

**The White House
and President's Park**

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C.



1ST AMENDMENT JUNIOR RANGER



JOIN THE MOVEMENT

at the White House and President's Park

Welcome to The White House and President's Park!

Each year, thousands of people from all backgrounds gather here in President's Park. They come to sing, march, yell, chant, bear witness, and voice their concerns to the president. They do this through demonstrations, vigils, marches, and other forms of peaceful protest.

The National Park Service cares for The White House and President's Park. President's Park is the 82 acres of park lands that surround the White House. This park is perhaps the place most associated with the First Amendment in the United States.

Today, you can be a part of history and make a better future. Many Americans have used their First Amendment rights here. They have done so since the country's founding. Join them!

What is the First Amendment?

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

U.S. Constitution

Religion



Assembly



Speech



Press



Petition

The **First Amendment** protects basic freedoms in the United States including freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to assemble, and the right to petition the government.

When is a time you wanted to speak up?

FIRST AMENDMENT JUNIOR RANGER

This Junior Ranger program is your guide to becoming a **First Amendment Junior Ranger**:

1. With the people you are with, plan your own call to action in front of the White House by engaging with the stories and activities in the booklet.
2. Together, present your **"Permit"** for your protest to a ranger to sign.



Students for a **DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY**

During the Vietnam War, in the 1960s, the country saw a huge increase in First Amendment demonstrations. What you could and could not do, and what the United States government would allow under the First Amendment were all called into question.

The Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) were one group part of those demonstrations. College students at the University of Michigan founded the organization in 1960. By the end of the decade, it had grown to almost 100,000. The SDS thought the most important part of democracy was participation. To them, that meant having an informed stance and telling others about it in public.

On April 17th, 1965, they did just that. Carol Holland and more than 15,000 SDS members picketed the White House, calling for an end to the war in Vietnam. The students started on Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House. They marched towards the Washington Monument grounds. From there, it was onto the Capitol bearing a petition for Congress.

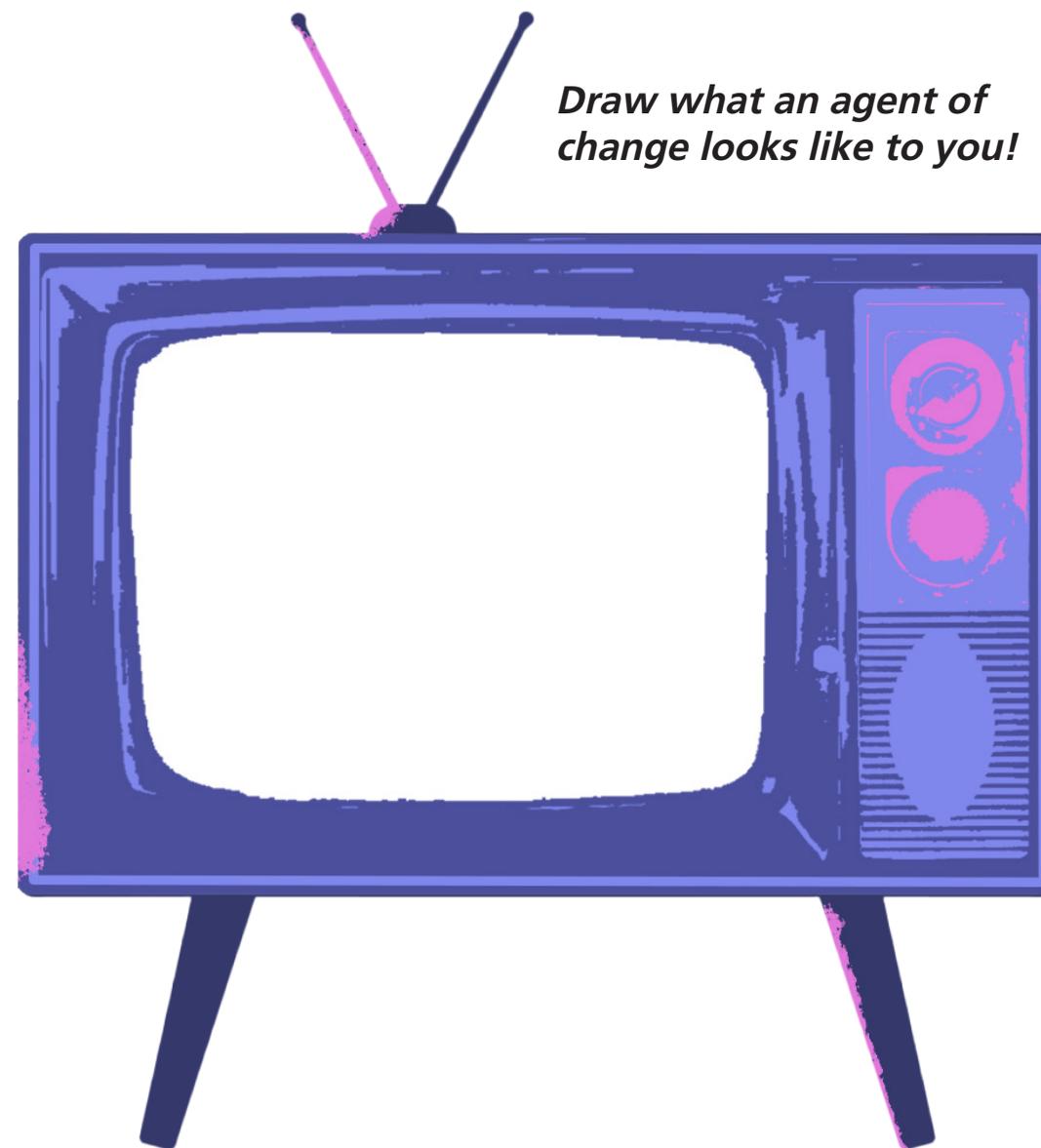
“People always ask what a person can do, I’m just one person and I’m here to say I don’t agree with what we’re doing in Vietnam.”

Carol Holland



Carol Holland was a student with something to say and she exercised her First Amendment rights to say it. Although the war did not stop because of their protest, Carol Holland and the SDS showed the world how they felt and made their voice heard.

Draw what an agent of change looks like to you!



Anyone can create change - within us all, we have our own experiences that offer new perspectives and ideas.



Getting STARTED

What do we want to **change**?

When we dream of a better future for our community, we see a future

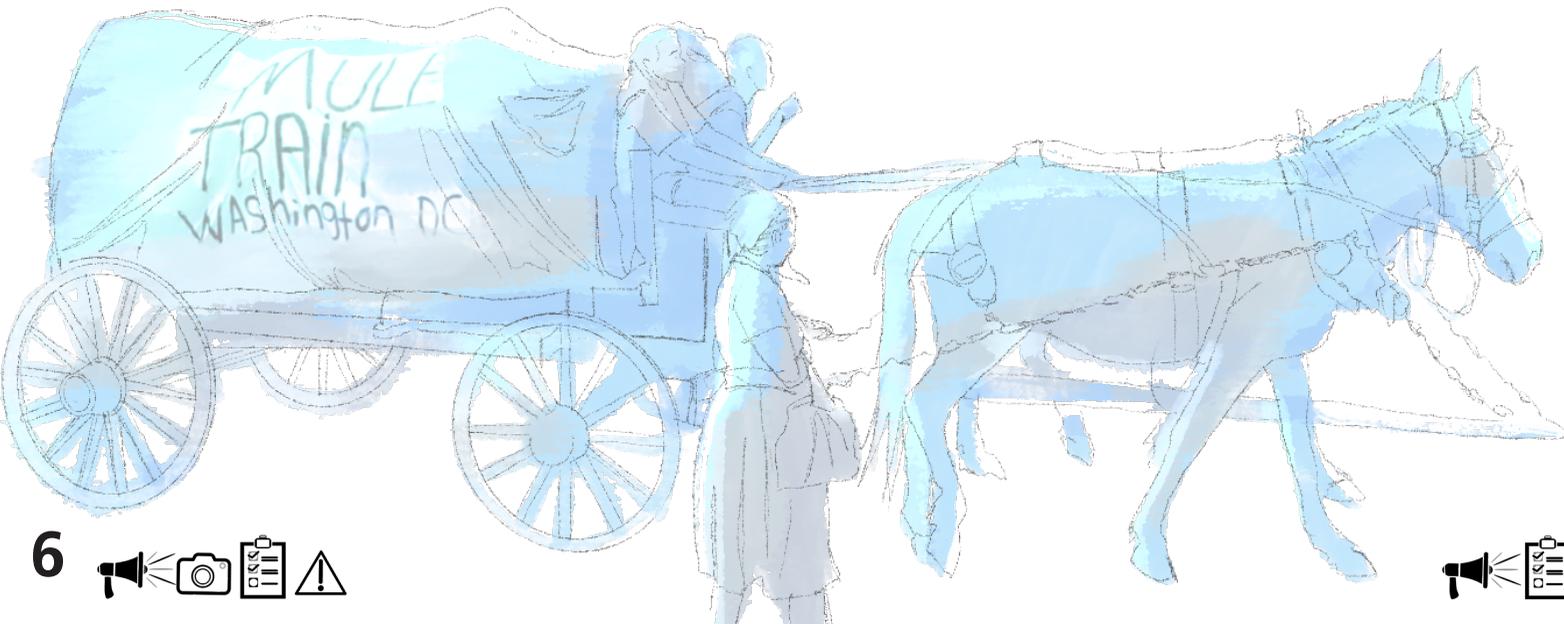
(with/where) _____ . For us, this dream is meaningful
(What do we want to change for the better)

because _____ . When we think about this dream,
(why should it be that way?)

it makes us feel _____ and that motivates us to act.
(emotions)

We know _____ are our friends in this struggle.
(group that is working on issue if there is one)

Working together, we'll make a *better future*.



Agent of Change Checklist



What do we want to Change? Identify a problem in your community.

Collective Action! Who do you need to help make this change a reality? Pick roles.

What's your Strategy? Set goals, make a plan, and take action!

Safety First! Work as a team to be safe and protest responsibly.

Connect with your Community! Find ways to rally support for your cause and spread the word.

Design your Sign: Use creativity to craft your message.

Clear the Way to Change! Trace out your march route to Lafayette Park or the White House sidewalk.

"Application" for a Permit: Fill out and present permit application to a park ranger.

"Some people see things as they are and say why? I dream things that never were and say, why not?"

George Bernard Shaw



THE POWER OF PLACE USING COLLECTIVE ACTION

Federal lands like the **White House and President's Park** have served as a place for many examples of *collective action*.

Collective action is working together with others to create change that you aren't able to do on your own.

Working together with others who share the same goals can make the path to change a lot less of a tough challenge.



ASSEMBLE *Your TEAM!*

When picking your team members look to the people you are with: Select a role and write your name in the blank below. The role you pick will have a symbol on the bottom of each page telling you what activities to complete.



Lead Organizer: It is your job to take the lead and make sure your team stays on track. Monitor your team's progress using the checklist as they work through these pages.

NAME: _____



Outreach Coordinator: You will be in charge of promotion and outreach. It will be your responsibility to spread public awareness about the change you want to make. Use your creativity to craft your message.

NAME: _____



Safety Marshal: This role will need to make sure that demonstrators protest safely. Help educate your team on legal matters such as the requirements for demonstrations at National Parks and safety procedures.

NAME: _____



Event Planner: It will be up to you to coordinate and plan the details of the demonstration. Decide what materials are needed, time, route and final destination of demonstration. Check with your team to help finalize details.

NAME: _____

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead



What's your STRATEGY

In March 1965, the country was watching Selma, Alabama. The latest struggle in the Civil Rights Movement was happening there. The Civil Rights Movement was a protest struggle to gain equal rights for Black Americans. On March 7th, Highway Patrol troopers beat and tear gassed peaceful protestors as they marched. Many Americans saw the violence, known as "Bloody Sunday," broadcast on the TV news.

Here in Washington, DC, the events of "Bloody Sunday" inspired 12 young people to act. They staged the first ever White House sit-in during public tours. They declared they would "stay right there until the president did something in the South."

After several hours, President Johnson had the protestors removed. But the protest continued to grow, this time outside the White House in Lafayette Park. Hundreds more people joined. They demanded the government stop the violence. All told, over 1,500 people held vigils for five days protesting the violence that happened in Selma.

WE CAN MAKE CHANGE BY...

Decide on an issue in your community you want to solve and craft a strategy to make that change a reality.

SETTING GOALS

What goals do you have for your team? Is there something that your team can help improve to create the change you want to make.

MAKING A PLAN

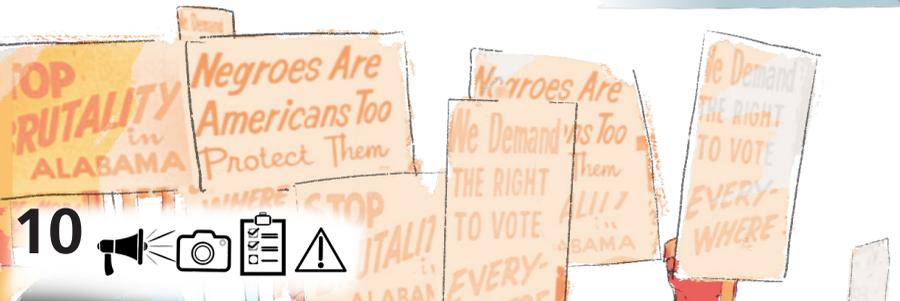
How is your team going to achieve your goals. Who can lend you a helping hand?

TAKING ACTION

What type of action or protest (vigil, marches, rallies, or a sit-in) would best serve your message?

"We must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends."

Mary McLeod Bethune



Safety First!

Always be aware of your surroundings and help others. It's important to work together as a team to be safe.

Some of the first people to protest at the White House were women advocating for their right to vote. On January 10, 1917, women suffragists as they were known, showed up outside the White House gates. They had banners as big as themselves, asking

"HOW LONG MUST WOMEN WAIT FOR LIBERTY?"

The women were prepared for anything. They did not know what would happen or how people would react. Before they demonstrated, they agreed on rules to protect each other:

1. Each protest shift had a "commander" or leader to make decisions and lead the team.
2. They used the buddy system--each protester had a friend to watch their back, and they theirs.
3. They were ready for the winter weather and made sure to identify themselves. Each woman wore enough clothes to stay warm. They also wore sashes of purple, white, and gold, the colors of the Women's Suffrage movement.

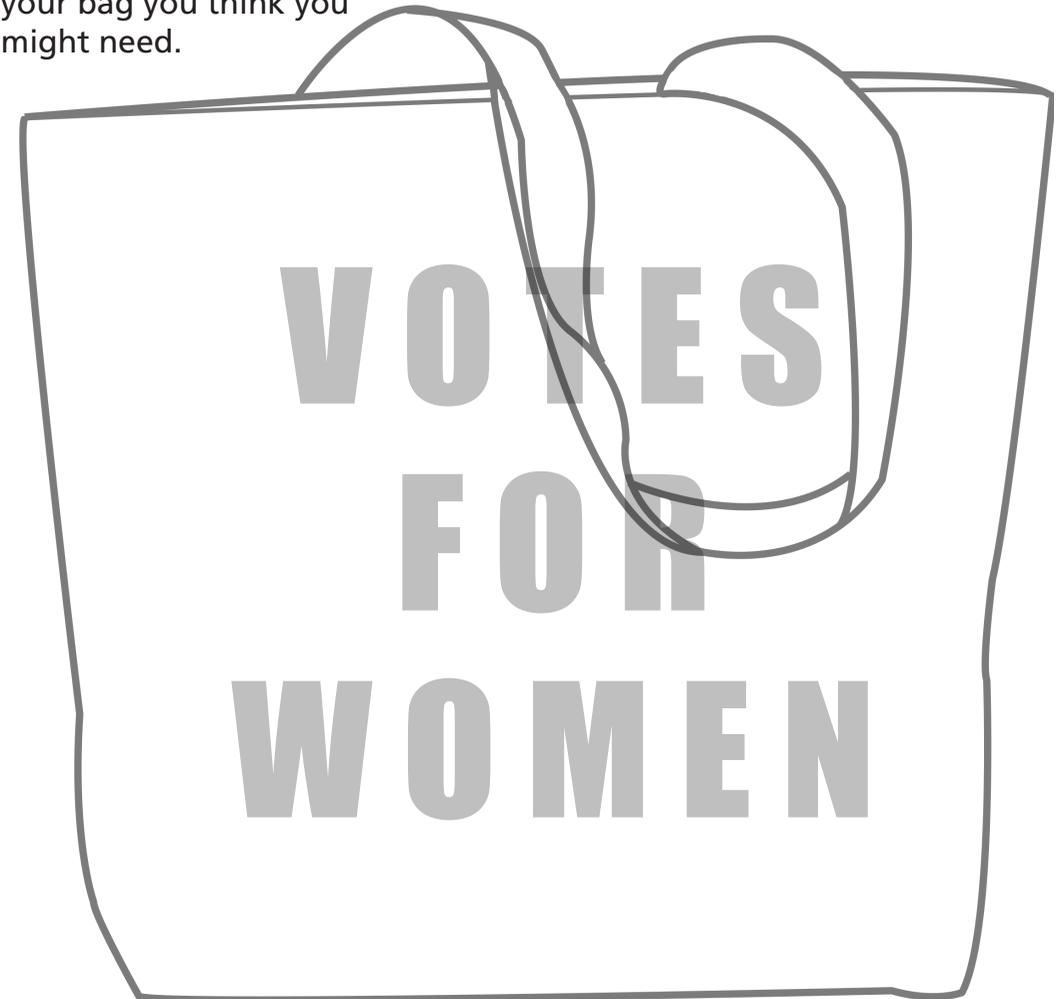


What do you need to be a safe activist? Being prepared can help make sure your protest goes smoothly.

As a team, what rules will you agree to keep each other safe?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Draw or write items in your bag you think you might need.



Connecting

WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

In June 1966, Ernestine Eckstein was featured on the cover of *The Ladder*, the nation's first lesbian magazine. As a Black woman and a lesbian, Eckstein struggled to find community when she was a student at a mostly white school.

After college, she moved to New York where she began to make friends who had similar struggles and interests. Motivated to speak out about the injustices she and her friends faced, in 1965 Eckstein joined the first White House picket to protest discrimination against members of the LGBTQ community. Her feature in *The Ladder* gave her a platform to make connections with allies across the country.



Who can you partner with to help reach more people to spread your message?

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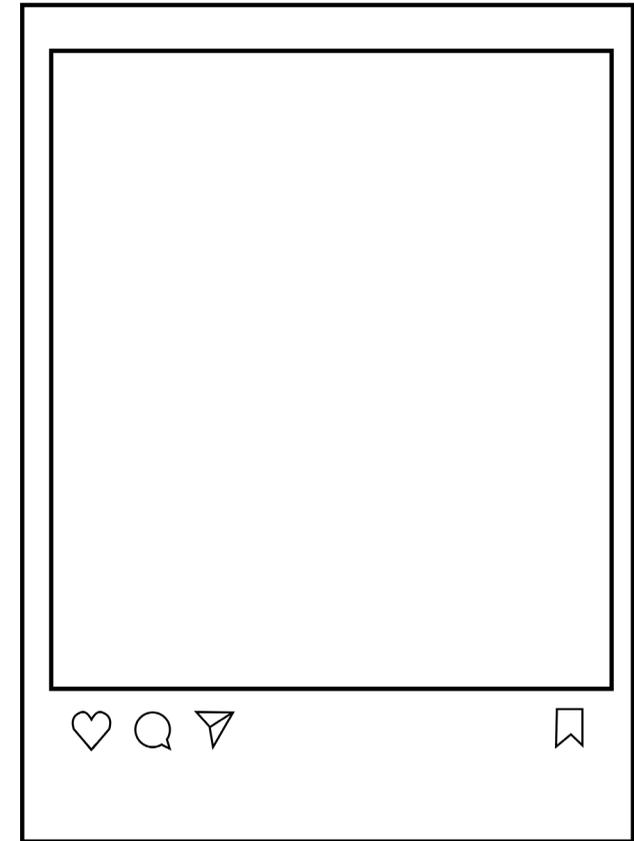
What ways can you collaborate with others?

[Empty light blue speech bubble for response]



Social Media Tips

- 1. Select a platform.**
What works best to spread your message?
- 2. Have a clear message.**
What are your goals?
- 3. Advertise your call to action.**
Let your audience know how they can help.
- 4. Showcase your impact!**
Sharing the results of your direct action can inspire others to support your cause.



Practice drafting your own post. How can you use social media to share your story? Draw out your post and write a caption below

using **CREATIVITY**

to **CRAFT**

your **MESSAGE**

Creative power can be an awesome tool to spark emotions and ideas that inspire others to your cause.

Keep it **short** and **sweet!**

A concise statement can ensure it's recognizable and more memorable. Consider using symbols and imagery related to your issue.

Experiment

with **color**

Experimenting with color can evoke powerful reactions and feelings. Stand out from the crowd with a pop of color.

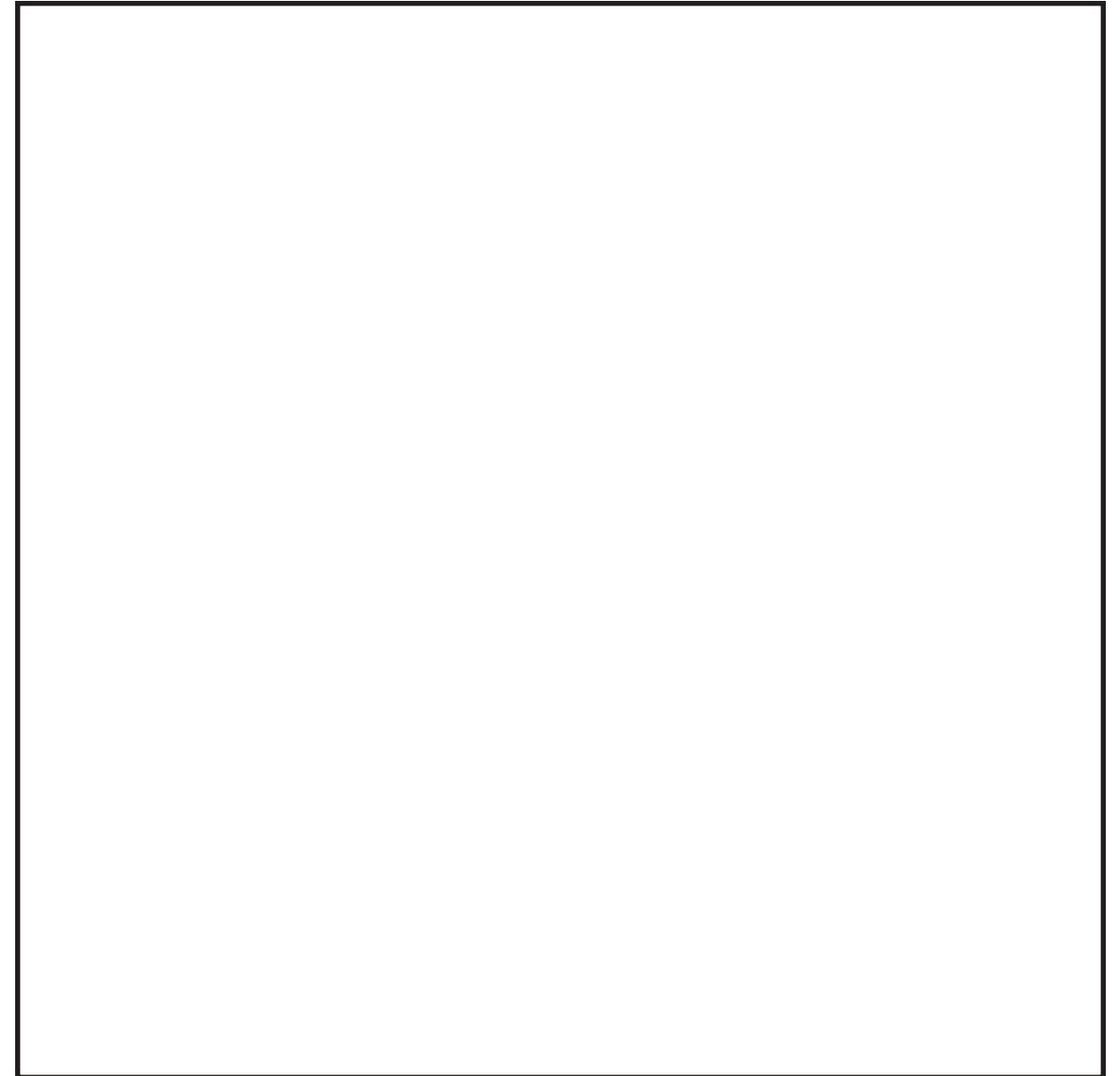
READABILITY

A strong poster can be read from far distances. Make sure your design is clear and easy to read.



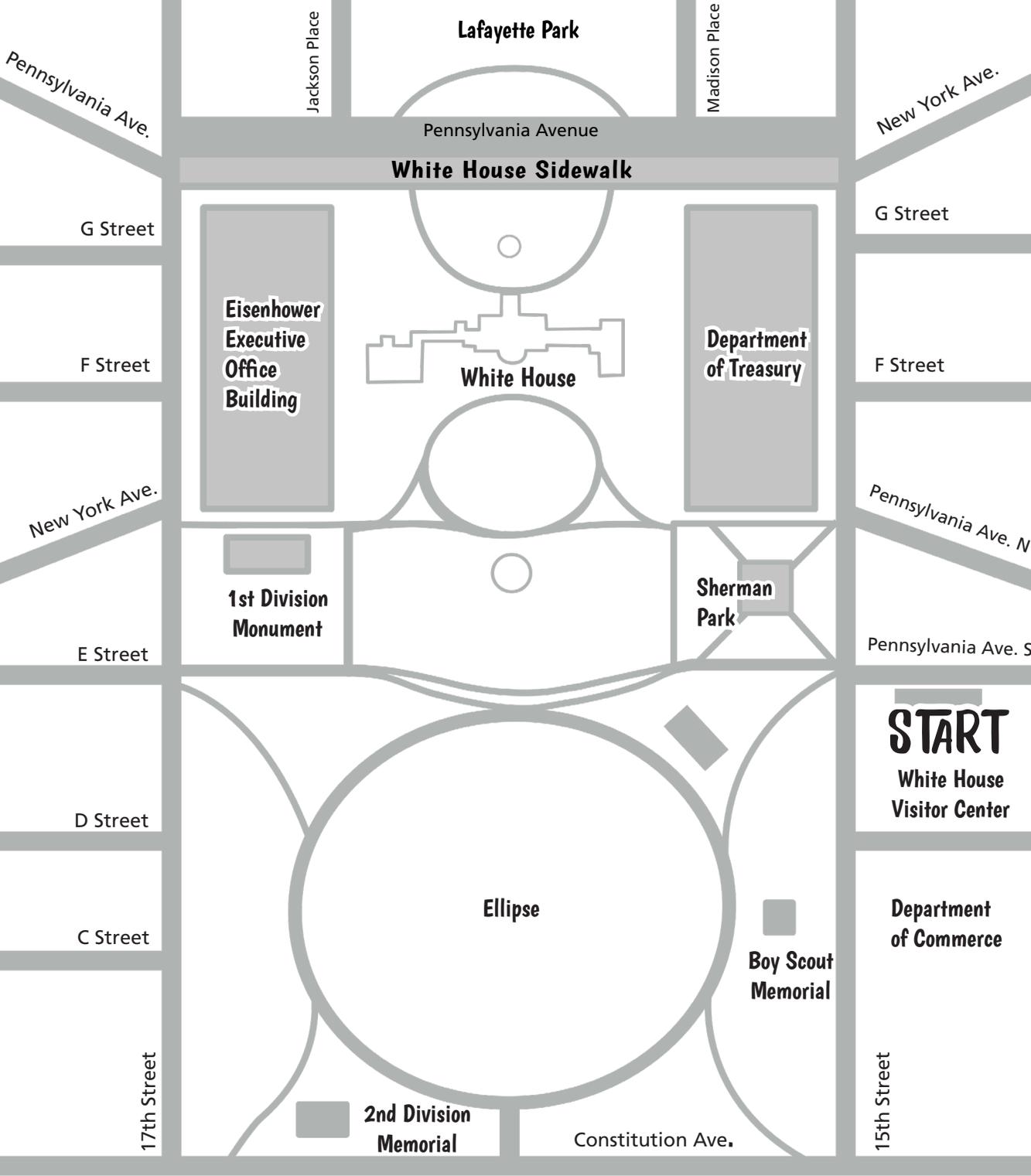
Design Your Sign

Harness your creative power and illustrate your message.



No signs or placards shall be permitted on the White House sidewalk except those made of cardboard, posterboard or cloth having dimensions no greater than three feet in width, twenty feet in length, and one-quarter inch in thickness.

36 Code of Federal Regulations 7.96(g)(5)(vii)



Clear the Way to Change **MARCH ROUTE**



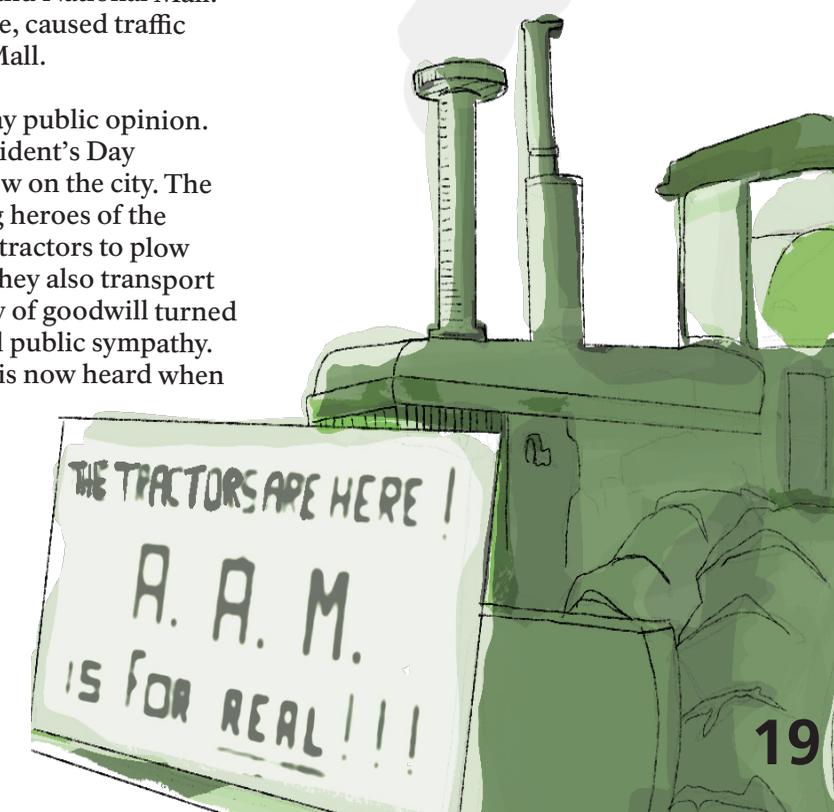
During the late 1970s, farmers across the Great Plains states felt unheard and underappreciated. Greater productivity had led to bigger and bigger harvests. However, for many farmers, it had not led to a better life. They wanted a seat at the table in Washington, DC, where policies were being made that affected them.

In the winter of 1979, the American Agricultural Movement organized a convoy of farmers to drive to Washington. 3,000 farmers drove over 900 tractors thousands of miles in a “Tractorcade.” They ended their journey at the White House and National Mall. They blocked Pennsylvania Avenue, caused traffic jams, and occupied the National Mall.

At first, the Tractorcade didn’t sway public opinion. But then a blizzard hit during President’s Day weekend, dumping two feet of snow on the city. The snow was no match for the unsung heroes of the heartland. The farmers used their tractors to plow roads and dig out stranded cars. They also transport people around the city. Their show of goodwill turned attention to their cause and gained public sympathy. Through their actions, their voice is now heard when making agricultural policy.

Begin at **START** on the map. Trace your march route to the front of the **White House!**

What are some **road blocks** you might face when advocating for change?



Know Before You Go FAQ

When Do You Need a Permit?

The National Park Service started requiring permits for 1st Amendment demonstrations in 1966.

Protests of *25 people or more* on the National Mall or other National Park Service operated spaces in DC require a permit.

Protesting in Front of the White House

1. On the White House sidewalk you are allowed carry signs as you protest, but you must keep moving at all times.
2. No loudspeakers may be used on the White House sidewalk.
3. There are less restrictions on Pennsylvania Avenue. Whoever shows up is generally allowed to demonstrate. Several protests can happen at the same time in opposition.
4. No structures are allowed, except for ones that are always carried by people.



“APPLICATION” *vs* A PERMIT
to be an First Amendment Junior Ranger



Congratulations! You are ready to make your voice heard. Before you march towards the front of the White House, getting a permit is a good idea, to tell folks what you’ll be doing and reserve your location. *Remember, rules and regulations could vary depending on the place!*

Fill this application out and bring to a ranger to sign to certify you as a First Amendment Jr. Ranger

Date of this application: _____

This application is for: Sign your name next to your role.





Section 1: Location

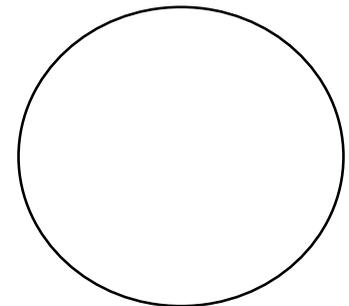
This application is for the use of the front of the White House?

Section 2: Reflection

I want to make a real lasting impact on society Yes No

What do you think is a successful way to pursue and implement change?

Ranger Signature



Use President’s Park Passport Stamp here!





Want to Learn MORE?

Junior Ranger Programs

Are you interested in learning about other National Park sites that showcase stories of activism? Find other National Park Service Junior Ranger programs at: www.nps.gov/kids

First Amendment Demonstrations at National Parks

Interested in learning how to apply for a National Park Service First Amendment permit? Find out more about the application process at: www.nps.gov/nama/planyourvisit/demonstrations.htm

Contact

The White House and President's Park
White House Visitor Center
1450 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20230
(202) 208-1631
Website: www.nps.gov/whho

Send your

POSTCARD!

1. Flip to the back to draw your time at The White House and President's Park.
2. Cut along the dashed lines and mail your postcard to someone you know!

I learned at The White House and President's Park that I can make a difference by.....



The White House and President's Park

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Washington, D.C.



I JOINED THE MOVEMENT

at the White House and President's Park

