

Capitol Visitor Center

TEACHER WORKSHOP



The Role of Congress in Federal Holidays

Why do we celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday in November?

Why do we have the day off from work and school?

Join the Capitol Visitor Center for a teacher workshop exploring the role of Congress in federal holidays and the unique history and development of Thanksgiving.

We will explore congressional history, the law-making process, holiday stories, primary resources and artistic imagery. And, we will make curriculum connections that students will enjoy back in the classroom.

The day will include:

- A discussion of the history of Congress' role in the development of federal holidays.
- A tour of the Capitol through the lens of the Thanksgiving holiday tradition using artwork and imagery in the Rotunda as our inspiration.
- A visual literacy activity using authentic, antique Thanksgiving postcards from the Progressive Era. Special guest Dr. Daniel Gifford, author of "American Holiday Postcards, 1905-1915: Imagery and Context," will moderate the activity and discussion about patriotic Thanksgiving imagery.

Other logistics:

- During the workshop, teachers will visit the historic Capitol Rotunda.
- The day will include a 30-minute break. The Capitol Cafe, on the lower level of the Visitor Center, will be open.
- Certificates of attendance will be provided.

WHAT

Teacher Workshop

WHEN

Saturday, November 4, 2017

Registration 9:30 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Workshop 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WHERE

U.S. Capitol Visitor Center

WHO

Dr. Daniel Gifford, Term Assistant Professor, George Mason University

To make a reservation or for more information, contact education@visitthecapitol.gov or call 202.593.1868. For logistical information about the Capitol Visitor Center, go to www.visitthecapitol.gov.

Please plan for time for the security screening at the entrance of the Capitol Visitor Center. See the prohibited items list at www.visitthecapitol.gov/plan-visit/prohibited-items.

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