



Welcome to National Mall and Memorial Parks!

April is a great time to experience your national park! Our ranger staff presents interpretive programs throughout the park from bike tours and evening walking tours to shorter detailed programs of each memorial.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival continues through April 12 and features a wide variety of ranger programs that highlight the cherry trees.

To learn more about the future of the National Mall, visit the National Mall Plan website (www. nps.gov/nationalmallplan) to read current alternatives, express ideas, and follow our progress.

Page through this newspaper to find out more about the many fascinating ranger programs offered throughout the park. Our park staff and volunteers will be glad to answer any of your questions. Thanks for visiting and have a wonderful experience at National Mall and **Memorial Parks!**

The Adventures of George Boyle

By Ranger George A. McHugh

Along the banks of the Potomac River near the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, there stands a rock, a monument of sorts that marks the spot where over ninety years ago scheduled U.S. airmail services began. On May 15, 1918 Lieutenant George Boyle of the U.S. Army was chosen to pilot the first leg of the nation's first scheduled airborne mail service.



Mail had been carried by planes and balloons before, but only as experiments. The time had come to usher in a new era of technological advance and progress. Unfortunately, May 15, 1918 was not the day to follow the winds of progress into the future. Some argue that Boyle was a pilot by patronage, chosen to fly on that momentous day because of his connections to high ranking Commerce Department officials. Few will contest that Boyle was not a very good pilot that day. In fact, Boyle was not highly trained and quite inexperienced.

Just before 11:00 A.M. as the flight was scheduled to depart, the plane's engine would not start. After a few attempts to start the airplane, it was discovered that the gas tank was empty. Staffers frantically scurried for gas and Boyle's Curtiss Jenny became airborne shortly

after 11:30 A.M. Before the advent of GPS and navigational radios, pilots relied on ground based landmarks and dead reckoning to find their way. On the east coast, railroad tracks were an excellent route to follow as they led from city to city. Lt. Boyle's instructions were to follow the rails north from Union Station to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Inexplicably, after his nearly overloaded plane lumbered into the air Lt. Boyle turned in the opposite direction and followed the rails southward.

Less than one hour after his journey began, Lt. Boyle landed his Jenny on a farm near Waldorf, Maryland. Waldorf, approximately twentyfive miles southeast of Washington, D.C., was a far cry from his intended destination. The landing was so rough that the propeller blades were broken and required a few days to repair. As for the mail, it would continue onward to Philadelphia later in the day – via ground transportation.

The United States Postal Service issued this stamp

for airmail postage, illustrating the kind of airplane Lt. Boyle flew on his maiden airmail voyage. A very small number of error stamps,



such as the one pictured above with the upsidedown Curtiss Jenny, escaped postal inspectors. Today these stamps are a valuable prize for stamp collectors.



National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior

National Mall and Memorial Parks 900 Ohio Drive, SW Washington, DC 20024

202-233-3520

www.nps.gov/nama or www.nps.gov/mall National Mall Plan Website: www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan

Radio: 1670 AM

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Join National Park Service rangers every Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. for FREE guided bike tours of the Nation's Capital. (Family Tours are given on the third Sunday of the month from 2:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.)

Tour season begins Saturday, March 28 and continues through Sunday, November 29, 2009. Please bring your own bike, helmet (required), and water.

For more information call Bike Program Coordinator, Ranger Jason Martz at 202-438-4391 or check our website: www.nps.gov/mall

Saturday, April 4 – Off the Beaten Path – Beginnings and Ends

As the cherry trees bloom and gradually fade away, we are reminded of other events in April that represented great beginnings and tragic ends. On April 13th we celebrate the birthday of Thomas Jefferson, whose memorial is surrounded by the flowering blossoms. As those petals fall on the FDR Memorial we will mourn the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt on April 12th. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated on April 4th and will one day have a memorial among the cherry trees around the Tidal Basin. At the Lincoln Memorial, we will discuss the Civil War, which began on April 12th and ended four years later on April 9th. The month of April is not just a time to enjoy the beauty of the National Mall, but can also be a time of exploration and reflection. Join NPS rangers for a tour examining the historic events of this time.

Sunday, April 5 - History of the Mall - Explore the History of America's Front Yard

The history of the National Mall is as diverse and fascinating as the history of our nation itself. From George Washington's vision of the Federal City to the District of Columbia of today, how has this span of green space in the heart of the Nation's Capital been altered over time? How has this area been influenced by great natural, cultural, historical, and social events through time? Come see and hear how the National Mall has

evolved into what you experience today.

Saturday, April 11 – Unexplored Tales of the City – History of the Cherry Trees

Have you ever wondered about the history behind the Japanese Cherry Trees on the National Mall? Are you curious about their arrival in Washington, D.C., the different species found along the National Mall, or how to identify a cherry

tree from the similar-looking crabapple tree? Then join National Park rangers for a bike tour around the National Mall to explore the history and science behind these famous flowering Japanese cherry trees.

Sunday, April 12 - On This Date in History – The Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

President Abraham Lincoln presided over four long years of civil war that resulted in over 600,000 American deaths. When the war came to a close in early April, 1865, the nation looked forward to peace. On April 14, 1865 the president and first lady decided to attend an evening of entertainment at Ford's Theatre. Actor, and southern sympathizer, John Wilkes Booth had other plans for the president. While the Lincolns enjoyed the play "Our American Cousin," Booth entered the State Box and shot the president. Lincoln died at 7:22 A.M. the following day and Booth escaped into the Maryland countryside. Join park rangers for this bike tour that will follow the strange series of events leading up to, and including, Lincoln's assassination. Rangers will focus on the chain of events that the conspirators followed leading up to the fateful day when they nearly took down the entire American government.

Saturday, April 18 - People of DC - Famous Names, Extraordinary Stories

Get to know the people behind the city. See and hear how the influential personalities of Washington, D.C. have affected the city, the landscape, the architecture, and the culture of the Nation's Capital over time. Presidents, First Ladies, Governors and Mayors, authors, poets, famous and infamous characters alike have helped shape the history of Washington, D.C. These people have helped influence, not only the city, but the entire nation. These are their stories.

Sunday, April 19 – History of the Mall - Explore the History of America's Front Yard

The history of the National Mall is as diverse and fascinating as the history of our nation itself. From George Washington's vision of the Federal City to the District of Columbia of today, how has this span of green space in the heart of the Nation's Capital been altered over time? How has this area been influenced by great natural, cultural, historical, and social events through time? Come see and hear how the National Mall has evolved into what you experience today.

Saturday, April 25 - Off the Beaten Path – Brainiac! America's Smartest People

The United States was founded as a nation where anyone can achieve greatness by only exercising their minds and striving for excellence. In our history, a small number of people, some born here, and others who traveled to find freedom and independence, have changed the world through their brilliance and dedication. America's best minds have led in the fields of politics and economics, have made breakthroughs in science and technology, and have led the cause for human and civil rights around the world. Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Edison, and Albert Einstein are recognized as some of the smarter people who ever lived. Joseph Henry and Edward Everett made incredible contributions to the world, yet they are often overlooked. Join NPS rangers for a bike tour focusing on famous minds and overlooked geniuses in our American history.



Sunday, April 26 – Unexplored Tales of the City

Learn the truth surrounding the Presidents of the United States: strokes, heart attacks, depression, gout, dysentery, or worse. They're human too, but their job description often hides the truth from the public. Were you taught that George Washington cut down a cherry tree or Abraham Lincoln wrote his Gettysburg Address on the back of an envelope while riding a train? The truth regarding these and other misunderstood and fictitious legends is just the beginning. These tours prove once and for all that true American history is stranger than fictitious American history.



National Cherry Blossom Festival March 28 - April 12, 2009



Welcome Areas

The Tidal Basin Welcome Area, near the paddle boats, and Thomas Jefferson Memorial Welcome Area are convenient locations for services offered by the National Park Service and its partners during the National Cherry Blossom Festival. The National Park Service will have tents providing visitor services, first aid and children's activities. Guest Services and Eastern National will provide tents for food, souvenirs and books.

The National Park Service Welcome Tents serve as places for visitors attending the Festival to learn the history of the cherry trees, the various park ranger programs, as well as the many events occurring during the festival. Park rangers and volunteers will be on hand to answer any questions concerning the Festival and National Mall and Memorial Parks.

Welcome Tents and Information: (Every Day) 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

First Aid Tents: (Every Day) 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Bloomin' Junior Ranger Tent: (Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays) 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Food Tents: (Every Day) 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Souvenirs/Bookstore Tents: (Every Day) 10:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Note: Dates and hours of operation are subject to change.



Remember, **Paddles Says:** "Please Do Not Pick The Blossoms."

Ranger Programs

Daily Interpretive Cherry Blossom Talks: 10:30 A.M., 12:00 P.M., 2:00 P.M., 3:30 P.M., 5:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M.

Locations: Entrance of Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Welcome Tent

Come to one or several cherry blossom programs presented by National Park Service rangers. These programs relate the cultural and natural stories behind these national treasures. No two ranger programs are the same! Topics range from the story of the arrival of the cherry trees in Washington, DC, to the Cherry Tree Rebellion, just to name a few! Programs are 20-60 minutes in length.

Ranger-Guided Lantern Walks:

Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the Festival 8:00 P.M. - 10:00 P.M.

Location: Tidal Basin Welcome Area

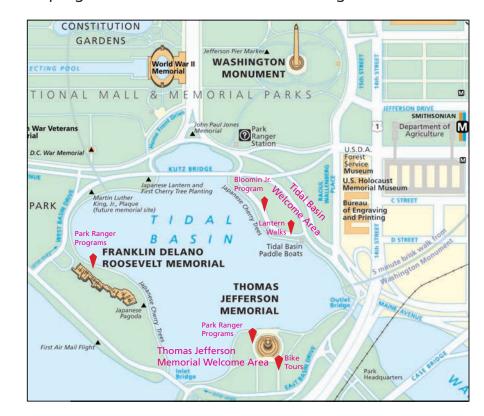
Evening walks led by National Park Service rangers bring new perspectives to the story of the cherry trees around the Tidal Basin. Soft light turns to night during these strolls amongst the annual glory of the blooming cherry blossoms. Follow the history of these precious resources on this 1.5 mile walk around the perimeter of the Tidal Basin. Wear comfortable shoes and bring your own flashlight.

Bloomin' Junior Ranger Program:

Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays during the Festival 10:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

Location: Tidal Basin Welcome Area

Join National Park Service rangers for activities and games that relate to the cherry blossoms! The activities are both fun and instructive. Practice Japanese origami and solve puzzles while learning about Washington's world famous cherry trees. This program is centered around children ages 6-12.



Bike Valet

Saturday, April 4 and 11 and Sunday, April 5 and 12 10:00 A.M. – 6:00 P.M. (Weather Permitting)

Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial parking lot - south side of the Memorial

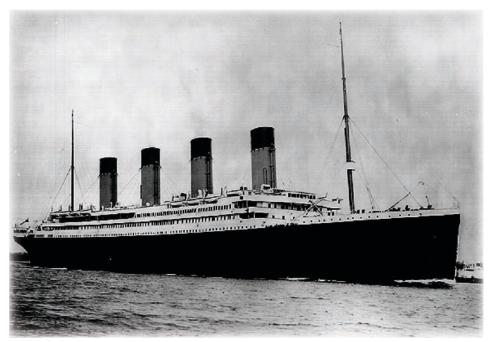
Spend more time experiencing the attractions of the National Cherry Blossom Festival and less time in traffic. Bring your whole family and take advantage of the free valet bicycle parking that will be offered during the weekends.

Brought to you by the Washington Area Bicyclist Association in partnership with the National Park Service.

A Titanic Loss Strikes Washington

By Ranger Michael T. Kelly

Flowering cherry trees, donated by Japan and just planted near the Tidal Basin, collectively became a great metaphor for the spring of 1912. Ancient cultural beliefs dictated that the transient quality of the trees' white and pink clouds of blossoms symbolized life itself, both wondrous in its beauty and devastating in its brevity. Washingtonians certainly experienced the fleeting nature of human life that spring as memories of Americans lost at sea flooded through the Nation's Capital. In March, the USS Maine, which had been sunk in Havana harbor back in 1898, was raised and some of her lost sailors and Marines were recovered and reinterred at Arlington National Cemetery. A harsh reality washed ashore next in April with news of an unimaginable catastrophe at sea—the sinking of the RMS Titanic. Inevitably, the story of this doomed vessel was destined to sail through the lives of many in this city and impact the operations of government.



The RMS Titanic

The RMS *Titanic* started its life as the second of three giant sister ships designed and built to dominate the Atlantic shipping lanes for Great Britain's White Star Line. Intended to cater to wealthy passengers, the ships also provided superior accommodations to middle class and immigrant passengers in addition to ample space for transporting cargo and mail to and from the New World. The *Titanic's* designers, builders, and owners envisioned great fame for their newest liner—the largest ship in the world—but they never imagined the true nature of that fame.

When the *Titanic* departed European ports on her maiden voyage to New York City, she carried more than 2,200 passengers and crew. After the ship struck an iceberg near midnight on April 14 and as she lay sinking throughout the next morning, radio operators utilized the marvel of wireless telegraphy to send out the distress signal, SOS. As news of the developing tragedy spread from ship to ship and finally to shore, Washington residents braced for the worst; on board the vessel were several prominent Washingtonians. Numerous others on board claimed some association with the capital city—a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives, the brother of a U.S. Senator, a U.S. Congressman's daughter returning from her honeymoon, the son and daughter-inlaw of a District resident, one of the ship's postal workers, an Irish immigrant coming to live in the capital city, and a host of others.

Several factors compelled some prominent Washingtonians to venture to Europe, but now many capital residents were returning to the United States as first class passengers aboard the *Titanic*. One of the better known was Major Archibald Willingham Butt, President William Howard Taft's military aide and confidant, who had fled to Europe to escape the bitter 1912 Republican Party primary battle between Taft and former president Theodore Roosevelt. Accompanying the major was the accomplished artist Francis Millet, a Civil War veteran and

a member of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, an organization that recently had been created to guide the artistic and architectural development of Washington, D.C. Throughout the voyage, Butt and Millet often socialized with other Washingtonians, such as wealthy businessman and broker Clarence B. Moore. Known for his love of sporting adventures,

Moore had journeyed to England to purchase fifty pairs of foxhounds for his hunting activities in Loudoun County, Virginia. Although the hounds were not on board the ship, all three men perished in the sinking. An ornamental fountain in memory of Butt and Millet was erected in 1913 near the White House, where today visitors to the Ellipse can still salute the heroism of two *Titanic* victims. Yet another Washington, D.C. tribute, the Women's Titanic Memorial, stands near the Washington Channel to honor those men who sacrificed their lives so that women might live.



The Women's Titanic Memorial

Two Washingtonians aboard the

Titanic survived, yet endured a terrible ordeal on the North Atlantic. Helen Churchill Candee ranked among the elite, genteel members of Washington society but strove to become a woman ahead of her time. She had escaped in one of the lifeboats but her friend, to whom she had entrusted a prized cameo of her mother, died; when the man's body later was recovered from the water, Candee's cameo was found and returned to her unharmed. Perhaps emboldened by having survived one of history's great sea tragedies, Candee helped lead a women's suffrage march along Pennsylvania Avenue in 1913. One of Candee's self-appointed protectors aboard the

ship had been Colonel
Archibald Gracie, IV who
maintained residences
in New York City and
Washington, D.C.
After having helped
several women into the
lifeboats, Colonel Gracie
awaited his end as the
Titanic disappeared
beneath the waves. He
was swept off the deck



RMS *Titanic* Survivors

and forced to swim about in the freezing water until he came upon an upturned lifeboat. Gracie later wrote one of the better accounts of the disaster, *The Truth About The Titanic*, but his exhaustive research exacerbated the health problems that he developed during the night of the tragedy, and he expired in December 1912.

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, Senator William Alden Smith of Michigan assembled a subcommittee of six other Senators as a court of inquiry to investigate the loss of the ship. In New York City and in the Senate Office Building here in Washington, Smith convened hearings wherein surviving passengers, officers, and crewmembers provided testimony. In the immediate wake of the hearings, the U.S. Government advocated a series of reforms to ensure the safety of human life at sea. Among the recommended reforms that endure to this day are that every ship carry enough lifeboats for all passengers and crew aboard, that each ship post a twenty-four hour radio watch for emergency traffic, and that an International Ice Patrol be created to maintain eternal vigilance over the shipping lanes of the North Atlantic.

For more information, look for *Titanic* survivor Archibald Gracie's book in our park bookstores. To learn about how to view Washington landmarks through the lens of the *Titanic* disaster, the author invites you to join him and ranger Heidi Dietze on May 2 & 3, 2009 during the park's annual *Titanic* and Washington, D.C. Bike Tour Weekend. Please contact the author for details at Michael_Kelly@nps.gov or 202-359-2662.

Ranger Led Evening Walking Tours

Come out and experience National Mall and Memorial Parks at night and enjoy one of our rangers' numerous evening interpretive programs. These programs will take you to familiar locations that you will never see the same way again! All tours are free of charge. Read each description to find out when and where to meet. Reservations are not required.



Wednesday, April 22 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Korea's Biggest Battle

On April 22, 1951 the Chinese Communist forces attacked the United Nations forces along a forty mile front north of Seoul, South Korea. This action lead to the largest battle fought during the Korean War. What did this action do to the United Nations forces and how did the American public react? Come out and discover more about this eight day battle.

Meet at the Korean War Veterans Memorial for this free program. For more information, please call Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066.

Friday, April 24 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

The Lincoln Haunts Jaunt

Celebrate our sixteenth president's birth bicentennial by stopping at sites that would have been familiar to Abraham Lincoln. This walking tour will concentrate in areas around Lafayette Square, the White House, and along Pennsylvania Avenue. Meet at the base of the Washington Monument for this two-hour walking tour. For more information contact Ranger Lowell Fry at 202-438-9603.

Saturday, April 25 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

The Final Days of World War II in Europe

American troops met their Russian counterparts at the Elbe River on April 25, 1945 as World War II in Europe wound down. A few days later on April 30, 1945 Adolf Hitler committed suicide in his bunker in Berlin. How were these events significant and did it mean that the war in Europe was going to end soon? What did this mean for the average American G.I.? Would they get to come home or would they be shipped to the Pacific Theater to fight against the Japanese? Find out answers to these important questions and learn more about the closing days of the Second World War in Europe.

Meet at the World War II Memorial ranger

station for this free program. For more information, please call Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066.

National Park Service Cell Phone Tours



It's easy! Just call the following phone numbers to listen to **National Park** Service rangers present programs about various aspects of the Lincoln Memorial and the National Cherry Blossom Festival.

NOTE: Please be respectful. No speakerphones within memorials. Standard cell phone rates apply.

Lincoln Memorial

202-747-3420

National Cherry Blossom Festival

202-747-3465

Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Events

April 12, 2009 Marian Anderson Tribute Concert

Join opera's own Denyce Graves, the Chicago Children's Choir, Sweet Honey in the Rock, and the Washington National Opera as we celebrate Abraham Lincoln and the civil rights legacy of opera star Marian Anderson. Described as having a "voice heard once in a hundred years," Miss Anderson was denied the right to perform in Constitution Hall due to the color of her skin. Through the efforts of Miss Anderson, Howard University, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, and Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes, a new location was chosen: the Lincoln Memorial.

From the moment that Marian Anderson sang to the nation from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on Easter Sunday 1939, she anointed the memorial as a shrine to the ideals of freedom and activated the modern civil rights movement. Those in attendance described her voice "as it were a prayer" and the performance as a "beautiful awakening."

Miss Anderson herself recalled: "It was more than a concert for me... it seemed that everyone present was a living witness to the ideals of freedom for which President Lincoln died." Seventy years later, it is fitting that we pay tribute to Marian Anderson's courage and Abraham Lincoln's legacy of equality of opportunity, freedom and democracy.

May 30, 2009 **Lincoln Memorial Rededication**

Four score and seven years ago in 1922, Americans of different generations, races, backgrounds, and occupations gathered in Washington, D.C. to dedicate the Lincoln Memorial. The President of the United States, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Robert Lincoln, and veterans of the Blue and Gray alike came to honor the Savior of the Union. In the wake of Civil War, unity alone was the prevailing sentiment of that day.

Now, eightyseven years later, the memorial built to honor Abraham Lincoln continues to bring Americans together in struggles for equality and celebrations of freedom. Join us on May 30, 2009 as we rededicate



the Lincoln Memorial and demonstrate that this government—this nation—truly is one of, by, and for, the People.

A naturalization ceremony precedes the event.

Be sure to visit the updated Lincoln Memorial website!

Highlights include a new Lincoln Memorial Construction Flipbook. This flipbook utilizes historic photographs to tell the story of the Lincoln Memorial construction from inception to completion.

http://www.nps.gov/linc



Washington Monument hours of operation: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

All persons who wish to visit the Washington Monument must have a ticket. One person may pick up to six tickets. Open daily (except July 4 and December 25).

Timed entry tickets are required and may be obtained in two ways:

- 1. Free, same-day tickets may be picked up at the Washington Monument Lodge (located at the base of the Monument along 15th Street) on a first come - first serve basis, the morning of your visit. Monument Lodge opens at 8:30 A.M.
- 2. Reserved tickets may be obtained in advance by visiting www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777 (for individuals) or 1-877-559-6777 (for large groups). Reserved tickets are often booked 30 days ahead of time during peak visitation (spring, summer, weekends, and holidays). Please plan accordingly. All reserved tickets carry a \$1.50 convenience charge.



Eastern National

Want to learn more about National Mall and Memorial Parks? Eastern National, a park partner, operates four bookstores throughout the park. The bookstores are located at:

Lincoln Memorial 9:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial

9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Washington Monument Lodge 8:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

www.easternnational.org

The Old Post Office, built between 1892 and 1899, is home to the Bells of Congress, which were a gift from England on our Nation's Bicentennial. From the observation deck, located 270 feet above the street level, the visitor can get a spectacular view of our Nation's Capital.

Operating Hours

Summer: Memorial Day through Labor Day

Monday through Saturday 9:00 A.M. - 7:45 P.M. Sunday and Holidays 10:00 A.M. - 5:45 P.M.

Winter: Labor Day through Memorial Day

Monday through Saturday 9:00 A.M. - 4:45 P.M. Sunday 10:00 A.M. - 5:45 P.M.



202-606-8691 www.nps.gov/opot

Old Post Office Tower NHS Tours and Presentations

Ranger led walking tours of Pennsylvania Avenue On Request - Saturdays and Sundays 11:00 A.M. & 1:00 P.M.

Join a park ranger for an interpretive program to learn more about one of Washington, DC's more impressive and fascinating landmarks, the Old Post Office Tower. Tours are by request. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

> For Whom the Bell Tolls: The Washington Ringing Society and the Bells of Congress

First Thursday of every month 6:45 P.M.

The art of change ringing goes back to the Middle Ages and you can experience it first-hand at the Old Post Office Tower! To learn more about the systematic ringing of the Bells of Congress, join members of the Washington Ringing Society the first Thursday of each month for a full explanation of the Bells of Congress, why they are here, and how they work. The program will be followed by their weekly practice session. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

Daily Ranger Programs

Tourmobile Sightseeing

Get ready for the sights and sounds of the Nation's Capital. Tourmobile Sightseeing's narrated shuttle tours take you right where you want to go. Buy your tickets from the driver and enjoy unlimited re-boarding. You choose where to stop, stay as long as you want, then board and ride to another historic location.

202-554-5100

www.tourmobile.com

"Monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

National Park Service Organic Act

August 25, 1916



Join National Park Service rangers to learn more about the meaning, symbolism, and significance of the park's many memorials. No prior sign up is required and all programs are free. Program length varies. For more information contact a park ranger at each memorial. Programs are offered at the following memorials...

- World War II Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Korean War Veterans Memorial
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

Scheduled Programs are presented at:

11:00 A.M., 1:00 P.M., 3:00 P.M., 5:00 P.M.

**Additional programs on request.