

# First Ladies

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Historic Site  
Ohio



**Book B**

9 Years Old & Over

Future First Lady Ida McKinley was born in this house in 1847. She lived in this house with her family, including President William McKinley for about 28 years.



First Ladies National Historic Site is now run by the National Park Service and National First Ladies' Library. Together, we tell the stories of the First Ladies of the United States.



# BECOME A JUNIOR RANGER!

A Junior Ranger is someone who helps care for and learn about national parks!

By completing the activities in this book, you can be a Junior Ranger too!



## How to Become a First Ladies NHS Junior Ranger

1. Complete 6 activities
2. Have a ranger check your book
3. Say the Junior Ranger oath
4. Earn a badge and certificate!

If you do not finish your activities during your visit, mail your completed Junior Ranger book to First Ladies NHS.

**First Ladies National Historic Site  
Education Center  
205 Market Avenue South  
Canton, OH 44702**



## Activity #1

### What is a First Lady?

A first lady is a partner to the President of the United States. Most have been their wives but some have been daughters and sisters. All have been women. First ladies can have many different responsibilities and jobs. Fill in the blanks below to learn about some of their responsibilities.

First ladies have helped \_\_\_\_\_ social events or dinners at the White House. They also act as an \_\_\_\_\_ to the President of the United States by giving them advice or listening to their concerns. Many first ladies want to be an \_\_\_\_\_ because they can use their role to create positive change. A first lady may also be a \_\_\_\_\_ because people admire their fashion, personality, or work.

#### Word Bank

Symbol

Host

Advisor

Activist

# Activity #2

“I have an independent streak. You know, it's kind of hard to tell an independent woman what to do.”



Betty Ford

## What Do They Do?

First ladies have no official responsibilities, but there are expectations. Many first ladies support a social cause. These causes often represent some of the larger goals of the president. What do you think a first lady SHOULD do?

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Abigail Adams

“If particular care and attention is not paid to the ladies, we are determined to foment a rebellion, and will not hold ourselves bound by any laws in which we have no voice or representation.”

Some first ladies, like Abigail Adams, have been outspoken about what they believe in, even if it goes against the President. What is something you are passionate about that would cause you to speak up?

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Lady Bird Johnson  
Nature



Jacqueline Kennedy  
Preserving History



Michelle Obama  
Get Outdoors



Nancy Reagan  
Just Say No To Drugs

# Activity #3

“Where flowers bloom,  
so does hope.”



Lady Bird Johnson

## State China

First ladies have the option of designing White House china. The plates are usually decorated with things that are important to them, like details reminding them of home or causes they support. Lady Bird Johnson cared about the nature of the United States, so wildflowers were part of her china design.



**Now it's your turn!**

Choose something important to you and use it in your china design.

# Activity #4

“... in this audience may even be someone who will one day follow my footsteps...as the president's spouse. I wish him well!”



Barbara Bush

## First Spouse

The United States has only had male presidents. That will not be true forever. What should we call a first spouse who is not female? Circle the title you like.

White House Host

First Gentleman

First Man

Make your own title: \_\_\_\_\_

How do you think the expectations of the role will change if it is filled by a man? Cross out the responsibilities and expectations you think a “First Man” would NOT do?



Advocate for Women & Children



Fashion Trendsetter



Social Event Organizer & Host



Girl Scouts' Honorary President

Did you cross any out? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Activity #5

“Make sure no one has exactly the same dress I do..”



Jacqueline Kennedy

## Remember Me

The museum has many artifacts to help people remember the legacy of the first ladies. We can even learn a lot about them through their clothing!



Lou Henry Hoover loved the Girl Scouts. Many of her pictures feature her in uniform.



Mamie Eisenhower loved the color pink. She wore it so frequently that it started a trend of *Mamie pink* becoming popular.



Rosalynn Carter wore this during a State Dinner. She was a very politically involved first lady. She established the “Office of the First Lady.”



Edith Wilson was first lady when President Wilson had a stroke. Her *stewardship* of the presidency is still controversial today

If you were going to be remembered in a museum, what artifact or piece of clothing would you want to represent you?

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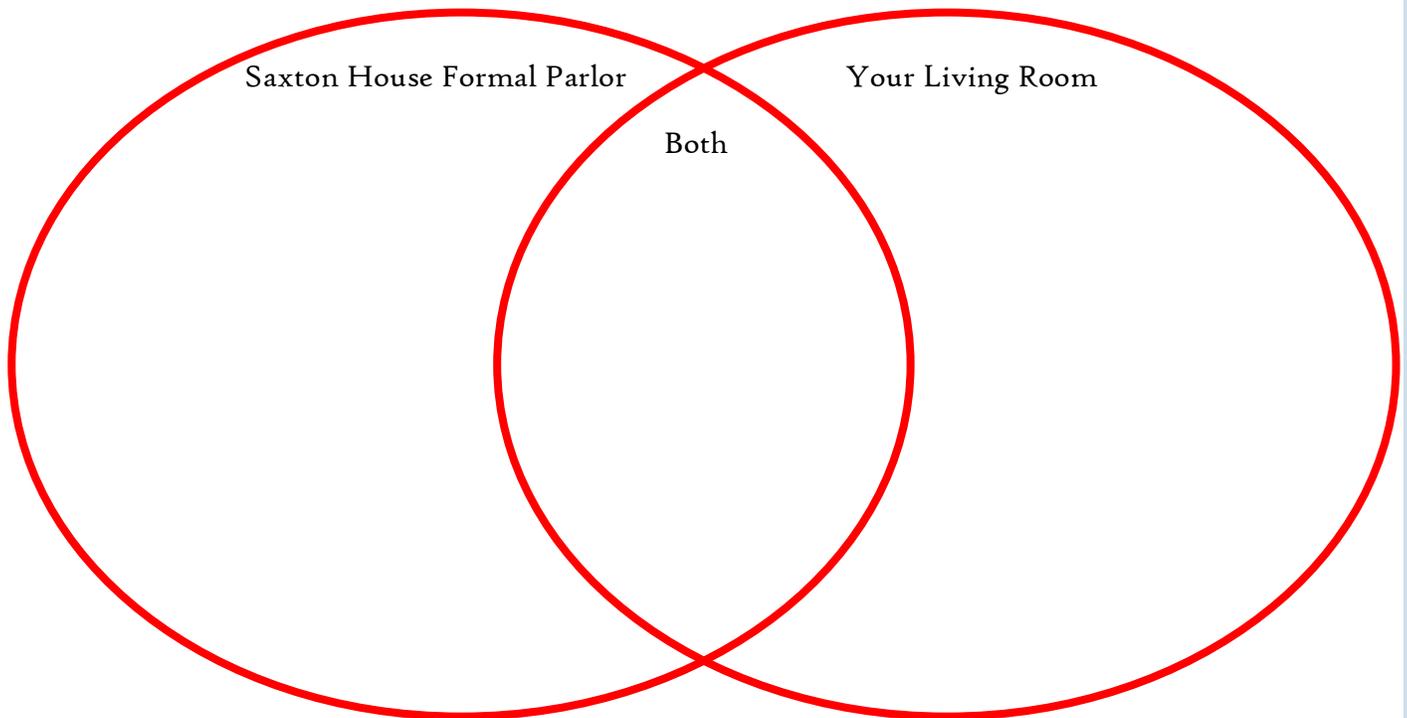
Draw it here!



# Activity #6

## Saxton House Tour

Homes were very different in the 1800's. Take a look at the picture of the formal parlor above. What do you notice that is different from your living room at home? Think about how it would sound in this room too. What sounds do you think you would hear in your living room, that you would not hear in this room? Compare how they're the same and different below.



## Activity #7

“I wore a sleeveless ... dress for my official White House photo, and suddenly my arms were making headlines.”



Michelle Obama

### First Spouse

First ladies are watched all the time. They have been frequently criticized for their appearance and actions. Imagine you are the “First Spouse” and write a headline about yourself that you would be shocked to see in the news.

# Breaking News

VER. 21. 00. 01. 50 NEW ISSUE



## Activity #8

### Be Our Guest

Being a first lady means being host of the United States' most famous house. If you threw a party at the White House, what would you celebrate?

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Decorate the outside of the White House for your celebration!



# JUNIOR RANGER

## Certificate of Achievement

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has completed the requirements to become an official National Park Service Junior Ranger at  
**First Ladies National Historic Site**



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National Park Service Ranger

