2016–2017
SCHOOL PROGRAMS
Grades K–12

PRESIDENT LINCOLN’S COTTAGE
WWW.LINCOLNCOTTAGE.ORG
President Lincoln’s Cottage is located on an uplifting hilltop in northwest Washington, DC. President Lincoln and his family resided here from June to November of 1862, 1863 and 1864. While living at the Cottage, Lincoln visited with wounded soldiers, spent time with self-emancipated men, women, and children, plotted Union wartime strategies, and developed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Opened to the public for the first time in 2008, President Lincoln’s Cottage reveals Abraham Lincoln’s presidency and private life—where it happened. Walking in President Lincoln’s footsteps, visitors gain insight into his most influential ideas and decisions.

President Lincoln’s Cottage is a home for brave ideas that offers students of all ages a remarkable window into Lincoln’s life as father, husband, and commander-in-chief. Our unique, multimedia guided tour uses historical voices and images to bring to life the challenges Lincoln faced as president and the evolution of his emancipation strategies.

A visit to President Lincoln’s Cottage inspires young minds to consider the example of Lincoln’s leadership and character and his impact on students’ lives today. Abraham Lincoln’s personality, wartime decision-making, political maneuvers, and relationships with family, friends, and colleagues come to life for students and teachers through education programs at President Lincoln’s Cottage.

On-site programs are available for students in kindergarten through 12th grade and include a specialized tour of the Cottage and an interactive program component that meet Common Core and national standards of learning. Educator materials and lesson plans are available to prepare your students for their visit to President Lincoln’s Cottage, provide logistical information for your on-site experience, and help facilitate meaningful post-program reflection. To download, visit our website at www.lincolncottage.org.

Additionally, the site offers distance learning programs that can be used in the classroom or computer lab for 4th–12th grade.

Cost for education programs at President Lincoln’s Cottage is $7 per student. A nonrefundable $50 deposit is required to secure your reservation; final payment is due one week in advance of your visit. The Cottage welcomes District of Columbia Public Schools and Public Charter Schools to participate in its programs at no cost. Additional program and transportation scholarships are available to Title 1 Maryland and Virginia schools on a first come, first served basis. President Lincoln’s Cottage is pleased to offer program and transportation scholarships thanks to the generous support of the Pulvermann Trust, the Newburger-Schwartz Family Foundation, and the Richard Schwartz Family Foundation. To inquire about these scholarships, please contact the Programs Department at LincolnEd@lincolncottage.org.

President Lincoln’s Cottage participates in the Arts and Humanities for Every Student program, an initiative of the DC Arts and Humanities Education Collaborative. Visit www.dcollaborative.org to learn more about this organization that connects DC public school students with cultural and arts organizations around the city.
All programs include a hands-on component in the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center and a modified tour of President Lincoln’s Cottage.

**Lincoln’s Hat**
Grades K–3

As a young man, Abraham Lincoln began forming his ideas on issues such as justice and freedom. As he grew, so too did his ideas. While living at the Cottage, President Lincoln developed his ideas on the Civil War and emancipation and turned these ideas into action. In Lincoln’s Hat, students discover the ideas that President Lincoln developed from notes he stored inside his signature stovepipe hat. Lincoln’s unique note-taking practice serves as a model to students as they develop their own creative ideas and problem-solving skills on everyday decisions and complex issues. Following a reading of the book Abe Lincoln’s Hat (K-1st grade) and What Do You Do With an Idea? (2nd–3rd grade), a hands-on activity provides students with a special place to keep their own powerful ideas.

Program typically lasts 1.5 hours.

**I See the President**
Grades 4–5

During the Civil War, President Lincoln commuted daily from the Cottage through the heart of Civil War Washington to the White House. Along the way, Lincoln encountered soldiers heading for the front lines; self-emancipated men, women, and children living in contraband camps; wounded soldiers; and Washington residents, such as Walt Whitman. These diverse people influenced Lincoln and his ideas on the Civil War and emancipation and taught him lessons that are still relevant to today’s students. Lincoln’s desire to exchange ideas with those around him in order to gain new perspectives and better understand important issues serves as a model to young minds as they learn to respect each other’s ideas. In I See the President, students take on the role of the people President Lincoln interacted with on his daily commute, analyze their personal stories, and write a fable that teaches their classmates an important lesson.

Program typically lasts 2 hours but can be modified into a shorter program.

**Lincoln’s Toughest Decisions: Debating Emancipation**
Grades 6–12, College Students, and Adults

Abraham Lincoln’s presidency was marked by the development of big ideas and nation-changing actions. A key element of Lincoln’s collaborative process was to consult the ideas of those around him while leading the country through turmoil toward a new birth of freedom. Lincoln’s approach provides a model for students to develop their own decision-making skills as they strive to understand the value of conflicting ideas and building support to achieve positive change in modern society. In Lincoln’s Toughest Decisions: Debating Emancipation, an award-winning program that puts students in the role of President Lincoln’s closest advisors — students use touch-screen monitors to explore historical documents and recreate the heated discussions that President Lincoln had with his Cabinet over emancipation.

Program typically lasts 2 hours but can be modified into a shorter program.

**Students Opposing Slavery**
Grades 9–12

Students Opposing Slavery (SOS) is a grassroots youth engagement program that encourages high school students to join the fight to end modern slavery. This network of modern abolitionists raises awareness on modern slavery and helps students develop the tools they need to continue Lincoln’s fight for freedom in their own communities.

For more information on how you and your students can be involved in SOS and the 2015 SOS International Summit, contact Callie Hawkins at CHawkins@lincolncottage.org.

**FOR EDUCATORS**

**Living Lincoln: A Workshop for Teachers**

During his presidency, Abraham Lincoln developed a unique leadership style that continues to resonate with today’s leaders. In Living Lincoln: A Workshop for Teachers, a museum educator facilitates an interactive workshop for school leaders that uses Lincoln’s pragmatic style as a model for helping students develop the skills they need to be effective leaders. In this workshop, educators receive a customized tour of the Cottage, a resource packet of reflection activities and lesson plans, and an introduction to Lincoln’s Toughest Decisions: Debating Emancipation.

**Civil War Washington Teacher Fellows**

The Civil War Washington Museum Consortium, including President Lincoln’s Cottage, Ford’s Theatre Society, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, and Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, offers week-long, summer workshops for educators. These workshops provide a place-based approach to exploring Washington during the Civil War, as teachers spend time at each participating site, discover Civil War neighborhoods through walking tours, and leave with an array of resources to use in their classrooms. For more information on the Civil War Washington Teacher Fellows program, please contact LincolnEd@lincolncottage.org.
EXERCISE

During Abraham Lincoln’s presidency, the United States was embroiled in its most divisive conflict in history. The Civil War pitted North against South, brother against brother and divided Americans along both geographic and racial lines. Despite overwhelming national discord, Lincoln advocated for unity and was ultimately successful in his efforts to keep the United States together. For this reason, Lincoln is considered to be the most unifying figure in American history, according to a 2013 poll conducted by The Atlantic and The Aspen Institute.

Our world is certainly different than Lincoln’s, but we once again find ourselves in a moment in time when much of the national conversation is focused on that which divides us. And while the concept of unity is not a new one, we tend to emphasize what separates us from one another, rather than focusing on what brings us together.

Each school year brings a new class of students with their own unique personality, likes, dislikes, and life experiences that shape the way they look at the world and each other. It is easy to focus on the differences, and it is important to understand the unique skills individuals bring to the classroom, but what would happen if we began to look at how these differences unite us and make our classrooms stimulating and dynamic? Would this lead to greater empathy among classmates? How might this impact student dialogue and tolerance? How might this approach lead to greater understanding and acceptance of others as students develop? Build unity in your classroom, your school, or the entire community with the sample exercises, and celebrate the “oneness” that unites us all!

Grade Level: K-12 (each of these exercises is scalable for all grade levels)
Time: 45 minutes
Materials: Ball of yarn

TAKING IT FURTHER

To help build interconnectedness beyond your classroom, consider approaching your principal about doing a school-wide or system-wide day of unity! UNITY, an interactive community installation created by Nancy Belmont to promote “human connection, an appreciation of diversity and a realization that we all have something in common.” To learn more about UNITY and to download a how-to manual, visit www.unityproject.net. To see UNITY in action, watch the video Upworthy created by searching “We Live Big” on Upworthy’s Facebook page!
“May our children and our children’s children to a thousand generations, continue to enjoy the benefits conferred upon us by a united country ... ”

● ABRAHAM LINCOLN
October 4, 1862
AFRH-W 558
3700 North Capitol Street NW
Washington, DC 20011

For information on upcoming education and public programs visit www.lincolncottage.org.