



Jimmy Carter Library & Museum News Release

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For Immediate Release

Date: July 16, 2008

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NEWS08-28

SCHOOL HOUSE TO WHITE HOUSE COMING TO CARTER LIBRARY

EXHIBIT SHOWS THE EDUCATION OF THE PRESIDENTS

Atlanta, GA. - How do you prepare to become President of the United States? What do you study? What classes do you take in school? What activities set you on the road to the White House?

Take a fascinating journey on that road with a major new exhibit from the National Archives called **School House to White House: The Education of the Presidents** opening September 13th at the Carter Presidential Library. Documents, artifacts, photos, and films drawn from the collections of the National Archives eleven Presidential Libraries reveal interesting details about children that would grow up to be presidents. Stroll back to a time of one room school houses, large public schools, and private tutors. See these future presidents as young sports stars, choir members, and musicians. Watch them mature into serious college and military academy students. Together, these experiences demonstrate the variety of educational and extra-curricular experiences that trained and influenced our nation's future leaders.

The idea for the exhibition, according to coordinator Jennifer Nichols, was the strong public interest in John Kennedy's college report card on display at the National Archives. "We have Kennedy's transcripts in our permanent exhibit, and people were always fascinated by it. So the idea spun off from there," Nichols said. "Originally we thought it was probably going to be a fairly small exhibit -- just the report cards and photos to go along with it. A few months later, we found that, well, we have some good stuff here."

Visitors can see various presidents' musical background, whether it is Richard Nixon's childhood violin, Bill Clinton's music stand from his marching band days, or Jimmy Carter's 6th grade report card which shows him making "A"s in all of his subjects---except music.

There are also videos showing several presidents as children and filmed presidential reflections on their favorite teachers.

Among other things visitors to the exhibit can see are

- a photo of Franklin D. Roosevelt with his fellow glee club members at Harvard University.
- an essay about "Courage" that Harry Truman wrote in eighth grade.
- a photo of Dwight Eisenhower and his high school football teammates.
- John F. Kennedy's attendance record from kindergarten, which shows that he missed 65 days of school.
- Lyndon Johnson's third-grade report card.
- Gerald Ford's college yearbook.
- a photo of Ronald Reagan's fourth-grade class.

The exhibition will be on display at the Carter Library from September 13, 2008 through January 4th 2009.

For more information or images from the exhibit, call 404-865-7109.