

President Lincoln's Cottage is an historic site and museum located in the Petworth neighborhood of Northwest Washington, D.C. Abraham Lincoln and his family lived here for over a quarter of his presidency. While in residence at the Cottage, Lincoln led the country through a grave national crisis, visited with wounded soldiers, spent time with self-emancipated men, women and children, and developed some of his greatest ideas, including the Emancipation Proclamation. The human cost of the Civil War surrounded him, undoubtedly impacted his thinking, and strengthened his resolve to challenge the status quo. Lincoln's experiences at the Cottage provided him and those he influenced with new and diverse perspectives on issues of freedom, justice, and humility.

We're dedicated to using our historic site to foster respectful dialogue and build a future of freedom and justice.

Throughout this guide, find information about the innovative virtual and onsite education programs we offer to support you and your students as you navigate the school year, along with additional resources just for teachers.

America at 250

July 4, 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of our nation. This milestone gives us an opportunity to make great strides toward repairing longstanding divides, but it also opens us up to deepening them. At President Lincoln's Cottage, we believe in an America that reflects our common humanity, cultivates belonging, and honors the complexity in our nation's history. We are committed to telling more complete stories that capture the full breadth of the American experience and leading our peers and community in doing the same. We're building a 250th commemoration that meets audiences where they are and makes room for both grief and joy at once.

Please visit our website and click "America at 250" for a selection of resources to support approaching this landmark anniversary with your students. Join us to cultivate and lift up the brave ideas of all who are taking on Lincoln's "unfinished work" in pursuit of a more perfect union.

Students Opposing Slavery

Do you teach students in grades 9-12 who are interested in being change-makers in their home communities? If so, visit our website to learn more about our Presidential Medal-winning Students Opposing Slavery program, which invites dozens of young people from around the world to the Cottage each summer to learn more about modern slavery and strategize ways to raise awareness of it among their peers. There is no cost to register and limited scholarship funding to support travel is available. Ideal for community service hours. Visit: lincolncottage.org/education/sos/



Pricing and Scholarships

Onsite programs cost \$7 per student and \$10 per adult.

Virtual field trips range in price from \$30 - \$115 per session.

All programs are offered free of charge to DCPS and DCPCS schools. Program scholarships are available on a limited basis; please reach out to us at education@lincolncottage.org for more information about how to apply. Scholarships are made possible by the generous support of the Pulvermann Charitable Trust, the Newburger-Schwartz Family Foundation, and the Andrew and Julie Klingenstein Family Fund.

For lesson plans and further resources, please visit our website.

www.lincolncottage.org



Education Programs

2025 - 2026



Onsite Field Trips

All onsite field trips include a specialized tour of the Cottage and a hands-on component. Each program requires at least 6 students to run and traditionally accommodate up to 48 students in one visit. Larger groups will be split up and may require more time onsite.



Lincoln's Hat Grades K-3

Students discover Lincoln's practice of storing notes inside his signature stovepipe hat and learn about the ideas on justice and freedom he developed at the Cottage. Lincoln's unique notetaking practice serves as a model to students as they develop their own creative ideas, articulate their values, and practice self-awareness and problem-solving skills. Students depart with a special place to keep their own powerful ideas.



I See the President Grades 4-5

Using primary sources, students explore the perspectives of the people President Lincoln interacted with on his daily commute from the Cottage to the White House – including wounded soldiers, self-emancipated people, and others – and use them as inspiration to develop a plan for taking civic action in their community.

Lincoln's Toughest Decisions Grades 6-12

This award-winning program exposes students to the different perspectives of President Lincoln's adversaries, allies, and friends. Students use touch-screen tablets to explore historical documents, recreate the heated discussions, and explore the tough questions that President Lincoln had about emancipation.

To learn more and register for an onsite field trip, visit: bit.ly/PLCfieldtrips

Q&Abe Podcast

Come on down the rabbit hole with us as we answer real questions from visitors to President Lincoln's Cottage that we want to investigate more deeply. We always start with Lincoln and the Cottage, but we often end up in unexpected places! Find us online or on your podcast app of choice.

Brave Ideas Game

How can you make your school safer? What should the government be allowed to do? What do you do if you fail at something? Questions like these are the heart of the Brave Ideas game, which helps students develop bold and brave ideas for taking action on issues that are important to them.

The Brave Ideas game was developed specifically for Grades 4-8 by a Teacher-in-Residence with the teams at President Lincoln's Cottage and Game Genius. This project was supported by a grant from the Marder-Vaughn Center for Historic Sites, Interpretation, and Education at the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Teacher Resources

Teacher Professional Development

The Civil War Washington Museum Consortium, a partnership between President Lincoln's Cottage, Ford's Theatre Society, Frederick Douglass National Historic Site, and Tudor Place Historic House and Garden, offers week-long summer institutes for educators. These workshops provide a place-based approach to exploring Washington during the Civil War as teachers spend time at each participating site and leave with an array of resources to use in their classrooms.

Plus, President Lincoln's Cottage staff can offer workshops to your school or district on framing historical inquiry, talking with young people about slavery, and connecting the past and present in social studies classes. For more information, please contact the education department at: education@lincolncottage.org.



Don't see what you're looking for? Reach out!

If you seek programming for your PreK class, undergraduate intern cohort, or lifelong learning group, please be in touch with us at education@lincolncottage.org.

We have developed customized field trips in the past on Shakespeare, social emotional learning, or immigration, and are happy to continue to work with dedicated educators to create meaningful experiences.



Virtual Field Trips

Our synchronous virtual field trips, facilitated live by a member of our museum education team, are great opportunities for students to engage and share their own contributions. We have experiences available for students K-12 and can be flexible regarding timing and group sizes. Connect with us to help students get their questions answered and learn more about the nation's 16th President, the Cottage itself, and Lincoln's brave ideas!

To learn more and register for a virtual field trip, visit: bit.ly/PLCvirtual

