

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ENJOY 5 AFTER 5: SUMMER NIGHTS PROMOTION: ONLY \$5 AFTER 5PM AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

Philadelphia, PA (June 4, 2010) – As the summer heats up, so do the deals at the National Constitution Center! This summer, the National Constitution Center is offering a **5 After 5: Summer Nights** promotion, discounted admission during extended hours from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Thursdays from **July 1 – August 26, 2010**. For only \$5, visitors can enjoy the Center’s core exhibition, *The Story of We the People*; the award-winning theater show, “Freedom Rising” (show times at 5:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m., and 7:00 p.m.); and the world debut exhibition, *Ancient Rome & America*, which will be on display through August 1. Visitors can also participate in an array of interactive activities, guided tours, and special monthly programming. Food and beverages will be available for purchase in the Delegates’ Café, and the Center’s gift shop will remain open during the extended hours. On site parking will be available at a discounted rate of \$9 after 5pm.

In July, all roads lead to the Center’s *Ancient Rome & America* exhibition! Children and their families will have the opportunity to use building blocks to recreate famous Roman and American structures, try on togas and practice delivering great speeches of both republics, and play the roles of census workers from these two great civilizations. During a Roman-style festival in the Grand Hall Lobby, visitors can participate in the special program, “Making a Scene in Ancient Rome,” which explores a variety of Roman spectacles, including famous gladiator tournaments. Also in the Grand Hall Lobby, crafts, games, and hands-on activities will highlight various aspects of Roman and early American culture. In addition, guest appearances will be made by the Center’s mascots, the Donkey and Elephant, who will be dressed for the occasion in their finest Roman togas. Visitors may also see bronze statues of gladiators come to life before their eyes!

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ADD ONE/SUMMER NIGHTS

In August, visitors can experience Philadelphia “then and now” during Summer Nights at the Center. During the “Growing Up, American Style Show,” visitors can try on outfits from different time periods and participate in a historical fashion show. They can also discover what home life, school, and work were like for kids who lived during different times in our nation’s history. Families can also have fun learning about America’s past and present by creating arts and crafts and playing some of America’s most iconic games. Children can join in historic pastimes such as hoop and stick races, as well as some of today’s most popular amusements, including Rock Band®! Visitors can also view a historic Philadelphia photo gallery and play the “Where am I?” game to discover what today’s hot spots, including Independence Mall, looked like in years past. The Center’s Donkey and Elephant mascots will also make additional appearances for photo opportunities with visitors. Guests can learn the fascinating story of how these particular animals became the symbols of our major political parties.

In addition, visitors can experience a special performance by students from Constitution High School, who will present their winning National History Day project about the Gradual Abolition Act. The students’ 10-minute group performance highlights the importance of Pennsylvania’s role in the struggle to end slavery, as the first state in the western hemisphere to enact a legal process to begin an abolition of slavery. The audience is taken on a historical tour from the auction block to freedom as the two student actors portray several characters, including early Quaker abolitionists Anthony Benezet and John Woolman, and fictional enslaved African Americans, Ms. Ella and Mr. James.

Through August 1, 2010, the National Constitution Center is hosting the world debut of *Ancient Rome & America* – a multi-million dollar, artifact-rich exhibition showcasing the cultural, political, and social connections between the lost world of ancient Rome and modern America. The 8,000 square foot exhibition, featuring a never-before-seen collection of artifacts, was created by the Center in partnership with Contemporanea Progetti of Florence, Italy, in collaboration with the Ministero per i Beni e Le Attività Culturali, Rome, Italy.

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ADD TWO/SUMMER NIGHTS

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. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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