



Freedom's Feast PRESIDENTS' DAY

On-line Ceremonies to get the most out of your AMERICAN holiday Celebrations.

PRESIDENTS' DAY



WE THE PEOPLE : TAKE ACTION



Presidents' Day is a great day to celebrate our First Amendment freedoms, and focus on civic engagement and activism. **The First Amendment** gives us the right to say what we think and protects that right. We ARE the people. We can speak, write, publish, assemble, and protest. We do not have a king; we have a President. We elect our representatives who answer to us for their actions. Together with our fellow citizens we are responsible for our country.



We have the power to change our world. We have to know our rights, get informed, and get involved.

1. Identify Your Cause. Know Your Rights.

Our Constitution gives ordinary citizens the power to do extraordinary things. Is there a cause or issue that you are passionate about or that you believe is challenging our First Amendment, (or other amendment), freedoms? Do your research. Study the law, code, or issue in question. Review the [Constitution](#) and [Bill of Rights](#).

2. Get Informed.

Learn as much as you can about your cause or issue. Are you concerned about health care reform? Global warming? Creating new jobs? Affordable college education? Improving school or neighborhood security? Study all sides. We rarely get everything that we want. We may have to compromise. That's what the framers who wrote our Constitution realized! Often compromises can take us a step closer to the place we want to be.

Partner with others. Join citizen's groups or organizations that work in your area of interest. Sign up for newsletters, explore social media sites, and learn about their political efforts. If you can't find a group that shares your concerns, start your own. Begin with friends and family. Know what you want to accomplish. Clarify your message and goals. Find multiple ways to share your message with others.

3. Get Involved.

Find and contact your local congressional representative. You might be surprised to learn what services your congressional representatives provide! Visit the [House of Representatives site](#) or the official [United States Senate site](#) to find and contact your senator, to see the hearing schedule, track legislation, and learn more about how the House of Representatives and the Senate work. You can write, e-mail, or phone [the President](#). Find an elected official or representative at the state or local level by going online. Keep copies of any messages you send. Learn more about the [Supreme Court](#) and what is on the docket for the coming year. Follow the federal budget. See how our tax dollars are used.

Please visit us again for [Memorial Day](#) and visit us on [Facebook](#) to share your experiences.

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Illustrations by Christine Marie Larsen

activism: noun \ 'ak-ti-vi-zəəm \ a: a practice that emphasizes direct vigorous action especially in support of or opposition to one side of a controversial issue. b: ACTION; CAMPAIGN; EFFECT CHANGE

Government Resources

The White House offers a great primer on government, packed with facts and content. The government printing office site follows the current work of our three branches of government and lists past records. Visit the House of Representatives site to see the hearing schedule, track legislation, follow roll call votes, and learn about how the House works. Go to the official U.S. Senate page to find and contact your senator, or the Supreme Court site to see what's on the docket for the coming year. Review explanations of landmark Supreme Court decisions since 1803.

www.whitehouse.gov
www.gpo.gov/fdsys
www.house.gov
www.senate.gov
www.supremecourtus.gov
www.landmarkcases.org

Start a Petition. Mobilize Support. Win Change.

[Change.org](#), launched in 2007, is a site designed to promote, engender, and enable social change through online petitions. Start your own petition to gain support for your cause and effect change. Advocate for the things that you believe in. Need more inspiration? Read about Mr. Well's 4th grade class at the Park School in Brookline, Massachusetts—learn how this remarkable group of 9-year olds took on a major corporation, Universal Studios, and convinced them to do the right thing.