What you country...
Campaign brochure, 1960
Kennedy brothers, 1963
Senator Kennedy in Ohio, 1960
“Ich bin ein berliner” pronunciation card, 1963
Telegram to President Kennedy about nuclear testing, 1962
“In the Archives Building here in Washington you have probably seen the phrase “What is past is prologue,” and your ability to guard and make possible the interpretation of the past I think will ensure a stronger future...There is no sense in having the papers of the past beautifully kept unless they have an impact on the lives of our people.”

Remarks by President Kennedy to a visiting group of Latin American Archivists

“The freedom to search out and use the knowledge of the past is a great source of strength for our democratic institutions. Archivists serve our society by preserving and making available the detailed and accurate records which form our documentary heritage. From these records, we learn our history, evaluate our present, and plan for our future.”

Message from President Kennedy to the Society of American Archivists
The Archives of the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library is responsible for acquiring, preserving, and providing access to original materials that document the life, political career, and times of John F. Kennedy, the 35th President of the United States.

The Archives holdings comprise approximately 24 million pages of documents, 517,000 photographic images, 15,200 sound recordings, 14,500 films and videos, and 2,500 oral history interviews.
In addition to the papers of John F. Kennedy, the Archives holds the papers and oral histories of Kennedy administration officials, staff, and associates and Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, as well as: public opinion mail; government agency records; political campaign collections; and Kennedy family collections. The Archives also holds the world’s largest collection of Ernest Hemingway papers and photographs.

The Kennedy Library Archives is open to the public and serves anyone who needs access to its unique holdings.

Whether you are a student, author, creative artist, documentary or feature filmmaker, journalist, educator, or history enthusiast, we are happy to work with you to meet your individual research needs. We also offer sessions to high school, college, and graduate student classes on archival research.
Topics highlighted in the collections

Arts and culture
Civil rights
Cold War diplomacy
Community organizing
Domestic policy and programs
Ernest Hemingway
Foreign policy
Immigration and refugee policy
Intellectual disabilities
JFK political career and presidency

Kennedy family
Nuclear weapons
Peace Corps and international aid
Political campaigns
Space
Treasury and economic policy
Tributes and memorials
Underrepresented communities
White House restoration and social events
World War II
Kennedy family in Hyannis Port, 1931

Cross-sectional diagram of White House, 1961 © WHHA

First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy in Mexico City, 1962

Ernest Hemingway passport, 1923

Sailboat doodle by President Kennedy, 1962

Map of North and South America showing potential ranges of Soviet medium-range and intermediate-range ballistic missiles from Cuba, 1962
Types of materials in the collections include:

Photographic images
Sound recordings
Moving images
Oral histories
Books and publications
Maps and charts
Posters

Journals, diaries, and notes
Scrapbooks and albums
Correspondence and letters
Memos and reports
Telegrams and cables
Brochures and pamphlets
Ephemera

For more information about our collections and research services, please visit: jfklibrary.org/archives

The March on Washington, 1963