

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER HOSTS SPECIAL THANKSGIVING WEEKEND PROGRAMMING

School supply drive benefiting Philadelphia schools begins Thanksgiving weekend

Philadelphia, PA (November 20, 2018) – Over Thanksgiving weekend, the National Constitution Center invites visitors to celebrate with a variety of special programs and activities. Visitors can meet Presidents Washington and Lincoln and learn more about their roles in creating the Thanksgiving holiday, as well as the Native American history of this iconic American tradition. Interactive family-friendly programming, including presidential role-play scenarios, historic character meet and greets, and corn husk doll-making, offers visitors of all ages a chance to imagine themselves at different periods of American history. On Friday, November 23, visitors can take part in a presidential-themed pumpkin decorating contest for a chance to win a one-year family membership to the Center.

From Thanksgiving weekend through Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 21, 2019, the National Constitution Center invites visitors to donate newly purchased school supplies such as pens, pencils, crayons, copy paper, and folders for Philadelphia schools. Visitors making a school supply donation will receive \$2 off admission through Sunday, January 20, 2019. Donations can be dropped off at the Center's box office during museum hours and will become part of the Center's activities marking Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service.

In the classroom, teachers and students can view the [Thanksgiving episode](#) of the Center's popular *Constitution Hall Pass* video lesson series, and discover the real story of the first Thanksgiving and how the day became a national holiday during the Civil War. The Center's education staff will be available to chat live with classrooms across the country on Monday, November 19, through Wednesday, November 21, from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. EST. More information is available at constitutioncenter.org/learn.

Thanksgiving Weekend Programs**Presidential Pumpkin Decorating Contest**

Friday, November 23, 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Visitors are challenged to decorate pumpkins to represent their favorite commander in chief. Winners will be selected by presidential reenactors on-site at 2 p.m. on Friday, November 23. The winning entrant will receive a [one-year family membership](#) to the National Constitution Center.

Kids Town Hall: Meet the Presidents

Friday, November 23, 12 p.m.

Visitors can participate in a special Kids Town Hall with Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, who will discuss what Thanksgiving means to them.

Meet and Greets: George Washington and Abraham Lincoln

Friday, November 23, 1 – 3 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, 12 – 2 p.m.

Visitors can meet Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln and pose for pictures.

History of Thanksgiving Program

Daily, check visitor guide upon arrival for show times.

The interactive “History of Thanksgiving” program invites visitors to explore the origins and importance of this national holiday. Visitors will learn about the Wampanoag people who lived in what is now New England and their culture, as well as the historic meal they shared with European settlers in 1621 and the events leading up to the harvest feast that year.

Thanksgiving: Deconstructing the Myth

Daily, check visitor guide upon arrival for show times.

Visitors can join the Center’s education staff to discuss and deconstruct images of Thanksgiving from different periods of our country’s history, taking into account the historical context of each period. This program will unravel some of the myths surrounding the holiday by presenting a more holistic view of the past, which considers multiple perspectives and tells the story of the Wampanoag people. The program will also examine how the nation’s relationship with Native People has always shaped contemporary understandings of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Presidency 101

Daily, check visitor guide upon arrival for show times.

At this interactive show, visitors explore Article II of the Constitution and the duties and requirements of the executive office, take part in “Who am I?” questions, as well as presidential role-play scenarios.

Growing Up, American Style

Daily, check visitor guide upon arrival for show times.

Visitors can learn about growing up in different eras of American history through a costume runway show, featuring traditional-style dress from historical periods, like Washington and Lincoln’s presidencies.

Admission during Thanksgiving Weekend includes access to the National Constitution Center’s interactive main exhibit, *The Story of We the People*; the signature multimedia, theatrical performance of *Freedom Rising* presented in the Sidney Kimmel Theater; and the iconic *Signers’ Hall*, featuring 42 life-size, bronze statues of the Founding Fathers.

Visitors also have access to the Center’s feature exhibits, including *American Treasures: Documenting the Nation’s Founding*, an intimate look at the rarest early drafts of the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights; *Constituting Liberty: From the Declaration to the Bill of Rights*, highlighting the three most important documents in American history; and the Center’s new exhibit, *Hamilton: The Constitutional Clashes That Shaped a Nation*, which highlights the competing ideas of Alexander Hamilton and his legendary rivals.

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About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](https://www.constitutioncenter.org) in Philadelphia inspires citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the

greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America's leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter "to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a nonpartisan basis." As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits. As **America's Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit constitutioncenter.org.