School Programs
Grades K-12

2019-2020
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.

Learning 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 for 3rd–12th grade students.

Registration

To register for an education program at President Lincoln’s Cottage, please visit www.lincolncottage.org/education/school-groups/. There you can find the School Group Reservation form along with our group tour guidelines and additional resources.

When planning your student or teacher visit, please keep the following in mind:
- 3 weeks advanced notice required.
- Submitting the reservation form does not mean your program is confirmed.
- Upon receipt of the application, a representative from the Programs Department at President Lincoln’s Cottage will contact you within 48 hours to either confirm or reschedule your program. Confirmation emails are sent between 9am-5pm on weekdays only.
- Ample, on-site bus parking is available at no charge.
- Picnic tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Cost for education programs at President Lincoln’s Cottage is $7 per student and $10 per adult. One adult is waived for every 10 students attending. 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.

Scholarships

Additional program and transportation scholarships are available to Title 1 Maryland and Virginia schools on a first come, first served basis. To inquire about these scholarships, please contact the Programs Department at LincolnEd@lincolncottage.org. 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.

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.dccollaborative.org to learn more about this organization that connects DC public school students with cultural and arts organizations around the city.
Core Education Programs

Grades K-12

All programs include a hands-on tour of the Robert H. Smith Visitor Education Center and a modified tour of President Lincoln’s Cottage.

Grades K-3

I See The President

Program typically lasts 2 hours but can be modified into a shorter program. Plan to spend 2.5 hours onsite.

Lincoln’s Cottage offers distance-learning programming, allowing students to connect with Lincoln’s work from afar.

Grades 4-5

Lincoln’s Toughest Decisions: Debating Emancipation

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 in depth, turning these ideas into action. In Lincoln’s Cottage, students discover that President Lincoln developed from notes he stored in his signature stereopticon hat. Lincoln’s unique note-taking process for a series of models he created to develop his own creative ideas, articulate their values, and promote self-awareness and problem-solving skills on everyday decisions and complex issues. Following reading of the book Abe Lincoln’s Hat (K–1st grade) or What Do You Do With an Idea? (2nd–3rd grade), a hands-on exercise provides students with a special place to keep their own creative ideas, articulate their values, and promote self-awareness and problem-solving skills on everyday decisions and complex issues.

Program typically lasts 1.5 hours but can be modified into a shorter program. Plan to spend 2 hours onsite.

Grades 4-5

I See The President

Program typically lasts 2 hours but can be modified into a shorter program. Plan to spend 2.5 hours onsite.

Grades 4-12

Students Opposing Slavery

Grades 6-12, College Students, and Adults

Students Opposing Slavery (SOS) is a grassroots youth engagement program that empowers young people to learn and apply the lessons of the Civil War, and to join the fight to modern slavery. The narrative of modern day activists, antislavery leaders, and President Lincoln’s fight for freedom in his own communities.

For more information on how you and your students can be involved in SOS and the 2020 SOS Program, please contact President Lincoln’s Cottage.

Additional Programs

Deepen your experience while onsite at President Lincoln’s Cottage with one of these options, each lasting about 45 minutes:

• The American Dream game: This innovative board game from Point Made Learning provides a forum for conversations around equity and helps students representing multiple perspectives work together to identify and advocate for the most just solutions to the hard problems of our day.
• Unity: This reflection exercise, adapted from a public art project, addresses the question, “How do we build unity in a divisive time?” Using bright yarn to map their conversation, students will be challenged to bring many disparate voices together into a whole. Adaptable to the issues that they need to be effective leaders. In this workshop, educators receive a customized board game from Point Made Learning provides a forum for conversations around equity and helps students representing multiple perspectives work together to identify and advocate for the most just solutions to the hard problems of our day.

NEW beginning in fall 2019...

President Lincoln’s Cottage offers distance-learning programming, allowing students to connect with Lincoln’s work from afar.

Grades 3-12

Lincoln, in explaining what he was working towards as president, said, “It is in order that each one of you may have through this free government which we have enjoyed, an open field for your industry, enterprise and intelligence: that you may all have equal privileges in the race of life, with all its desirable human aspirations.” Lincoln’s reflection here at President Lincoln’s Cottage offers distance-learning programming, allowing students to connect with Lincoln’s work from afar.

For Educators

Using Lincoln: A Workshop for Teachers

During his presidency, Abraham Lincoln developed a unique leadership style that prepared him to succeed in his roles as lawyer, legislator, and president. The lessons that teachers learn during this workshop are adaptable to today’s classrooms and can be used in any subject area, whether history, English, or social studies. Teachers receive a customized workshop designed to help them continue Lincoln’s fight for freedom in their own communities.

For more information on the Civil War Washington Teacher Fellows program, please contact LincolnEd@lincolncottage.org.

For Educators

Civil War Washington Teacher Fellows

The Civil War Washington Teacher Fellows program connects teachers to a wide range of learning experiences at the Cottage, including a history of the Civil War, as teachers spend time at each participating site, discover Civil War history and the many different perspectives that helped to shape the nation as we know it today.

For more information on how you and your students can be involved in SOS and the 2020 SOS Program, please contact LincolnEd@lincolncottage.org.
Want to help your students remember their visit to President Lincoln’s Cottage? Ask about add-ons from our museum store.

Visit www.lincoln cottage.org for more information on upcoming education and public programs.
I happen temporarily to occupy this big White House. I am a living witness that any one of your children may look to come here as my father’s child has. It is in order that each one of you may have through this free government which we have enjoyed, an open field and a fair chance for your industry, enterprise and intelligence: that you may all have equal privileges in the race of life, with all its desirable human aspirations. The nation is worth fighting for, to secure such an inestimable jewel.

- Abraham Lincoln