

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER TO HONOR CONSTITUTION DAY 2016 ON
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 WITH EXCLUSIVE KIDS-ONLY TOWN HALLS AND FREE ADMISSION**

***Special guests include author, historian and regular guest on WXPN's Kids Corner Kenneth Davis and
New York Times Company CEO Mark Thompson***

Philadelphia, PA (September 13, 2016) – Exclusive kids-only Town hall programs, birthday cake to feed thousands, and the launch of the Center's Interactive Constitution app are all part of the National Constitution Center's plans for its annual celebration of Constitution Day, this year to be observed at the Constitution Center on Friday, September 16, 2016.

The event is expected to attract more than 4,000 visitors this year. Admission and all activities, including Town Hall programs and feature exhibits, are free thanks to the John Templeton Foundation.

Constitution Day programming will begin at 8:30 a.m. on the front lawn with a rousing reading of the Preamble of the U.S. Constitution led by National Constitution Center President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen. Visitors will then view a live performance of the Star-Spangled Banner before launching into a full day of games, shows, and activities, including a 1 p.m. Kids Town Hall with Kenneth Davis, author of the *Don't Know Much About History* book series.

At 10 a.m. the Center will host a press conference to honor the winners of the Civic Literacy Contest and unveil the Center's Interactive Constitution app, which allows users to explore the full text of the U.S. Constitution and the most current constitutional debates with leading scholars across a range of political and philosophical perspectives.

This year's Constitution Day theme is the Executive Branch, visitors can go from the campaign trail to the Oval Office in *Headed to the White House*, and explore the nature of executive power under the Constitution, and how various presidents have exercised it over time in *Powers of the President*.

Admission to the Center is free on Friday, September 16. Craft activities, lawn games, and the Center's interactive shows will continue through Saturday, September 17. On Saturday, September 17, programming is included with general admission.

Timeline of Constitution Day Events

Press Conference: Civic Literacy Contest Awards Ceremony and Interactive Constitution App
10 a.m.

John C. Bogle Chairman's Room

The National Constitution Center will award nearly \$200,000 the winners of the Center's 2016 Civic Literacy Contest and unveil the new Interactive Constitution app.

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Preamble Challenge

8:30 a.m.

Front Lawn

To kick off the day, National Constitution Center's President and CEO Jeffrey Rosen will lead students in a rousing reading of the Preamble of the Constitution on the museum's front lawn. National Historic Park Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod will also participate. Students across the nation have the opportunity to participate in the Preamble Challenge through the Civics Renewal Network, an alliance of 29 nonprofit organizations including the National Constitution Center. For more about the [Civics Renewal Network](http://challenge.civicsrenewalnetwork.org) and the Preamble Challenge, visit challenge.civicsrenewalnetwork.org.

Flag Raising Ceremony

9 a.m.

Front Lawn

Visitors can join the Sons of the American Revolution and the Daughters of the American Revolution for a patriotic flag raising ceremony and a live performance of the Star-Spangled Banner.

Naturalization Ceremony

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

*F.M. Kirby Auditorium (*Please note seating is limited)*

Fifty immigrants from thirty countries will take the Oath of Allegiance to officially become citizens of the United States. United States Federal Judge John R. Padova Judge will preside over the ceremony and NBC 10's Vai Sikahema will keynote. All of the new citizens will be given lifetime memberships to the National Constitution Center.

The Constitution's Birthday Celebration

12 noon

Grand Hall Overlook

Visitors take part in a birthday celebration, complete with cake, to celebrate the anniversary of the Constitution's signing. Includes appearances by the Father of the Constitution himself, President James Madison.

Interactive Constitution Workshop

12:15 p.m. – 12:45 p.m.

F.M. Kirby Auditorium

Visitors can join the Center's constitutional experts as they showcase the Interactive Constitution, hailed by *USA Today* as an "internet sensation," the Interactive Constitution presents the full text of the U.S. Constitution and explanatory materials for students in grades 8-12, written by leading constitutional scholars across a range of legal and philosophical perspectives. This workshop will educate students and teachers on how to use this resource, and also highlight newly added provisions.

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Constitution Day Concert

12:30 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Front Lawn

Visitors can enjoy a picnic lunch on Independence Mall and listen to some of America's favorite patriotic tunes. Featuring the Blue Skies Band.

Kids Town Hall with Kenneth Davis

1 p.m.

*F.M. Kirby Auditorium (*Please note seating is limited)*

Historian Kenneth Davis, author of the popular *Don't Know Much About* series, and regular guest on WXPB's *Kids Corner*, will discuss his new book, *In the Shadow of Liberty: The Hidden History of Slavery, Four Presidents, and Five Black Lives*.

Mark Thompson: What's Gone Wrong with the Language of Politics?

2 p.m.

F.M. Kirby Auditorium

New York Times Company CEO Mark Thompson provides a wide-ranging, provocative examination of free speech and political rhetoric – from FDR and Churchill to that of Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. A book sale and signing of *Enough Said* with Thompson will follow the program.

Constitution Day Games, Activities, and Crafts

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Front Lawn, Grand Hall Lobby, and Grand Hall Overlook

Activities include:

- Revolutionary Era games like graces, hoop and stick, and nine pin.
- A giant version of the U.S. Constitution, visitors can sign their names alongside Washington, Franklin, and Madison.
- Arts and crafts projects and calligraphy demonstrations.

Judge Chats: The Courts in the Community

*Bank of America Theater and Private Dining Room (*Please note seating is limited)*

10 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12 noon, 12:30 p.m.

Bank of America Family Theater

Students and teachers speak with judges about the interpretation of law and about how the Constitution affects everyday life.

Separation of Powers show

10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m.

Grand Hall Overlook

This educational tug-of-war game between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches teaches visitors about the system of checks and balances inherent in the U.S. Constitution.

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Who wants to be a “Bill”ionarie?

10:15 a.m., 11:45 a.m., 1:15 p.m.

Richard and Helen DeVos Exhibit Hall

In the Center’s fast-paced game show, visitors test their Bill of Rights knowledge.

Flag Etiquette Workshop and Giant Flag Folding Challenge

10:15 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m.

Front Lawn

Visitors can learn the history of the American flag, proper flag etiquette, and then help the Center’s education staff fold a 20’X30’ flag.

Pass the Citizenship Test Show

10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m.

Grand Hall Overlook

Visitors learn about the rights and responsibilities of citizenship and gain insight into our country and freedoms.

Constitution 101: Article II and the Presidency

11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2:30 p.m.

Grand Hall Overlook

At Constitution 101 – Article II and The Presidency, visitors explore Article II and the duties and requirements of the executive office, take part in “Who am I?” questions, and presidential role-play scenarios.

Constitution Day Classroom Resources

Interactive Constitution

Hailed by *USA Today* as an “internet sensation,” the Interactive Constitution presents the full text of the U.S. Constitution and explanatory materials for students in grades 8-12, written by leading constitutional scholars across a range of legal and philosophical perspectives. This nonpartisan educational resource is featured in the College Board’s Advance Placement history and government courses and is now available as an app for both iOS and Android users. www.constitutioncenter.org/constitution

The Interactive Constitution was developed in collaboration with the American Constitution Society and the Federalist Society, and distributed in partnership with the College Board. Made possible through the support of a generous grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

Constitution Day Website

As the nation’s leading Constitution Day resource, the National Constitution Center’s website also includes educational tools and lesson plans, online versions of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services naturalization text, previous Constitution Hall Pass episodes, and more. The Center’s social channels—Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Google+, and YouTube—offer opportunities for followers to learn about some of the famous and lesser-known Founding Fathers, test their Constitution knowledge, and go behind the scenes on September 16. www.constitutioncenter.org/constitutionday

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Constitution Hall Pass Video Lessons

Give your students a “hall pass” to travel through American history without leaving the classroom. The *Constitution Hall Pass* video lesson series has been watched by millions of students and teachers nationwide. It’s also a **three-time Telly Award winner** for excellence in education. This year, see two new episodes, “Separation of Powers” and “The 14th Amendment.”

www.constitutioncenter.org/hallpass

Constitution Day Live Blog

Members of the Center’s education staff will be available to answer Constitution Day questions weekdays September 12-21, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m. EDT. Ask about the Interactive Constitution, *Constitution Hall Pass* videos, events at the museum, and more. www.constitutioncenter.org/constitutionday

About the National Constitution Center

The [National Constitution Center](http://www.constitutioncenter.org) in Philadelphia inspires citizenship as the only place where people across America and around the world can come together to learn about, debate, and celebrate the greatest vision of human freedom in history, the U.S. Constitution. A private, nonprofit organization, the Center serves as America’s leading platform for constitutional education and debate, fulfilling its Congressional charter “to disseminate information about the U.S. Constitution on a nonpartisan basis.” As the **Museum of We the People**, the Center brings the Constitution to life for visitors of all ages through interactive programs and exhibits. As **America’s Town Hall**, the Center brings the leading conservative and liberal thought leaders together to debate the Constitution on all media platforms. As a center for **Civic Education**, the Center delivers the best educational programs and online resources that inspire, excite, and engage citizens about the U.S. Constitution. For more information, call 215-409-6700 or visit constitutioncenter.org.

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