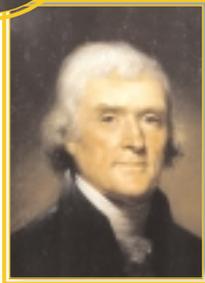
“Footsteps through the Park” – Join a ranger for a fascinating slide show featuring President’s Park. *Programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

DAILY, APRIL 27 – 30

National Volunteer Week – Our Volunteers in the Park (VIPs) provide tremendous support throughout President’s Park. Be sure to thank them for their hard work.

DAILY, APRIL 29 – 30

“The Pipsqueak that Roared” – Examine the Presidential days of Theodore Roosevelt. *Programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*



MAY

DAILY, MAY 1 – 3

National Volunteer Week Continues – Our Volunteers in the Park (VIPs) provide tremendous support throughout President’s Park.

DAILY, MAY 1 – 3

“The Pipsqueak that Roared” – Examine the Presidential days of Theodore Roosevelt. *Programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

DAILY, MAY 5, 6, & 9

“Unlikely Heroes” – Who are the Revolutionary War Heroes in Lafayette Park? Join a Ranger on an informative walk around Lafayette Park. *Programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

“Chat on the Square” – Join the Director of Preservation for the Executive Office of the President and hear the fascinating tales of historic Lafayette Square. *Meet the Park Ranger in Lafayette Square at 12 noon.*

THURSDAY, MAY 8

Living History Program – Join us as we welcome “Thomas Jefferson,” an extraordinary man of vision. *Free presentations at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.*

SATURDAY, MAY 10

“Air Force One” – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. *Screening at 1 p.m. Repeated on May 24.*

DAILY, MAY 12 – 16

“The Ranger’s Magical Mystery Tour” – Join a Park Ranger and learn many interesting facts about President’s Park. *Programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

DAILY, MAY 19 – 22

“A Walk Around the Park” – Join a Park Ranger for a beautiful stroll through President’s Park. *Programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

Monthly Lecture Series – “Sincere Moments” – Celebrate May and Mothers and hear about the roles of mothers, wives and First Ladies in the White House. *Lecture runs from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*

DAILY, MAY 27 – 31

“Before Constitution Avenue...” – Join a Park Ranger and hear how busy Constitution Avenue developed from a canal! *Programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

JUNE

DAILY, JUNE 3 – 7

“Washington’s Washington” – Join a ranger and discuss how a dismal swampy lowland developed into a beautiful parkland surrounding the White House. *Programs begin at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 4

Documentary Day – “First Dogs” – Learn about the four-legged friends who have called the White House home and provided comfort to many First Families! *Screening at 11:30 a.m.*

DAILY, JUNE 10 – 14

“Footsteps through the Park” – Join a ranger for a fascinating slide show featuring President’s Park. *Programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

THURSDAY, JUNE 12

Living History Program – Join us as we welcome “Betsy Ross,” American folk hero and patriot, in an educational re-enactment. *Free presentations at 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.*

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

“Air Force One” – A 50-minute video documents the history of Presidential flight. *Screening at 1 p.m. Repeated on June 28.*



DAILY, JUNE 17 – 21

“Explore President’s Park” – Join a Park Ranger for a walking tour and discover the many monuments and statues around the Park. *Programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

DAILY, JUNE 23 – 27

“Give ‘em Hell, Harry!” – Join a Park Ranger and learn about a little known, but gutsy Vice President from Missouri, Harry S Truman, who unexpectedly became President. *Programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

DAILY, JUNE 30 – JULY 3

“New Capital City” – Learn how our Founding Fathers chose a new city to serve as the capital of the United States. *Programs at 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.*

Interpretive 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.

