White House Easter Egg Roll 2007
Welcome to the 2007 White House Easter Egg Roll!  
For more than a century, this delightful springtime celebration has been a Washington tradition. We are happy that you have come to be part of it.

As you explore the lovely White House grounds, you'll find plenty to see and do. You might even meet characters from some of your favorite books!

In addition to the traditional egg roll, this year’s festivities include lots of surprises and fun activities. You can enjoy an egg hunt and a fitness trail, see live animals and magic shows. You can listen to music, decorate an egg, have your face painted, create some art, or enjoy your favorite part of the day – the story readings.

President Bush and I hope you have a great time today and collect wonderful memories at the White House!

Laura Bush

The History of the White House Easter Egg Roll

Young Tad Lincoln, son of President Abraham Lincoln, hosted the first documented informal egg-rolling party; but the honor of establishing the tradition we know today as the White House Easter Egg Roll falls to President Rutherford B. Hayes and his wife Lucy.

Following the Civil War, press accounts in 1872 noted egg-rolling activities occurring on the grounds surrounding the renovated Capitol building. In the post-Civil War era, the Capitol was the center of Washington.

Neighborhood children found the Capitol's steep, grassy terraces a perfect place to play. Sitting on these terraces and eating their lunches, the children discovered that hard-boiled eggs would roll down the inclines. When Easter Mondays rolled around, children flocked to the Capitol grounds to enjoy a day of play, taking their dyed Easter eggs with them.

As crowds increased through the years, egg-rolling activities reportedly became more than a little rowdy and messy. In 1876, some Congressman, tired of the torn-up grounds and slipping and sliding on the remains of boiled eggs, proposed and successfully passed an Act of Congress that said no part of the Capitol grounds could be used as a playground.

The announcement of the new rule was postponed in 1877, when a rainy Easter Monday kept egg rollers indoors. But in 1878, a public notice of the Congressional decision appeared in the press a few days before Easter Monday and informal the egg rollers the 1876 law would be enforced. In response, according to a New York newspaper, a number of young boys approached a strolling President Hayes and asked for permission to use his back yard to roll eggs. Without promising, Hayes, experiencing his first presidential Easter, returned to the White House and made inquiries. Upon hearing the story, he directed that any children approaching the grounds on Easter Monday be allowed to enter.

On Easter Monday, the first children to venture onto the South Lawn found no one to turn away and settled into their egg-rolling games. Word spread, and soon the grounds were bustling with children. So successful was the day that the following year the children did not ask but merely showed up and began to play. The White House Easter Egg Roll continued to grow. By 1889 there were more than 8,000 children on the lawn for the event, which included the playing of games such as "Egg Picking," "Egg Ball," "Toss and Catch," and "Egg Croquet."

Occasionally cancelled because of rain, the annual White House Easter Egg Roll was temporarily stopped during World War I, World War II, and the refurbishing of the White House during the Truman Administration. In those times the egg-rolling tradition shifted to the National Mall and back to the Capitol.

First Lady Pat Nixon's staff initiated the first -- and last -- formal Easter Egg Hunt using real hard-boiled eggs. Only days later were all the eggs found, having emitted a pungent odor that could be detected by anyone near or far. By 1974 the most famous of Easter Monday activities -- the organized egg-rolling race -- was introduced. Wielding stainless steel serving spoons from the White House kitchen, youngsters lined up eight across and, at the whistle, raced down the marked lanes rolling, pushing, and occasionally launching colored hard-boiled eggs (prepared by the White House chefs) into the air on their way to the finish line.

Now each year, thousands of children eagerly await the chance to participate in the White House Easter Egg Roll, the largest public event held at the White House. They enjoy music played by nationally known children's entertainers, hear stories read by the authors of favorite children's books and other celebrities, have photos taken with popular costumed characters, and use their imagination to decorate their own Easter eggs. While the turn-of-the-century games have been replaced by newer activities, rolling a hard-boiled egg across the White House grass is still an annual highlight.
Activities
The Easter Egg Roll
A Washington tradition for more than 125 years! For children ages eight and under. Use a big spoon to roll a colored Easter egg across the White House lawn.

Be an Easter Artist
For children of all ages. Color your own wearable bunny ears and an Easter-themed coloring card.

STAGE PERFORMERS
All for Kids
Arne Disan and his team of world-class yo-yo professionals perform an interactive show featuring dozens of outstanding yo-yo tricks. Their NIH Show teaches three essential characteristics for becoming a champion in school and in life. Never Give Up, Encourage Others and Do Your Best.

Arizona Angels
This family-oriented dance troupe for children 2-19 performs for many charities, special events, and dance competitions throughout the country. The troupe requires each member to maintain healthy life habits and good grades. They also encourage the strong parental support that is crucial for both the child and the team's success.

Billy Dean
Billy Dean credits his children as the inspiration for his introspective and candid song lyrics and for helping him to realize and focus on the joys of life. His new and expressive work has an energy that makes it easily accessible to his audience.

Staging

Great Expectations
For children of all ages. Color and decorate your own egg. Decorking kits and eggs are supplied for you to “eggpress” yourself.

Breakfast on the Eclipse
Complimentary egg wraps, juice, fruit, fruit cups, and many other treats along with music provided by DJ Darrell Bell.

Hippity Hop Photo-Op
Have your photo taken by professional photographers and pick up the print at the designated photo text.

Bunny Fitness Trail
For children ten and under. Enjoy participating in this fun obstacle course.

Egg Hunt
For children five and under. Have fun in a traditional Easter egg hunt and find the Golden Egg with a special prize.

Face Painting
For children of all ages. Have your face decorated by local artists.

Entertainment

Flumpa and Friends Live!
Science Rocks with Wendy and Flumpal. Science, music, fitness and fun are blended in a unique and award-winning show perfect for the whole family. The energy-charged show involves the entire audience. Flumps and Friends have performed at over 4,500 events and schools nationwide since 1995 and have won over 17 national awards.

Funky Mama
Funky Mama Music is a company devoted to writing and performing original music for kids. They believe music for children should be fun, clever, interactive, and loved by moms, dads, and grandparents, too! Krista "Funky Mama" Elyse has performed regularly in theater productions around the country and has performed in nearly 100 music festivals and concerts for kids. She is a charter member of the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP), which has licensed her music in over 50 countries worldwide.

Denise Austin and Friends
Join personal trainer Denise Austin, Sheikh and their friends as they talk about fitness. They stress sensible, realistic, and fun ways to stay fit, by eating healthy foods and playing at least one hour a day.

Johnny and the Sprites
Join Johnny and the Sprites as they bring you years of experience to Johnny and the Sprites. He is a singer, dancer, puppeteer and puppet master whose past credits include the Book of Preston, Brave in the Big Blue House, and Sesame Street. Coming from a show business family, John has been working since he was a child. Johnny and the Sprites is a show for children to watch – and dance and sing with. The Sprites are Ginger, Basil, Lily, Root, and Sage.

Jonas Brothers
The Jonas Brothers - Joseph, Kevin, Nicholas bailed from Wyckoff, New Jersey. Inspiration for the group's songs comes directly from the boys' personal experiences - the highs and lows of dating, life on the road, and the opportunity to follow their dreams at such a young age. Before forming their band, the Jonas Brothers had appeared together in a series of commercials. As time went on, they found themselves spending more and more time writing songs and practicing together as a band. After a spectacular group audition for a record label, they were signed up on the spot.

Laughing Pizza
This musical family has been making music for families to share for more than 15 years. Their experience in writing children's music includes dozens of songs for Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen, the Cartoon Network TV show Big Bag, and an entire CD of dance and counting songs called Make It Count, which has become part of the public school curriculum in several states. Four of Laughing Pizza's music and video releases have won Parent's Choice Awards.

Passing Zone
The Passing Zone's non-stop humor not only surprises audiences, but has them doubled up with laughter. Their act is unique, groundbreaking, hilarious, and makes for high-impact, out-of-this-world entertainment. They have set four Guinness World Records and have been Gold Medalists for four consecutive years at the International Juggling Championships!

Sesame Street (Elmo, Rosita and Gordon)
Sesame Street has been bringing laughter, fun and learning to children for 37 years. Elmo, the high-spirited, playful, imaginative, and talkative monster, has a genuine curiosity and an optimistic view of the world around him, which has enchanted millions of all ages. Fellow resident Rosita is an exuberant, playful girl who draws from her Mexican heritage to teach her friends Spanish words and phrases. Along with their friend Gordon, they share a love of music and singing songs together - a central part of life on Sesame Street.

Reading Nooks

Gather around and hear stories read by some of America's most well-known children's book authors and special guest readers at two Reading Nooks on the South Lawn.

Special Guest Readers
Mrs. Laura Bush
Mrs. Lynne Cheney
Stephen Baldwin
Actor and member of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation
The Honorable Joshua Bolten
Chief of Staff to the President of the United States
The Honorable Mary Romar
Director, National Park Service
The Honorable Alberto Gonzales
Attorney General of the United States
The Honorable Carlos Gutierrez
Secretary of Commerce
The Honorable Alphonso Jackson
Secretary of Housing & Urban Development
The Honorable Stephen Johnson
Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency

Reading Nooks

Mary Pope Osborne
Magic Tree House: Dragon of the Red Dawn
American Tall Tales
David Wiener
"Flora Tuesday"

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Suzi Shelton
Calling all Rock- roll Kids! Simply Suzi is rocking up a storm! Suzi grew up in Chey- nelland, Ohio where she was a dancer and a preschool teacher. After moving to New York City, she discovered adding music to the mix was a winning combination. Suzi Shelton has been a stand out among the kid-friendly music- ical performers since her days as an original member of the groundbreaking New York City’s The Hip Hop Generation, and on the last gig she performed in New York City.

MAGIC STAGE
The Magic Stage features some of the best children's magicians from around the country. Using magic and audience participation, these amazing magicians teach children important life lessons. They will be appearing on stage as well as strolling the grounds performing their mystifying feats of magic for small groups of children.

Featuring:
Dr. Elodine (Eldon D. Wighton)
"Ralph the Great" (Ralph Metzler)
Ken Scott
Adam Ace
Emmanuel and Tintin the Bunny

James Wand
Magician
Dean Alan Carnegie
Riz (Dave Riley)

ANIMAL STAGE
Peter Geraci and Bobbi Colorado will introduce the audience to many live animals, including: A Great Horned Owl, a four-foot Montmer Conair, an African Crested Porcupine; and a giant bunny. These are provided by Dan Breeding of Wild Animal Encounters. Bobbi Colorado, has more than 35 years of experience working with animals in TV, film and print productions. Peter Geraci has nearly 30 years of field experience with captive wildlife. In his former position as Director of Land Animals and Vice President at Marine World/Africa USA, he established breeding programs for 377 endangered animals. He also developed a rehabilitation program for birds of prey, as well as the largest captive breeding colony of ostriches in the United States. He is a licensed Exhibitor & Animal Educator for the USDA, and an active member of the American Zoo and Aquariums Association and Zoological Association of America. Geraci is also on the Board of Directors of the Suisun Marsh Natural History Association.
2007 Easter Egg Collection Artists

The 2007 Easter Egg Collection continues a tradition that began in 1994. Each state sends a decorated egg to the White House for display during the annual White House Easter Egg Roll. The collection, coordinated by the American Egg Board, is on display at the White House Visitors Center at 13th and E Streets, NW, two blocks east of the White House. There you will see impressive miniature works of art created through the use of paint, carving, decorative additions, and other art media. Thank you to each artist for a masterful presentation.

2007 White House Egg Artists

Alabama Ms. Lynda Kimman
Alaska Ms. Christi Bowels
Arkansas Ms. Lynda Young
Arizona Ms. Marsha Russell
California Mr. Jimmy Hasko
Colorado Ms. Heidi Aurich
Connecticut Ms. Ellen Smith Fagan
Delaware Ms. Susan Monahan
District of Columbia Ms. Mary Steingesser
Florida Ms. Debra Mears
Georgia Mrs. Dawna Godfrey
Hawaii Ms. Sylvia Piper
Idaho Mr. Russ Hagan
Illinois Mr. Alan Rabon
Indiana Mr. Paul Batsz
Iowa Ms. Heather Jensen
Kentucky Mr. T. B. Andrews
Louisiana Ms. Penny Smith
Maine Ms. Kim Lidstone
Maryland Mr. Amy Kees
Massachusetts Ms. Diane Murray
Michigan Ms. Deb Malewski
Mississippi Ms. Gary Olson
Missouri Ms. Barbara Lee Watkins
Mississippi Ms. Carolyn Trot
Montana Ms. Jill Hodges
Nebraska Ms. Carolyn Fic
Nevada Ms. Peggy J. Cowgill
New Hampshire Ms. Ann Marie Washier
New Jersey Ms. Marcia G. Stoeckel
New Mexico Ms. Sharon Locke
New York Mr. Ziggy Aries
North Carolina Mr. Dwight Hughes
North Dakota Ms. Betty L. Klynn
Ohio Ms. Elizabeth Sebold
Ohio Ms. Sheri Helt
Oregon Ms. Terry M. Coons
Pennsylvania Ms. Samantha Howell
Rhode Island Ms. Joan Kramer
South Carolina Anonymous Donor
South Dakota Ms. Alyson Nagel
Tennessee Ms. Vicky Cutter
Texas Ms. Eve Butterly
Utah Ms. Terry J. Lone
Vermont Ms. Stormy Heimer
Virginia Ms. Carolyn Spencer
Washington Ms. Betty E. Holibauch
West Virginia Mr. George Gartom
Wisconsin Ms. Kathlyn M. Davis
Wyoming Mr. Phillip M. LeDow

Strolling Characters

Abby Cadabby from Sesame Street
Amelia Bedelia
Arthur
B. B. Rabbit
Bobby Banana
Bookworm
Cere and Littlefoot from Land Before Time
Charlie Brown
Clifford the Big Red Dog
Corduroy
Cotton the Bunny
Curious George
Danny's Donuts
Danny's Handy Manny
Feathers the Duck
Hooper from PEB Kids
Maestro Mouse
Maisy and Miguel
Max and Ruby
Mouse from Give a Mouse a Cookie
Noddy from Make Room for Noddy
Nut Brown Hare
Patchy Panda
Penelope Pineapple
Peter Cottontail
Peter Rabbit
Pig from Give a Pig a Pancake
Piggy Whisk from Jakarta! The Adventures of Piggy Whisk
Buff Ruffman from Fetch
Scrreech - Washington Nationals Mascot
Snoopy
Spot
Terrence the Turtle
USDA Power Panther
Warson Bros. Studious' Bugz Bunny
Washington Nationals' Racing Presidents
Wild Thing
Woodrow the White House Mouse

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