

A Lincoln

PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S COTTAGE
AT THE SOLDIERS' HOME

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DC Emancipation Day Celebration at President Lincoln's Cottage

Free Outdoor Public Program Celebrating 150 Years of Emancipation in the District

Washington, D.C. – President Lincoln's Cottage will host a 150th Anniversary Celebration of DC Emancipation Day on Sunday, April 15, 2012 from 2:30pm – 4:30pm. This free outdoor public program will feature noted Lincoln scholars and a musical program. This event is presented in partnership with the Office of the Secretary of the District of Columbia and the Lincoln Group of DC.

150 years ago, the enslaved people in Washington, DC were freed when President Lincoln signed the Compensated Emancipation Act, for the release of certain persons held to service or labor in the District of Columbia. Featured Lincoln experts will include Harold Holzer, Dr. Edna Greene Medford, and the Honorable Frank Williams. The speakers will discuss Lincoln's role in the DC Emancipation Act, the media reaction to the act, and the role of the citizens of DC. The program will take place on the south lawn of President Lincoln's Cottage. The rain location will be in an adjacent building on the property.

"Soon after the DC Emancipation Act went into effect, Lincoln moved to the Cottage at the Soldiers' Home where he developed his famous Emancipation Proclamation, making the Cottage an ideal location to celebrate this monumental anniversary," said Erin Carlson Mast, Director of President Lincoln's Cottage.

Other events and programs will be taking place throughout the week in the nation's capital, including *Free in DC*, a competitive city-wide mobile scavenger hunt, which will be held in the District on April 16 by Cultural Tourism DC in partnership with President Lincoln's Cottage, Ford's Theatre, and the Willard Intercontinental Hotel. Contestants will be taken to 11 sites around the city where they must complete challenges to rack up points for a chance to win prizes. The 30 competitors with the highest scores by the end of April 16 will receive gift bags courtesy of President Lincoln's Cottage and be entered into a drawing for the grand prize: a two-night stay at the Willard InterContinental Washington Hotel. *Free in DC* is made possible in part by a grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

President Lincoln lived in the Cottage at the Soldiers' Home from June–November of 1862, 1863 and 1864—totaling one quarter of his presidency. He was living here when he drafted the preliminary version of the Emancipation Proclamation and deliberated critical issues of the Civil War. Since the Cottage opened to the public in 2008, tens of thousands of visitors have engaged in conversations on liberty, justice, and equality, through innovative guided tours, forward-thinking exhibits and quality educational programs. Hours of operation: Tours on the hour, 7 days a week. Visitor Center open 9:30am-4:30pm Mon-Sat, 10:30am-4:30pm Sunday. For more information on President Lincoln's Cottage, visit: www.lincolncottage.org

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately-funded non-profit organization, works to save America's historic places. For more information visit: www.PreservationNation.org.

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