



SEPTEMBER 17, 2008 to JANUARY 20, 2009



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Ashley Berke
Senior Public Relations Manager
215.409.6693
aberke@constitutioncenter.org

**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER PRESENTS
SPECIAL PUBLIC PROGRAMS**
In conjunction with *Headed to the White House* exhibit
and *Election 08: The Power of We* series

Philadelphia, PA – Presented in conjunction with the *Headed to the White House* exhibition and the year-long series, *Election 08: The Power of We*, the National Constitution Center will host a variety of interactive events and group packages for visitors and students, highlighting the fascinating history of presidential elections.

DAILY OFFERINGS:

Election '08: The Power of We Lobby Programming

FREE

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on weekdays, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. on weekends

As soon as visitors step through the Center's doors, they will find "election central" in the Grand Hall Lobby. Every visitor, even those under the age of 18, will have the chance to cast their vote for president. The lobby will feature a running tally of gumballs used to signify each vote so that visitors can see the most up-to-date results. Guests can also view a countdown clock to Election Day and register to vote on-site. Registration forms from every state are available and Constitution Center staff members are on-hand to assist with the registration process. Visitors can also view a special display of voting booths from America's past and learn about different voting methods, the expansion of voting rights, and the importance of voting for all citizens. They can also weigh in on current campaign issues by responding to questions posted on special election "talk back" panels.

A Run for the Oval Office

FREE

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on weekdays, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. on weekends

During this special presentation in the Grand Hall Lobby, visitors have the chance to learn about the election process from the primaries to the inauguration. Guests can participate in 5-10 minute interactive demonstrations with museum educators that include the latest campaign developments, debates, and speeches.

-MORE-

ADD ONE/PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Debate Faceoff!

FREE with admission to *Headed to the White House*

12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Visitors will learn how to pull off a great debate by figuring out how to ask tough questions and how to defend the issues that matter most to them. During this interactive program, guests will also explore how technology has influenced the outcome of debates and candidacies throughout the years.

iPod Audio Tour: *Mission: The Oval Office*

\$2 for members, \$3 for non-members with regular museum admission

Mission: The Oval Office takes visitors on a fun-filled trip through the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, with Kathy O'Connell from WXPB's popular radio program, "Kids Corner." Guests will become secret agents to reveal the mystery behind the executive branch and learn more about the office of president and those who have occupied it.

Amtrak's Headed to the White House Giveaway

Families can enter to win a weekend trip to Washington, D.C., courtesy of Amtrak. The online entry form can be completed at www.constitutioncenter.org, beginning on September 17, 2008. The trip for a family of four includes a two night stay at The Fairmont Hotel, with breakfast and roundtrip transportation on Amtrak's Acela express train included.

Based on room night availability, January 30 - June 30, 2009, with check in on Friday night and check out on Sunday for up to four people. Breakfast is included for up to four people on Saturday and Sunday during the stay. Amtrak travel must be completed by December 25, 2009, and is subject to availability and blackouts. Roundtrip transportation on the Acela express train is business class only. All travel on Amtrak is subject to its conditions of carriage and policies. Taxi transfers, meals, gratuities, hotel taxes, or any expenses related to the promotion or the "winner's" trip-related financial incidentals are not included.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

Scout the Vote

Saturday, September 6 and Saturday, October 18, 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Event Admission: \$14 for Scouts, \$12 for adults

Reservations Recommended: 215-409-6800

Brownies, Cadettes, and Senior Girl Scouts can complete their Scout the Vote Badge requirements when the National Constitution Center turns into "Election '08 Headquarters." Girl Scouts will have the chance to meet with non-partisan election groups, hear guest speakers, and join in the presidential campaign while touring the *Headed to the White House* exhibition.

Don't Know Much About Presidents Quiz Show

Saturday, November 1, 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

FREE with admission to *Headed to the White House*

Reservations Required: 215-409-6700

-MORE-

ADD TWO/PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Children will have the chance to put their presidential knowledge to the test as they join in a live, interactive quiz show with host, children's author Kenneth C. Davis, to learn fun facts and stories about U.S. presidents. Teams of four will be chosen to participate in the game show, while members of the audience help contestants answer questions. The winning team will be announced as "Presidents for the Day" at the National Constitution Center and will receive the presidential treatment - free admission to the Center and a free iPod tour. After the show, Davis will meet and greet the audience and sign copies of his books. His *Don't Know Much About...* book series will also be on sale at the Center following the program.

SCHOOL GROUP PACKAGES:

Destination White House School Group Package

\$14 per person. Minimum of 20 people.

Reservations Required: 215-409-6800

Grades 3-5, 6-8, 9-12

Can your students solemnly swear that they will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and to the best of their ability, preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States? At the Center, they won't have to wait until they turn 35 to run for president; their time is now! During this action-packed day, students will learn about the presidency, with a focus on presidential elections and the functions of the executive branch. While on their educational adventure through the main exhibition, students will learn about past presidents, historic elections, and presidential powers throughout history. Students can also elect a classmate to be the next president while learning what platforms are and watching some of the most famous campaign ads of all time.

Philadelphia Voter Registration Initiative

Fees Vary. Call 215-409-6754 for more information and to make reservations.

The National Constitution Center is taking its exciting show, *Destination White House*, on the road to high schools all year long. Any Philadelphia high school is eligible to have an educational and entertaining hour with the Center's staff to teach students about presidential elections and to get 18 year old students registered to vote.

From September 17, 2008 through December 14, 2008, the National Constitution Center will debut *Headed to the White House*. Developed by the Constitution Center, *Headed to the White House* is the only exhibition of its kind, uniquely created for students, teachers, and families during the height of the election season. The 3,000 square foot exhibition connects visitors with the excitement, pageantry, and importance of presidential elections through role-playing opportunities and interactive experiences.

-MORE-

ADD THREE/PUBLIC PROGRAMS

Headed to the White House was made possible through the generous support of The Annenberg Foundation, The Pew Charitable Trusts, and The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and is sponsored locally by Pennoni Associates and Beneficial Bank.

CBS 3 is the official media partner for the exhibition. CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV) are part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

Admission to *Headed to the White House* is \$15 for adults, \$14 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$9 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production "Freedom Rising", is included. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

###