

Education Offerings

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum



Civics and history come alive!



Department of Education and Public Programs

JOHN F. KENNEDY

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM



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John F. Kennedy
PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

“There is little that is more important for an American citizen to know than the history and traditions of his country. ... A knowledge of history is, above all, a means of responsibility — of responsibility to the past and of responsibility to the future...”

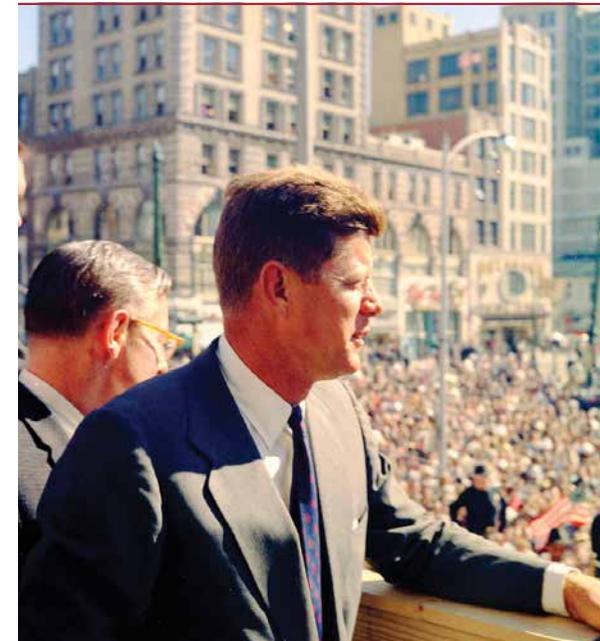
— *John F. Kennedy, 1962*

Explore United States history and ideals through the life and times of the 35th president!

The Kennedy Library's Department of Education and Public Programs offers a wide range of programs and resources for students and teachers.

We invite you to:

- ★ come visit the Library and Museum!
- ★ examine digital resources in your classroom.
- ★ explore professional development opportunities for educators.
- ★ help students learn how civic engagement can be a means to building a new and better world.



About the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum

The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum is one of 14 presidential libraries administered by the National Archives and Records Administration and supported, in part, by the Kennedy Library Foundation, a non-profit organization.

On-Site Programs

	Grades	Duration (hours)	American History	Civics Education	Language Arts	Use of Primary Sources	MA History & Social Science Curriculum Frameworks
Elementary School Groups							
Who was John F. Kennedy?	3–5	2.5	★	★	★	★	★
Presidential Campaigns and Elections	4–5	2.5	★	★	★	★	★
Investigating the Civil Rights Movement: The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom	4–5	2.5	★	★	★	★	★
Singing for Freedom: Music and the Civil Rights Movement	3–5	2.5	★	★	★	★	★
Middle School Groups							
John F. Kennedy: Citizen of the World	6–7	2.5–3	★			★	★
Report Card for the President	7–8	2.5–3	★	★		★	★
Leadership for the 60s (Docent-led)	6–9	2	★	★	★	★	★
High School Groups							
Approaching a DBQ: An Introduction for AP Students	10–12	2.5–3	★			★	★
Civil Rights Confrontations: 1960-1963	9–12	2.5–3	★			★	★
The Cold War Heats Up	9–12	2.5–3	★			★	★
Launching into the Sixties	9–12	2.5–3	★	★		★	★
The Rhetoric Surrounding Civil Rights in the Early 60s	9–12	2.5–3	★		★	★	★
Words and Deeds: Examining John F. Kennedy’s Inaugural Address (Docent-led)	9–12	2	★	★	★	★	★
Setting National Priorities: A Federal Budget Simulation	11–12	3		★			★
Election-Year Debate Program	11–12	3		★			★

Frequently Asked Questions

Reservations?

Please contact the education specialist assigned to your grade level to schedule a visit.

- ★ For Elementary Schools, call 617.514.1649
- ★ For Middle Schools, call 617.514.1650
- ★ For High Schools, call 617.514.1647
- ★ For Middle and High School docent-led visits, call 617.514.1545

Lunch?

The Kennedy Library and Museum does not have a space to eat lunch indoors. Outdoor picnic tables are available on a first-come, first-serve basis when weather permits.

Transportation?

The Kennedy Library and Museum is accessible by public transportation. Bus parking is available on site.

Ahead of Visit?

Preparing your students with the provided pre-visit materials will enhance their experience at the Museum. Please notify the education specialists of any accommodation needs to ensure all students have a great and edifying experience.



Guided Museum Programs

Visit the Kennedy Library where students actively participate in the exploration of history.

- ★ Grade Levels: 3rd–12th
- ★ Program Length: 2.5 to 3 hours

Guided Museum programs include a classroom session examining primary sources and a visit to the exhibit galleries.

- ★ All programs align with the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Frameworks.
- ★ All programs are offered free of cost to student groups from throughout New England.
- ★ Each guided Museum program requires 25–50 students.

Docent-led Visits

Themed 1.5– to 2–hour programs led by Museum docents are available for middle and high school groups. Docent-led visits may include up to 75 students.

What teachers are saying ...

“The children thoroughly enjoyed it and learned so much! You are providing a wonderful service there to the school children of Massachusetts.” — *Elementary School*

“The students were offered a rare glimpse into the 1960s government that still holds true today.” — *Elementary School*

“What I love about this field trip is the students are able to use their learning and apply it to a new topic. They felt smart and were challenged.” — *High School*

“The trip is a true gift for our students as it offered a space for learning that they normally would not receive during the regular school day.” — *High School*

“This program really complements what the students are learning in class.” — *Middle School*

“Throughout the presentation I kept scanning the room and the kids were so engaged and focused. We truly appreciate the time and preparation you dedicated to make the experience memorable... It was a special day for these kids.” — *High School*

“You provided a long lasting experience for all of us.” — *High School*

“My students need to be pushed a little. This program keeps them engaged.” — *Middle School*



John F. Kennedy

PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY AND MUSEUM



Guided Museum Programs Elementary School Students

Who Was John F. Kennedy? (Grades 3–5)
 Students learn to think like a biographer as they research the life and legacy of John F. Kennedy.

Presidential Campaigns and Elections (Grades 4–5)
 Students become experts on the electoral process as they play the game, *Election 1960*, and track John F. Kennedy’s journey to the White House.

Investigating the Civil Rights Movement: The March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom (Grades 4–5)
 Students learn the story behind the largest protest of the civil rights movement and participate in a present-day version of the 1963 march.

Singing for Freedom: Music and the Civil Rights Movement (Grades 3–5)
 Students sing, study, and perform freedom songs to learn about the 1960s struggle for equal rights and how it continues to have reverberations today.

Call 617.514.1649 to make a reservation. Visit jfklibrary.org/SchoolVisits for more information.



Guided Museum Programs

Middle School Students

Report Card for the President (Grades 7–8)

Students evaluate and grade a chief executive's performance based on President Kennedy's leadership qualities and skills.

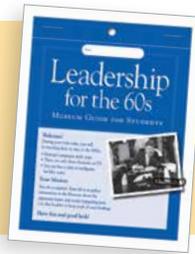
John F. Kennedy: Citizen of the World (Grades 6–7)

Students explore world geography and determine what it means to be both an American and a citizen of the world through the lens of JFK's life and presidency, with a special focus on the Peace Corps.

Docent-led Program

Leadership for the 60s (Grades 6–9)

Student "journalists" work the "White House beat" and cover hot topics ranging from the 1960 presidential campaign and election, and civil rights to the Cold War and space exploration.



Call 617.514.1650 to make a reservation. Visit jfklibrary.org/SchoolVisits for more information.



Guided Museum Programs High School Students

Launching into the Sixties (Grades 9–12)

As members of President Kennedy's Press Office, students prepare topic-specific briefings to provide questions and answers for a simulated press conference.

Civil Rights Confrontations: 1960-1963 (Grades 9–12)

Students explore the civil rights movement – its goals, major events, and outcomes — focusing on the Freedom Rides (1961) and the Integration of the University of Mississippi (1962).

The Cold War Heats Up (Grades 9–12)

The politics and people of the early 1960s come to life as students analyze the Cold War confrontations between the US and the USSR over Berlin, the “Space Race,” and Cuba.

Call 617.514.1647 to make a reservation. Visit jfklibrary.org/SchoolVisits for more information.

The Rhetoric Surrounding Civil Rights in the Early 60s (Grades 9–12)

Students analyze the rhetoric surrounding civil rights in the early 1960s. Great for English and Humanities classes.

Approaching a DBQ: A Workshop for AP US History Students

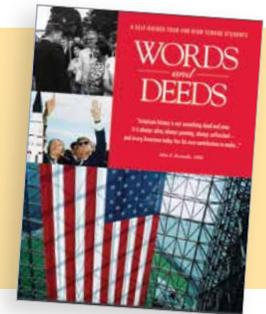
(Grades 10–12)

Students explore a document-based question similar to those on the AP US History exam and develop an argument for their answers with primary sources, including materials from the Kennedy Library Archives.

Docent-led Program

Words and Deeds (Grades 9–12)

Students focus on the pledges John F. Kennedy made in his inaugural address. By critically examining the events of the early 1960s, students assess the extent to which President Kennedy followed through on his pledges.



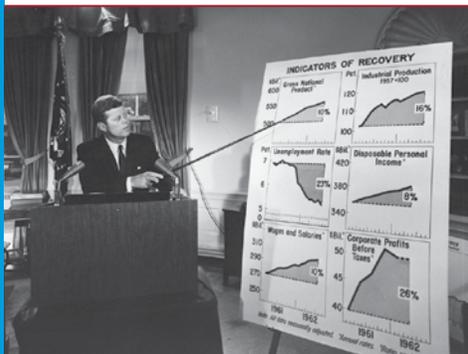
Civic Engagement Opportunities

Setting National Priorities:

A Federal Budget Simulation Program (Grades 11–12)

As “economic advisors” to the president, students analyze how national priorities are exemplified in the federal budget. They consider how the budget impacts everyday lives, and then collaborate to present their own federal discretionary budgets to “the president.”

Program Length: 2.5–hours



Make a Difference Award

President Kennedy believed that each of us can make a difference and all of us should try.



Massachusetts middle school students are nominated by teachers or principals for the impact they have made in their communities through service projects.

For more information and to nominate a student each spring, visit jfklibrary.org/MakeADifferenceAward.

Profile in Courage Essay Contest

Challenge your high school students to write the next profile in courage and receive a \$10,000 scholarship award. Students describe and analyze an act of political courage by a US elected official.

For curriculum materials, past winning essays, and contest guidelines, visit jfklibrary.org/EssayContest.



With generous support from:

John Hancock

“Always do what is right, regardless of whether it is popular.” — John F. Kennedy

During election years, these programs engage students in meaningful civil discourse.

Election-Year Debate Program (Grades 11–12)

In election years, students assess the major parties’ positions and then pose questions to local and state political leaders representing the candidates for US President or Massachusetts Governor.

Program Length: 2.5 hours

National Student/Parent Mock Election (Grades K–12)

In election years, students experience the importance of voting and the power of their ballots.

The Kennedy Library serves as the Massachusetts state coordinator for the mock election program. Massachusetts teachers, visit jfklibrary.org/MockElection for more information.

Teachers outside of Massachusetts, visit www.nationalstudentparentmockelection.org for more information.

Professional Development Opportunities

Mark your calendar!

Through a combination of guest speakers, sample history lessons, and workshops, explore both historical and/or contemporary public affairs content knowledge and pedagogical strategies for the classroom.



Spring Literature Conference (Grades 3–8)

A day with award-winning authors and innovative educators inspires teachers from grades 3-8 and school librarians to consider new ways of integrating language arts and social studies. Workshops equip participants with strategies and tools for deepening students' understanding of history and social studies issues.

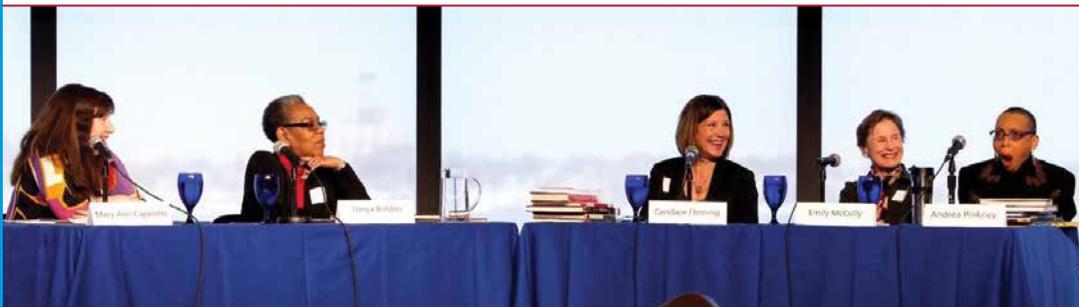


American Studies Summer Institute (Grades 6–12)

A ten-day program of thought-provoking lectures and discussions for middle and high school educators led by distinguished scholars and practitioners. Each year, the Institute explores a rich topic with contemporary resonance drawn from American social, cultural, and political history.

This program is co-sponsored by the University of Massachusetts Boston American Studies Department.

For more information and additional professional development opportunities, visit jfklibrary.org/ProfessionalDevelopment.



Join a Learning Community

Sign up to be notified of additional opportunities for professional development and skills-building resources you can take back to your classroom.



"Great program, highly informative and thought-provoking, extremely relevant to many of the topics I teach."

"I really feel as though I've learned so much, I'm so glad that I took the course."

"In all the years I've attended, the experiences have been educational for me with wonderful ideas to bring back to the classroom."



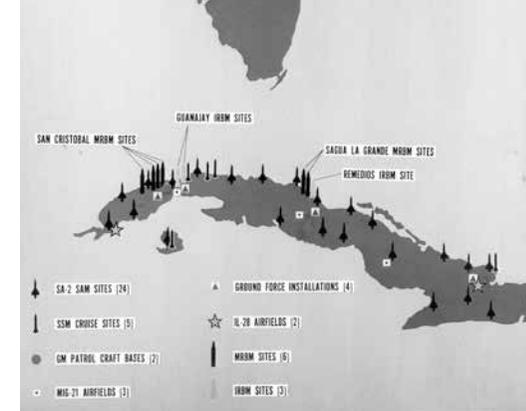
"I am amazed at how much I learned and from so many esteemed experts in such a short amount of time. Ultimately, the experience will not only benefit me, but of course, my students."



"The small, intimate nature of this conference is so valuable."

Digital Resources

Bring the past to life with relevance to today's world! Explore the Kennedy Administration without leaving your school.



Interactive Exhibits

The Kennedy Administration

White House Diary

View President Kennedy's daily schedule for his 1,000 days in office. *(Note: This feature uses Adobe Flash and is in the process of being updated.)*

The President's Desk

Sit at President Kennedy's Oval Office desk and explore the world from his point of view. *(Note: This feature uses Adobe Flash and is in the process of being updated.)*

Download *The President's Desk Resource Guide* with an overview of the Desk and suggested curriculum-relevant lesson plans and activities.

Civil Rights

Integrating Ole Miss: A Civil Rights Milestone

Students witness civil rights history firsthand through primary sources telling the story of James Meredith's efforts to integrate the University of Mississippi, known as "Ole Miss."

1963: The Struggle for Civil Rights

With more than 230 primary sources, this interactive timeline brings to life the seven key "chapters" of one of the most tumultuous years in civil rights history. Lesson plans for elementary, middle, and high school grades complement the experience.

The Cold War and Cuban Missile Crisis

To the Brink

Get unprecedented access to clandestine White House audio recordings revealing how President Kennedy and his advisors worked furiously to avert World War III.

The World on the Brink: JFK and the Cuban Missile Crisis

Read formerly classified documents and listen in on secretly recorded meetings as President Kennedy and his advisors seek a peaceful resolution for the removal of Soviet intercontinental missiles from Cuba.

We Choose the Moon

Follow the historic Moon landing minute by minute, and explore archival photos and footage of President Kennedy's pioneering space efforts. *(Note: This feature uses Adobe Flash and is in the process of being updated.)*

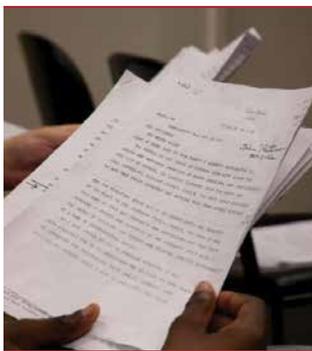
JFK Challenge: Free iPad App

Students become an astronaut or Peace Corps volunteer! They fly to the Moon or help people around the world with this free app for iPad.

Visit jfklibrary.org/interactives to explore the many curricular resources available.

“We celebrate the past to awaken the future.” — John F. Kennedy

Digital Resources (continued)



Lesson plans relating to John F. Kennedy and his presidency, including primary sources and additional materials, align with the Massachusetts History and Social Science Curriculum Frameworks.

Engage your students with critical thinking exercises to spark curiosity and build life-long learning practices with lesson plans for grades 3–12 on the following topics:

- ★ Bay of Pigs Invasion
- ★ Campaigns and Elections
- ★ Civic Education
- ★ Civil Rights
- ★ Cold War
- ★ Cuban Missile Crisis
- ★ Federal Budget Simulation
- ★ JFK's Inaugural Address
- ★ Kennedy White House
- ★ Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty
- ★ Space Race
- ★ Vietnam

Download full lesson plans with primary sources and supporting materials for grades 3–12 at jfklibrary.org/Curricular.



Online Ready Reference

Access JFK's press conferences (audio included), major speeches, National Security Memoranda, Papers of the President, and other resources. To begin exploring resources, visit jfklibrary.org/archives/other-resources.

Media Galleries

Browse thematically-organized collections of some of the best and most iconic photographs from the archives. View the historic photographs at jfklibrary.org/MediaGallery.



Kennedy Library Forums

Student groups are welcome to attend Kennedy Library Forums!

This series features a diverse range of historical, political, and cultural topics reflecting the legacy of President and Mrs. Kennedy's White House years.

Teachers and students can also access live webcasts, videos, and transcripts of past forums on our website at jfklibrary.org. View updates to upcoming programs and register at jfklibrary.org/Forums.

Kennedy Library Forums are made possible with generous support from Bank of America, The Lowell Institute, Gourmet Caterers, The Boston Globe, Xfinity, and 90.9 WBUR.



Don't Miss the Latest!

New Frontiers — A Newsletter for Educators

Delivered directly to your mailbox for free! Get classroom-ready lessons on history and civic education topics, and read about upcoming programs, recent projects, and events.

Browse past issues and receive New Frontiers by providing your mailing address at jfklibrary.org/EducationNewsletter.



Programs for Walk-in Visitors

Make sure to mention your Massachusetts Teacher Association (MTA) affiliation for discounted admission.

Stranded at Sea: Hands-on Cart

Hear the story of John F. Kennedy's patrol torpedo boat collision and the crew's six-day struggle for survival, and see the real coconut message that helped save the men of PT109 during World War II.

Race for Space: Hands-on Cart

Follow Astronaut Alan Shepard from takeoff to splashdown and perform important space duties such as steering the spacecraft, looking through a periscope, and reporting your findings to mission control.

Jacqueline Kennedy — Beyond Style: Hands-on Cart

Go beyond the First Lady's image as a fashion icon and dig deeper into her work on the White House restoration project and her role as a cultural ambassador — at home and around the world.

Please visit jfklibrary.org/Calendar to confirm scheduled times for these special experiences.

Call 617.514.1545 to inquire about student programs related to these hands-on cart programs.



Fun for the whole family!



Family Programming

Celebrate!

Join us for free performing arts programs scheduled around multicultural holidays and school vacation weeks.

This series highlights the nation's rich cultural diversity and reflects President and Mrs. Kennedy's concern for and support of the arts and culture as important components of a democratic society.

View updates to upcoming programs and register at jfklibrary.org/Celebrate.

Presidents' Day Family Festival

Each year, presidential storytelling, creative activities, Museum tours and demonstrations, and live musical performances bring the Library to life in new ways for all ages in honor of this national holiday.

“Children are the world's most valuable resource and its best hope for the future.”

— John F. Kennedy



“Today, the fate of individuals and nations rests upon education. In a real and immediate sense, the teachers of America hold our future in their hands.”

— John F. Kennedy, 1961

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Additional support for the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum's history and civic education programs is provided by Kenneth R. Feinberg & Camille S. Biros, of The Law Offices of Kenneth R. Feinberg, PC and:



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*The Kennedy Library
Department of Education and
Public Programs offers free
Museum passes to teachers
considering a field trip to the
Library. Please call 617.514.1600.*

Museum Hours

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