

# New Frontiers

A newsletter for ★ educators

THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT OF THE JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

## 2008 NATIONAL STUDENT/PARENT MOCK ELECTION

**THE JOHN F. KENNEDY PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM** will once again be the Massachusetts host site for the National Student/Parent Mock Election (NSPME). The NSPME is held every two years both to engage students in the voting process and to emphasize the importance of this civic responsibility. Over four million votes were cast nationwide in the 2004 presidential election.

The 2008 Mock Election Day is Thursday, October 30th. The Kennedy Library will provide curricula about the 2008 presidential election and ballots to all registered Mock Election participants this Fall. On Mock Election Day, students will vote in school and teachers will report their results to the Kennedy Library. All votes will be tallied for the state and sent to the national Mock Election site, which, in turn, will compile the results from all fifty states.

In the 2004 presidential election, Massachusetts students cast 70,756 votes. Help us increase young voter participation in the 2008 Mock Election! There is no charge to participate. For more information, contact the Kennedy Library at [mock.election@nara.gov](mailto:mock.election@nara.gov). ★

## Red States/Blue States: Mapping the Presidential Election

“He’s too young to be president.” “He doesn’t have enough experience.” Voters expressed these concerns some 48 years ago when a 42-year-old senator from Massachusetts threw his hat into the ring as a Democratic candidate for president.

Age was but one of John F. Kennedy’s challenges. He also had to convince tens of millions of Americans that religion should not be a factor in judging a candidate’s ability to lead. At the time, anti-Catholic sentiment was high and many voters feared that because Kennedy was Catholic, he would be obligated to follow the Pope’s orders and decisions. Kennedy overcame these two great obstacles, his youth and his religion, to receive the nomination at the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, California in July 1960.

The presidential race was neck and neck through the fall and the outcome may have hinged on two key events.

On September 26, 1960, over 70 million Americans tuned in to see Democrat John F. Kennedy and Republican Richard M. Nixon, side by side, in the first ever televised presidential debate. Kennedy, well-prepared, tanned, and smartly dressed in a dark suit, exuded calm and confidence. Nixon, who was recovering from a knee injury, and exhausted from extensive campaigning, sweated profusely under the studio lights. Although three more debates would follow, many voters judged the candidates based on their television appearance that evening. A poll of television viewers following the debate reported Kennedy edging out Nixon, 49 percent to 46 percent.

In late October, Kennedy decided to make a telephone call offering support to a distraught Coretta Scott King whose husband, Martin Luther King, Jr. had been unjustly jailed. Though his action risked losing white southerners’ votes, news of the call was well-received by thousands of African-Americans. Some historians

*continued on page 2*



### HIGHLIGHTS

2 Analyzing the 1960 Election Results

4 Who Was Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy?

5 Our Government in Action

6 Turning Your Passion into Action

## Red States/Blue States: Mapping the Presidential Election (continued)

believe the call galvanized the black vote and led to a Kennedy victory.

On Election Day, November 8, 1960, the race was still close. Not until 3:30 am on November 9th did John F. Kennedy pull himself away from the incoming results on television to make his way to bed in Hyannisport, Massachusetts. Even with a disappointing loss in Ohio, he had garnered 261 electoral votes, 8 votes shy of the target number – 269. About two hours later, after results from Michigan assured his victory, a secret service security detail was sent to the Kennedy compound to protect the president-elect.

Kennedy won by approximately 118,550 votes, the slimmest popular vote margin since 1888. Although Kennedy barely won the popular vote, he clearly secured sufficient electoral votes, 303 to Nixon's 219. (Although Al Gore received 540,520 more popular votes than George W. Bush, he lost the electoral vote in the election of 2000.)

How did Kennedy win the 1960 election? Nixon actually won 26 states, but the 23 states Kennedy won held more electoral votes (see Election Results, page 3.) The number of electors for each state is based on its population (the number of senators plus the number of representatives.) Kennedy increased his total by winning several Northeastern and industrial states with big urban centers.

**In three states, some or all of the electors voted for segregationist Harry Byrd.**

With the help of his Texan Vice-Presidential candidate Lyndon B. Johnson, he was able to deliver much of the South. Nixon won big in the farm belt and in the West, where states (with the exception of California) have fewer electoral votes.

In three states, some or all of the electors voted for segregationist Harry Byrd.



Nixon and Kennedy debate on live television.

### Analyzing the 1960 Election Results

Challenge your students to analyze the results of the 1960 election. You may reproduce the map, *Election Results: 1960*, to help them with these discussion questions.

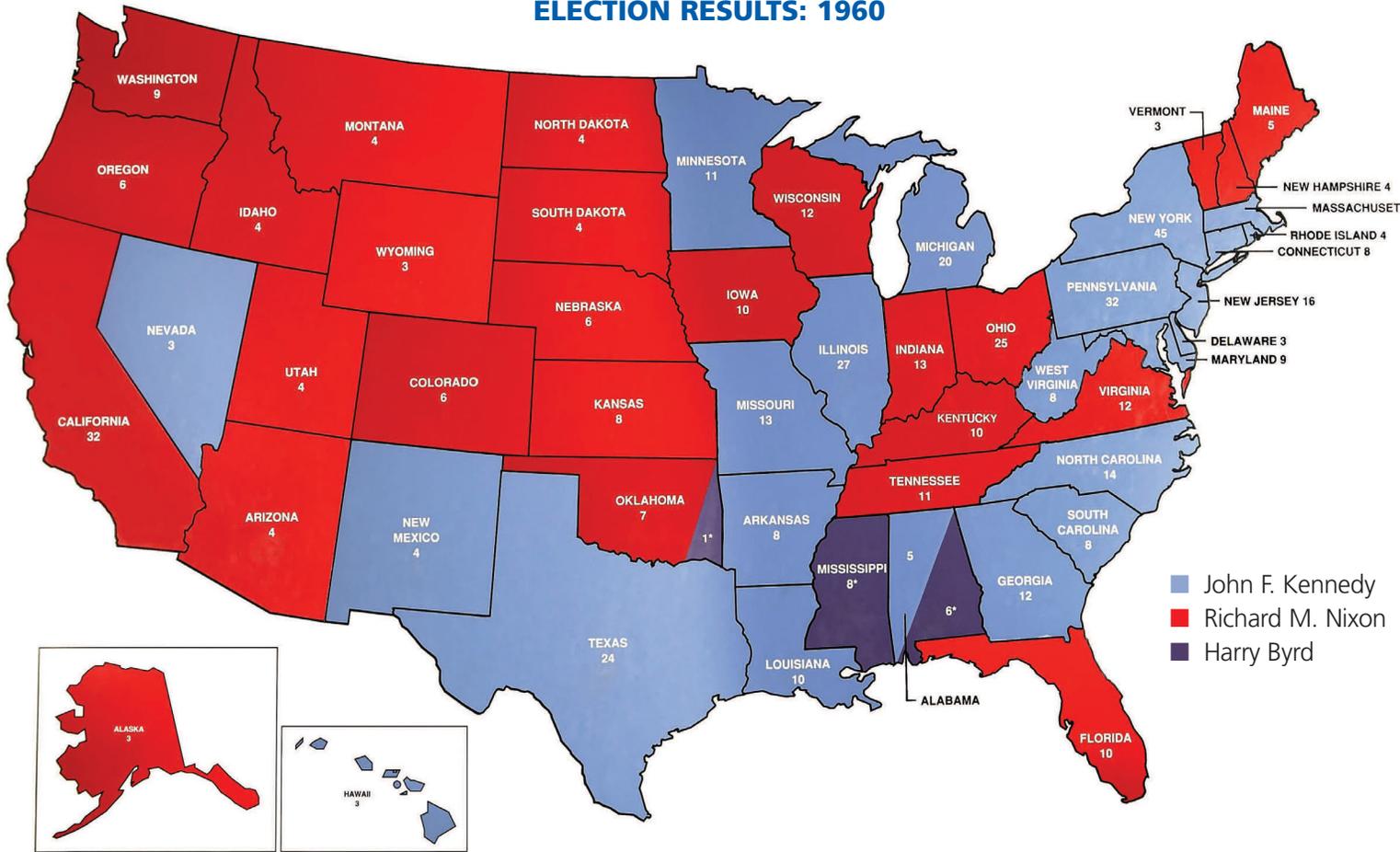
1. What do you notice about the 1960 election results? What patterns do you notice?
2. How many states did Nixon win? How many states did Kennedy win? How did Kennedy win the electoral vote?
3. How do you think the 2008 final results for the major parties will compare to the 1960 results? Might there be a change? If so, what might account for it? Why do you predict these results?

### For further research:

1. Reflect on the patterns you identified on the 1960 electoral map. Why do you think these patterns emerged?
2. There is a third color, dark blue, on the map. Which candidate is represented by the dark blue color? Why did some electors vote for this person? Did this affect the election?

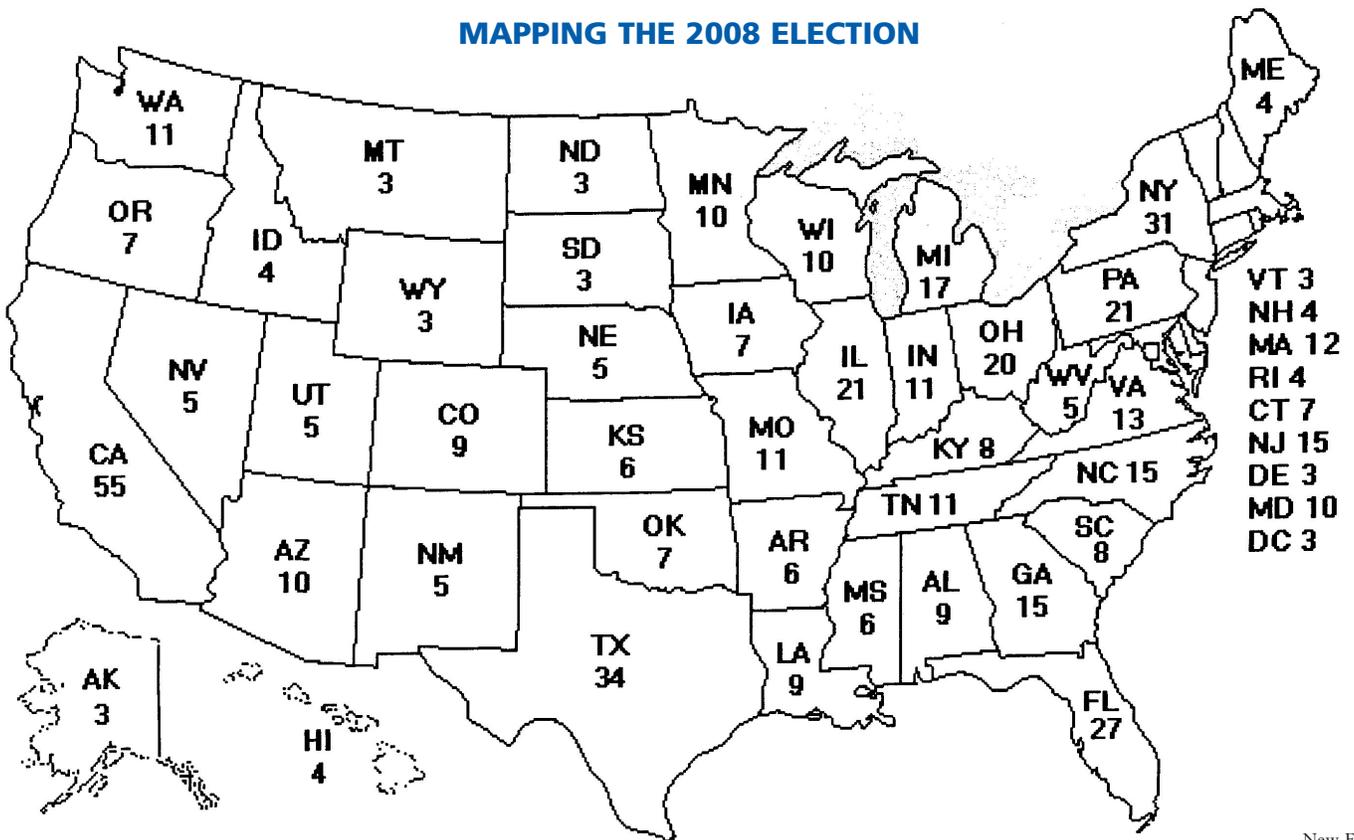
continued on page 4

## ELECTION RESULTS: 1960



From the Education Department, John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

## MAPPING THE 2008 ELECTION



## Red States/Blue States: Mapping the Presidential Election (continued)

### Election Results: 2008

Use “Mapping the 2008 Election” to predict and record the results of this year’s presidential election.

You may photocopy the 2008 blank map and use it in several ways.

1. Have students predict the results of the 2008 election. They can color states they believe will vote Republican in red and states that will vote Democratic in blue, or otherwise indicate these results. To bolster their prediction, encourage them to study the 2004 electoral map, polls, and news articles.
2. Have students identify swing states. They may leave these states blank, or outline them in the color they predict the state will vote.
3. On the night of the election, send a blank map home with students to record the results as they are announced (or have them fill it in the next day.)

### RESOURCES:

<http://www.jfklibrary.org/Historical+Resources/JFK+in+History/Campaign+of+1960.htm>:

A topic guide on the 1960 election. Includes links to JFK’s announcement of his candidacy, audio recordings and transcripts from the Kennedy/Nixon televised debates, and his acceptance speech at the Democratic National Convention.

<http://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/2008/>: Includes historical elections, timeline for this year’s election, Electoral College calculator, popular vote and electoral votes from past elections, and explanation of the Electoral College.

<http://www.npr.org/templates/topics/topic.php?topicId=1102#/primaries/>: Provides an interactive election map, up-to-date news on primaries, and news stories on candidates.

[http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/Campaign2008\\_Resources.aspx](http://www.c-spanclassroom.org/Campaign2008_Resources.aspx): Provides a variety of lessons, excerpts from the Constitution, explanation of election process, and further links. ★

## WHO WAS ROSE FITZGERALD KENNEDY?



Mara Vostral shows students one of Rose Kennedy’s hats from the Museum’s collections.

**ON MAY 5TH, 25 THIRD GRADERS** from the David Ellis Elementary School in Roxbury, MA enthusiastically searched for an answer to this question, “Who was Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy?” Following an introductory session on how to be an historical detective, the students worked in small groups to examine diverse photographs, letters, newspaper clippings, and other primary source evidence from the Kennedy Library collections. The young biographers then took turns reporting on Mrs. Kennedy’s childhood as a daughter of the Mayor of Boston; her marriage and raising of nine children; and her campaigning in support of the political careers of her sons, John, Robert, and Edward Kennedy. They then chose items to represent these and other events, and posted them on a 40-foot-long timeline spanning the 104 years of Mrs. Kennedy’s life.

Library staff gave students a close-up view of several museum artifacts. One was a hat decorated with a stork and nine tiny child figures that was made for Mrs. Kennedy to wear to a costume party. Another was the file box that held the index cards she’d used to record the health of each child. Students also met with National Park Service Ranger Christine Arato, who responded to their questions about the John F. Kennedy National Historic Site, the house where President Kennedy was born. The results from this demonstration program will be used to create a supplementary teaching packet for third grade classes. The materials will also include information on the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway Conservancy programs for young visitors. The packet will be made available online this Fall at [www.jfklibrary.org](http://www.jfklibrary.org). This demonstration program was underwritten by John Hancock Financial Services. ★

## Our Government in Action: Historical Cases from the Kennedy Years and Contemporary Perspectives

For the seventh consecutive year, the Library, in partnership with Boston Public Schools, will offer a five-day professional development institute funded by a U.S. Department of Education Teaching American History Grant. This year's program, *Our Government in Action*, will take place from June 25th-27th and June 30th-July 1st from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This institute is designed for teachers of Civics, United States History, and American Government, and will both examine issues arising during the Kennedy years and relate them to the roles and powers of the three branches of government. It will feature such topics as: *Choosing a President, State versus Federal Authority, Presidential Powers in Foreign Policy, The President and Congress in Times of Crisis*, and *The Legislative Process*.

Each morning will begin with a talk by modern American political history scholars Dr. Meg Jacobs of MIT and Dr. Julian Zelizer of Princeton University, who will present an historical case drawn from the Kennedy era. The cases include: the

1960 presidential election, school integration, JFK and Vietnam, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Following their opening talks, teachers will have the opportunity to engage with distinguished guests who will provide an insider's view of more recent events and issues related to that day's historical case. Speakers will include: *Lincoln Chafee*, U.S. Senator from Rhode Island, 1999-2007; *Paul Kirk*, chairman of the Democratic Party, 1985-89 and *Frankahrenkopf*, chairman of the Republican Party, 1983-89, founders and co-chairmen of the Commission on Presidential Debates; *Scott Harshbarger*, Massachusetts Attorney General, 1991-1999, and former president and CEO of Common Cause; *Antonia Chayes*, Under Secretary of the Air Force in the Carter Administration, and director of the Project on International Institutions and Conflict Management, Harvard Law School; and *Amory Houghton*, Member of the U.S. House of Representatives from New York, 1987-2005, and founder and chairman of the Republican Main Street Partnership. Each afternoon, Kennedy Library educators will introduce docu-

mentary materials from the Library's collections relating to the events and topics being examined that day. Teachers who wish to earn Professional Development Points (PDPs) may develop and submit lesson plans based on resources gathered during the institute.

The fee for teachers who do not teach in the Boston Public Schools is \$100. There is no charge for Boston Public School teachers.



President Kennedy confers with National Security Advisor McGeorge Bundy.

For further information on the program, email Nina Tisch at [nina.tisch@nara.gov](mailto:nina.tisch@nara.gov). ★

Get inspired at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum!

\$2 off admission coupon

Valid: June 15 - December 31, 2008

Children 12 and under are admitted free of charge to the Museum. This coupon cannot be combined with any other offer.

JOHN F. KENNEDY  
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

## Turning Your Passion into Action: The 2008 Student Leadership Conference

On April 23rd, 88 students involved in Upward Bound and other enrichment programs from New England states attended the *2008 Student Leadership Conference*. The theme of this year's program, "Turning Your Passion into Action", featured sessions and workshops designed both to enhance students' leadership skills and empower them to tackle issues of concern at school, in their communities or in society at large.

Lindsay Hyde, Executive Director and Founder of *Strong Women, Strong Girls (SWSG)* presented the keynote address. As a freshman at Harvard College, she founded SWSG to help at-risk girls in grades 3-5 build self-esteem. She first described how, based on a dearth of programming for this audience, she chose to focus on this age group. She then detailed

**"... Just because I'm a girl it doesn't mean that I can't do it, whatever it may be."**

the circuitous path of pitfalls and successes during the program's inaugural year, and offered students leadership tips for approaching new projects based on her experience. Ms. Hyde closed by challenging students to put their passion into action, and encouraged them to persevere in pursuit of their dreams.

Troy Smith, Director and Founder of Positive Vision, then guided students through the skills needed to create an effective persuasive speech, and



Panelists describe their action plan for confronting violence.

facilitated a workshop in which students practiced their extemporaneous speaking skills. To the applause of their colleagues, several students presented to the group on topics of their choosing such as the importance of having self-confidence.

An exploration of the museum galleries followed

the morning sessions. In the afternoon, participants heard from a teen panel entitled, *Students Who Took a Stand*. The panelists, who worked in conjunction with the Codman Square Neighborhood Development Corporation, described how they confronted the issue of violence on city bus #23 operated by the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA). They shared their approach to the problem which included a ridership survey documenting passengers' safety concerns and a

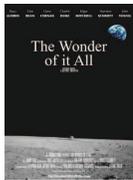
follow up meeting with the MBTA where they presented their findings. Although their activism is ongoing, they reported that their work to date has led to an article in *The Boston Globe*, a greater police presence on the bus route, and a more thorough understanding of the problem.

In the final workshop, *Students Voice Their Concerns*, participants worked in small groups on student-generated issues, and strove to create an action plan for resolving the problem.

Students expressed very positive feedback about the Conference. One student commented that, "[One session] inspired me to figure out my passion and take action....Just because I'm a girl it doesn't mean that I can't do it, whatever it may be." Another student noted that, "There were a lot of new and different topics and ideas that everyone had. It was really cool to have good discussions." ★

## Upcoming Kennedy Library Forums

**THIS SUMMER THE KENNEDY LIBRARY** has the following forums relating to civics and history curricula. Teachers and students are invited to attend. To register for a forum or for more information, visit our website at [www.jfklibrary.org](http://www.jfklibrary.org), or call 617-514-1643.



### A Screening and Discussion of *The Wonder of it All*

Monday, July 14, 2008 ★ 2:00 to 4:00 PM

Jeff Roth – writer, director, and producer – discusses his new documentary about the Apollo Space missions and the astronauts who landed on the moon.



Nancy Pelosi

### A Conversation with Nancy Pelosi

Monday, August 4, 2008 ★ 5:30 to 7:00 PM

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi discusses her new autobiography, *Open House*. ★

### WITH GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM

**Bank of America**



**Boston Capital**

THE LOWELL INSTITUTE

CORCORAN  
JENNISON  
Companies

tBf The Boston  
Foundation

The Boston Globe

90.9wbur

NECN  
THE POWER OF NEWS

*History and civic education programs at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum receive major support from the Boston Globe Foundation, Citizens Bank Foundation, the Paul A. Dever Fund, Fidelity Foundation, National Amusements, and Staples Foundation for Learning. Educational outreach is underwritten by the Boston Foundation, the Connell Family Fund, John Hancock Financial Services, Liberty Mutual, and the Red Sox Foundation.*

## NATIONAL PROFILE IN COURAGE ESSAY CONTEST SELECTS WINNER

Laura Schapiro, a senior at Indian Hill High School in Cincinnati, Ohio, wrote the 2008 winning essay, *Courage in the Courtroom: Judge Pamela Alexander*. Laura accepted her prize at the *Profile in Courage Award Ceremony* on May 12, 2008. Visit the *Profile in Courage Award* section of our website to read Laura's winning essay, and access contest information and curriculum materials. Next year's contest deadline is January 10, 2009. The contest is generously supported by Fidelity Investments. ★



Al Hunt, chair of the *Profile in Courage Award* Committee, Caroline Kennedy, *Profile in Courage Essay Contest* winner Laura Schapiro, and her nominating teacher, John Slonim.

## BRING YOUR STUDENTS TO THE KENNEDY LIBRARY!

**THE LIBRARY OFFERS MUSEUM-BASED PROGRAMS** for elementary, middle and high school students from September to June:

### Elementary School:

In a new approach to the guided museum program, *Who Was John F. Kennedy?*, elementary students in grades 3-6 play an active role as they explore the museum galleries as biographers. We also offer two specialized programs for this age group: *Presidential Campaigns and Elections* and *Equal Rights for All: Investigating the Civil Rights Movement*. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Esther Kohn at [esther.kohn@nara.gov](mailto:esther.kohn@nara.gov), (617) 514-1649.

### Middle School:

Students are usually the ones being graded, but in *Report Card for the President*, a guided museum program, the tables are turned as students get to develop an evaluation tool for assessing a Chief Executive's performance. The 3-hour program includes pre- and post-visit materials. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Sam Rubin at [sam.rubin@nara.gov](mailto:sam.rubin@nara.gov), (617) 514-1650.



Students look at a photograph of Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy and family.

### High School:

Teachers may choose from one of the following programs: *The Civil Rights Movement: 1960-1963*, *The Cold War Heats Up*, *Launching into the Sixties*, and *Approaching a DBQ: An Introduction for AP U.S. History Students*. For more information or to make a reservation, contact Nina Tisch at [nina.tisch@nara.gov](mailto:nina.tisch@nara.gov), (617) 514-1647. ★

**Museum Hours**  
Daily, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed Thanksgiving,  
Christmas and New Year's Day

The Kennedy Library Education  
Department offers free  
museum passes to teachers  
considering a field trip to the  
Library. Please call 617.514.1600

Ⓣ JFK/Umass  
617.514.1600  
[www.jfklibrary.org](http://www.jfklibrary.org)

Columbia Point  
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

JOHN F. KENNEDY  
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

PRSRF FIRST CLASS MAIL  
PAID  
US POSTAGE  
PERMIT NO 157  
BOSTON MA