

THE PRESIDENTIAL HATS:

Chief Citizen



The Chief Citizen wears a hard hat.

Hard hats are protective helmets worn by Construction workers or volunteers.



Voting

One of the greatest rights and responsibilities of a United States citizen is the right to vote. The president is no exception to this.

Bottom Picture:

President George W. Bush fills out his ballot for the 2008 election during the early voting process from his Oval Office desk at the White House on Friday, Oct. 24, 2008. Ballots cast by both the President and Mrs. Laura Bush were mailed back to Texas.

Words of Support for the Nation

After a national tragedy, the President and First Lady give encouragement and words of support to all Americans.

Top Picture:

President and Mrs. William J. Clinton comfort children at a memorial to honor the victims of the bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.



Bottom Picture:

Standing on a crumpled fire truck, President George W. Bush speaks to rescue workers on September 14, 2001, during an impromptu speech at Ground Zero saying, "I can hear you. The rest of the world hears you. And the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon." The speech was one of President Bush's responses to the September 11th Terrorist Attacks.





Helping Others

President's set a good example for Americans by making time during family holidays to help others who have fallen on hard times.

Picture:

On November 25, 2009, President Barack Obama, daughter Sasha, First Lady Michelle Obama, and daughter Malia, distributed food for Thanksgiving at Martha's Table, a food pantry in Washington, D.C..

Recognizing Public Service

Although it is not mentioned in the Constitution, many Presidents believe it is their duty to recognize the accomplishments of volunteers.

Top Picture:

President Ronald Reagan, President Gerald Ford, and Bob Hope at the dinner for the 40th Anniversary of the United States Organizations (USO) at the Washington Hilton Hotel on October 17, 1981. The USO has supported American military members worldwide since 1941.

Bottom Picture:

President George Bush awards the George Bush Award for Excellence in Public Service to Mikhail Gorbachev, former President of the USSR, on April 13, 2001.



Helping People Around the World

President's often used their power to create programs to help people around the world.

Picture:

President John F. Kennedy greets Peace Corps Volunteers on the White House South Lawn, August 9, 1962.

President Kennedy announced the creation of the Peace Corps on March 1, 1961. In his speech he said, "This Corps will be a pool of trained American men and women sent overseas by the U.S. Government...to help foreign countries meet their urgent needs for skilled manpower."





Helping the Environment

Many Presidents have used their office to raise awareness of environmental issues. Other presidents, such as Theodore Roosevelt and George W. Bush, used their time in office to pass laws to permanently protect America's natural resources.

Picture

On March 22, 1990, President and Mrs. George H. W. Bush participate in a tree planting ceremony on the south lawn of the White House after he signs a letter to Congress called the "National Tree Trust Act of 1990." President Bush hoped to allow private nonprofit foundations to receive government funds to create community and rural tree planting programs.

Post Presidency

When a President leaves office, they often continue to work with the volunteer projects that were important to them while they were President.

Other presidents have found new and different projects that allow them to continue helping others.

President Jimmy Carter did not become involved with Habitat for Humanity until after he left office. His first project with them was in 1984 when he helped to renovate a six-story building for 19 families in New York City.

Top Picture:

Former first lady Rosalynn Carter hammers house numbers into place. During this 1987 build with Habitat for Humanity, volunteers spent the week building 14 houses in Charlotte, N.C.

Bottom Picture:

Former President Carter is joined by Mrs. Carter as he speaks to a group of Habitat volunteers at the 1986 Habitat build in Chicago.



Article II, Section 1

- Article II, Section I of the Constitution states that, “the executive power shall be vested in a President of the United States of America.”
- There is no Constitutional statement that instructs the President to be a good citizen.
- Over time, Presidents have set an example that stresses good citizenship. They have done this through their speeches, their policy, and demonstrations of public service. The presidency is a powerful office that allows Presidents to help both American citizens and people around the world.