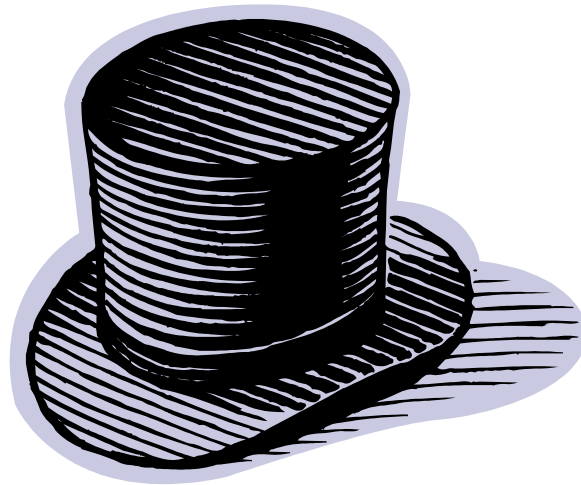


THE PRESIDENTIAL HATS:

Chief Host



**The Chief Host wears a top hat. Also called toppers, these hats were historically worn with white ties for formal events.
(You may have seen on a magician.)**



Tee Ball at the White House

In addition to hosting events for adults, the President serves as a host to many children, including those who love baseball.

Picture:

To help promote interest in childhood sports, President George W. Bush started the White House Tee Ball Initiative in 2001. Here he congratulates members of the Waynesboro, Virginia Little League Challenger Division Sand Gnats after their *Tee Ball on the South Lawn* game, September 22, 2002, against the East Brunswick, New Jersey Babe Ruth Buddy Ball League Sluggers.

Easter at the White House

Although the Easter Egg roll began in the 1800s on the lawn of the U.S. Capitol, it was moved to the White House in 1878. When a law was passed forbidding the tradition to continue on the Capitol lawn, President Rutherford B. Hayes graciously opened the White House lawns as a replacement. Since then, Presidents have continued the tradition of hosting the Easter Egg Roll and other festivities.



Top Picture:

Easter at the White House during the administration of President George H.W. Bush, March 27, 1989.

Bottom Picture:

Easter Eggs from the administration of President George W. Bush, 2001-2007. Children who attend the Easter Egg Roll get to keep a wooden egg as their souvenir.



Thanksgiving at the White House

Every year the President is given a turkey in the weeks before Thanksgiving. Although these turkeys usually ended up as the President's dinner, read below to discover which President forever changed the lives of White House turkeys.

Top Picture:

A turkey is presented to President Lyndon B. Johnson in the Fish Room of the White House on November 16, 1967. The turkey has a sign around its neck that says "Good Eating Mr. President."



Bottom Picture:

Although other Presidents have used the term "pardon" and "turkey" in the same sentence, President George H.W. Bush was the first President to pardon a turkey on November 14, 1989. After the pardon, the turkey was retired to a petting zoo.

Since the first pardon, all other Presidents have followed the tradition and pardoned their turkeys.





Meeting Influential Citizens

When they are in office, Presidents will often host American and world citizens who are committed to creating change.

Picture:

President Lyndon B. Johnson meets with Civil Rights leaders, including Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the White House Cabinet Room on March 18, 1966.



Hosting Exceptional Americans

During his time in office, the President has the opportunity to meet with and honor many exceptional Americans in a variety of fields, including: music, art, science, and sports.

Picture:

On November 3, 1953, President Dwight D. Eisenhower meets with Helen Keller and Keller's companion Polly Thompson.

Famous Musicians

In addition to giving awards to famous musicians, sometimes the Presidents invite them to the White House to perform for special occasions or important dinners.

Top Picture:

President Richard M. Nixon greets Elvis Presley at the White House on December 21, 1970.



Bottom Picture:

Vice President Joe Biden, Dr. Jill Biden, President Barack Obama and First Lady Michelle Obama join the standing ovation for Stevie Wonder during a concert celebrating Black History Month and the legacy of Motown Records, in the East Room of the White House, February 24, 2011.



Celebrating Athletic Accomplishment: Hosting Olympians

Since the United States began participating in the Olympics in 1896, Presidents have entertained, in the White House and other locations, the athletes who represented our country in the games.

Top Picture:

President George W. Bush kisses Army Lieutenant Melissa Stockwell, Paralympian and Iraq war veteran, on October 7, 2008 after she presents President and Mrs. Bush with the American Flag that flew over the Olympic Village in Beijing.

Bottom Pictures:

Table set-up and Olympic-themed desserts for a Social Dinner in honor of United States Olympians, July 21, 2008 in the East Room of the White House.





Entertaining Athletes

President Ronald Reagan "punching" boxer Muhammad Ali in the oval office on January 24, 1983.

Article II, Section 1

- Article II, Section I of the Constitution states that, “the executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America.”
- There is no Constitutional statement that instructs the President to host events, American citizens, or holiday celebrations at the White House.
- Over time, however, Presidents and their families have become a symbol of American culture by celebrating holidays and other important events at the White House. The President is also able to honor American and world citizens who have made great accomplishments.