



ANNOUNCING OUR FIRST 2019 EVENT OF SEASON 2: **WHY Why America? The Constitution and Its Origins**

Tuesday, December 3, 2019, National Archives Museum, 10am-2pm

Students will be interactively engaged in learning about the Constitution as the contract that bound the new country and its origins.

RSVP

Buses will arrive at schools to pick up students as early as 8:30am. Students will return to the schools no later than 2pm. Lunch will be provided to students during the trip.

Working Agenda

Part 1: Meet James Madison, the Father of the Constitution

Students will hear from James Madison himself on the major role he played in drafting and the ratification of the Constitution.

Part 2: *The Charters of Freedom: Building a More Perfect Union* Theater Program

- **Introduction to the National Archives**
 - What is an archive?
- **What is the purpose of each of the Founding Documents?**
Together, we'll build a house to find out.
 - The Declaration of Independence (the Foundation)
 - The Constitution (the Walls/Structure)
 - The Bill of Rights (the Roof)
 - Can you make changes to a house? (Amending the Constitution)
 - Review Activity

Part 3: Exploring the National Archives Museum

Rotunda for the Charters of Freedom: This room houses the nation's original founding documents, the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and the Bill of Rights.

Public Vaults: Students will be able to encounter fascinating original records in addition to interactive exhibits containing interesting photos and films.



Records of Rights: Students will explore how generations of Americans sought to fulfill the promise of the founding documents. This includes an interactive experience that illustrates how Americans have fought for rights like free speech, religion and equality.

Students will be split into groups and explore the museum. There will be NARA staff in the Rotunda and on hands-on cart activities throughout the other exhibit spaces during the rotation. Cart activities have civic themes and emphasize primary source analysis skills.

Prepare Your Students for Why America with These In-class Activities

Pre-program activities:

- **What is a contract?** Create and sign a classroom contract
- **We the People:** Comparing and contrasting two versions of the Preamble (Middle School)
 - <https://www.docsteach.org/activities/teacher/we-the-people>

Post-program activities:

- **The Constitution at Work:** Elementary School Edition
 - <https://www.docsteach.org/activities/teacher/the-constitution-at-work-elementary-edition>

Look out for more teacher resource materials within the next 10 days!

Why America Educator Contest! Teachers who participate with their classes at Why America events or who introduce their students to Why America classroom activities may qualify for professional development opportunities next summer. Stay tuned for more information!

About Why America?

Made possible by the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation and exclusive to District of Columbia charter schools, [Why America?](#) aims to increase appreciation for this country's founding by introducing 4th-8th grade students to invaluable historical resources in and around the nation's capital.