

# WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL

April 9, 2012



EVENT PROGRAM



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Welcome to the White House Easter Egg Roll!

For over 100 years, the White House has welcomed visitors from across our Nation to celebrate the annual Easter Egg Roll. While many of the games, activities and performances have changed, the spirit of keeping the White House open and accessible to American families has remained constant. Whether you spend your time participating in sports activities, learning new recipes at the cooking stage or watching musical performances, we hope you enjoy your time on the South Lawn.

Let's Go, Let's Play, Let's Move!

Sincerely,

Michelle Obama

## HISTORY OF THE WHITE HOUSE EASTER EGG ROLL

President Abraham Lincoln's son, Tad, hosted the first documented informal egg-rolling parties in 1861, however the tradition we know today as the Easter Egg Roll was established by President Rutherford B. Hayes and his wife, Lucy. According to press accounts from the early 1870s, young egg-rollers would flock to the Capitol's steep, grassy terraces every Easter Monday for an exhilarating day of play.

In 1876, members of Congress who were tired of the growing crowds, torn-up grounds and one too many pratfalls on old egg shells, passed an Act of Congress preventing the Capitol grounds from being used as a playground. However, heavy rains on Easter Sunday in 1877 postponed the new law's enforcement until 1878. That year, a New York newspaper reported that several young boys approached a strolling President Hayes and asked for permission to use his back yard to roll eggs. Not wanting to say no to the children, President Hayes made sure that come Easter Monday, all children who wished to were allowed to enter the grounds.

By 1889 more than 8,000 children would descend upon the south lawn to play such games as "Egg Picking," "Egg Ball," "Toss and Catch," and "Egg Croquet." Over the years, participants included the family of Alexander Graham Bell, the children of President Theodore Roosevelt, and a young Charles Lindbergh, who would grow up to become the first person to fly solo across the Atlantic. In 1927, five-year-old Nancy Reagan attended the event - she would go on to host eight of her own Easter Egg Rolls as the First Lady from 1981-1988. During World Wars I and II, and the Truman Administration's renovation of the White House, the egg-rolling event was held on the National Mall.

First Lady Pat Nixon's staff hosted the first and last formal Easter egg hunt using real hard-boiled eggs. The unfound eggs were revealed days later, when their pungent odor gave them away. The famous egg-rolling race was introduced in 1974 when youngsters wielding presidential serving spoons would roll, push, and occasionally toss colorful hard-boiled eggs (prepared by the White House chefs) on their way to the finish line.

Today, the Easter Egg Roll is the largest public event held at the White House and features a wide variety of top-notch entertainment and activities. While a few things have changed since the turn-of-the-century, rolling a hard-boiled egg across the White House lawn is still everything it's cracked up to be.

## EGG ROLL CLASSICS

### **Easter Egg Roll** 13 & under

Take a long-handled spoon and join the thousands of children who have rolled colorful eggs down the White House Lawn.

### **Egg Hunt** 5 & under

Grab a basket and find the hidden eggs.

### **Photo Snaps** all ages

Picture-perfect opportunities abound all around the lawn and ellipse with strolling characters and photo props.

## ENTERTAINMENT

See schedule for show times. all ages

### **Rock 'n' Egg Roll Stage**

Catch performances throughout the day by some of today's top entertainers. There's something for everyone with kid favorites and radio pop stars.

### **Storytime Stage**

There's nothing like a good story, especially when favorite celebrities bring it to life.

### **Hop to It!**

It's a dance party at the White House! Get up and go jump rope, hula hoop, dance, and more!

## SPORTS & FITNESS ZONES

### **Eggivity Zone** ages 3-13

Put your skills to the test in an ultimate all-in-one obstacle course! Climb, jump, and run your way through a variety of sports drills.

### **Basketball** 10 & over **& Tennis** 10 & under

Come over to play basketball and tennis in the President's court! Get hands-on training from basketball and tennis pros.

### **Yoga Garden** all ages

Professional instructors show how basic poses can promote body awareness, flexibility and relaxation.

## EGGSPRESS YOURSELF

Hatch your inner artist with arts and crafts fun! all ages

### **Egg Dyeing**

Transform a plain white egg into a multi-colored art creation.

### **Egg Decorating**

Create a masterpiece with an egg as your canvas.

### **Floppy Ears Bunny 'Copters**

It's a bunny! It's a plane! It's your very own 'copter ears to see how engineering with design go hand in hand.

### **Paper Bag Kites**

Who said paper bags can't fly? Create your own kite out of a simple paper bag then test its design.

### **Jump Rope Making**

Jump on over to create your own custom jump rope using multi-colored beads.

### **Face Painting**

Who says eggs are the only things that can be decorated?

## PLAY WITH YOUR FOOD

### **Family Farmers' Market** all ages

Explore different varieties of fruits and vegetables while discovering how to include them in your diet daily.

### **Kids' Kitchen** all ages

Learn from White House and other celebrity chefs how to make easy and affordable snacks that are also healthy and delicious!

### **Quick like a Bunny** 13 & under

Use the White House organic garden as inspiration while you make a garden cup necklace filled with seeds that grow quick like a bunny.

### **Buzzing About Bees** all ages

Who knew the White House has an apiary? And just what is an apiary anyway? Learn that and many more fantastic bee facts.

## SOUVENIR EGG PICKUP

Don't forget to pick up your commemorative wooden egg! Eggs can be found on the Ellipse after you exit the South Lawn. Please note:

- Eggs must be claimed within 15 minutes after the departure time stated on your event ticket and wristband.
- Eggs are for children 13 years and younger only.
- Limit one egg per child – no exceptions.
- You can also purchase the wooden souvenir eggs at [easter.nationalparks.org/](http://easter.nationalparks.org/).

## ABOUT THE ARTWORK

The White House held a poster competition and invited elementary schools nationwide to submit artwork. Entries were received from over different 20 states this year. The First Lady selected the winning designs for the 2012 Official Easter Egg Roll Poster and the 2012 Official Easter Egg Roll Program Cover. Posters will be handed out as a prize to children who win the Easter Egg Roll or Egg Hunt.

The program cover artwork was created by Breonna Bailey, a 13-year-old student at MacFarland Middle School in Washington, D.C. Breonna's favorite subject is reading and her favorite book is *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* by Jeff Kinney.

Reed Preston Lindsey, a nine-year-old attending Anderson Elementary in Booneville, Mississippi, was the co-winner of the contest and his artwork was chosen as the 2012 Official Easter Egg Roll Poster. Reed won first place in the Mississippi Public Broadcasting writing contest two years in a row for writing and illustrating *Roscoe Wants a Red Feather* and *Troy's Next Stop.....Mars!* respectively.

## SPECIAL THANKS

We'd like to give a special thanks to our partners

**National Park Service** and **National Park Foundation** and to:

American Egg Board	NBA Cares
American Society of Plant Biologists	President's Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition
The Coca-Cola Company	Signature Brands, LLC - PAAS®
Crayola®	SUBWAY®
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Just Born, Inc.	United States Tennis Association
The Lawrence Hall of Science	Virginia Egg Council
University of California, Berkeley	Washington Hilton
The Madison	Whole Foods
Manduka	W Washington D.C.
National Children's Museum	
National Confectioners Association	



Attendees must exit the grounds by the time stated on their event ticket and wristband. This will ensure that all ticket-holders will be able to enjoy the full duration of their scheduled visit. Thank you!

## MAP



