

A Kid's Guide to *Becoming President*

Lesson Four: The Inauguration



On Inauguration Day, the president-elect takes his/her oath of office and officially becomes the President of the United States. The ceremony usually takes place on the steps of the Capitol Building in Washington, DC. The vice president takes the oath of office at the same ceremony as the president. This is the president's oath: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States."

After the oath of office, the president gives his/her inaugural speech. In it he/she tells the people what his/her hopes and goals are for the nation. Later that night, there are many parties and celebrations throughout the capital. The next day the president and vice president get to work.



★ Living in the White House

The president and his family live in the White House, which is located at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC. Ever wonder what the White House is like or what it would be like to live there? Well, it is pretty big, with 132 rooms. It might take a while to get around, but there are some things that could make the walk worth it. You could go bowling in your own bowling alley or watch a movie in the White House theater. Outside you would find a swimming pool, tennis court, basketball court and even a putting green. All that exercise might make you hungry. No problem! The White House has its own chef. In fact, the kitchen staff can serve a meal for up to 140 of your friends. There is even a chocolate shop where fabulous desserts and treats are made!



Would you like to take a tour of the White House? It is open to the public and free. You just have to make a reservation. You can learn more about the White House at:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/about-the-white-house/tours-events/>

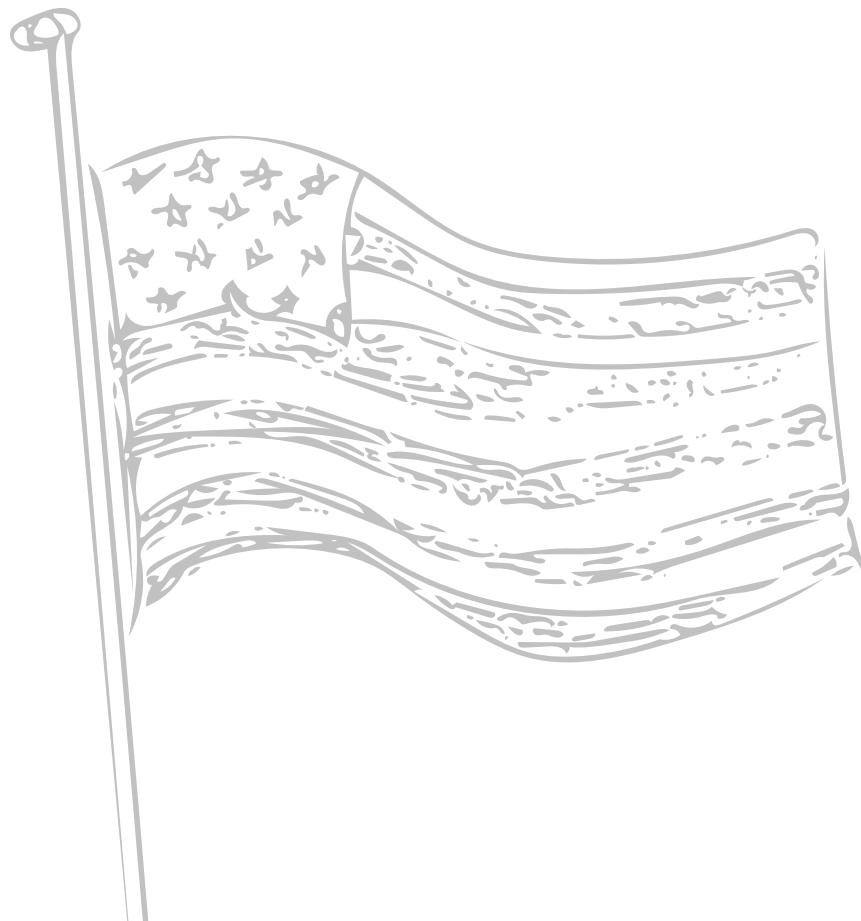
★ Sticky Situation

Imagine that your school decided to make school start an hour earlier than it does right now. If you do not like this change, what could you do to protest the change and make your voice heard? Think about who you might want to talk to – your parents? A teacher? The principal? The superintendent? The mayor of your community? Also think about how you could protest. What are the best ways to get your message across to other people? What would you do to help make people understand why you feel the way you do, and to change their minds? Is there a national issue that you would like to see addressed by the President?

How could you have your voice heard?

Literacy Links

- *Lillian's Right to Vote* by Jonah Winter – A book to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Voting Rights Act of 1965
- *The Kid who Ran for President* by Dan Gutman
- *12 Things to Know about Political Parties* by Matthew McCabe
- *The Untold Story of Washington's Surprise Attack* by Danny Kravitz
- *If You Ever Want to Bring an Alligator to School, Don't!* by Elise Parsley
- *Elizabeth Started All Trouble* by Doreen Rappaport
- *President Squid* by Aaron Reynolds



The Rendell Center

— *for* —

Civics & Civic Engagement

Inspiring the Next Generation of Citizens

More civics education resources are available at

www.rendellcenter.org