

I am pleased to announce that the White House will be conducting its annual Spring Garden Tours on April 9 and 10, 2011. This annual event allows visitors to walk through the White House's gardens and grounds.

The White House will open its gardens and grounds to visitors on Saturday, April 9th from 10 am to 4 pm, and on Sunday, April 10th from 10 am to 3 pm. During the White House Garden Tours, visitors can view the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden, the Rose Garden, the Children's Garden, and the South Lawn of the White House. The White House Kitchen Garden will also be viewable from the tour and a visual explanation will be available to help inform tourists about the elements of the garden. Unlike during indoor White House tours, **photographs are allowed** on the Garden Tours.

Tickets for the Garden Tours are required for all attendees, including small children. These tickets cannot be reserved in advance. Instead, tickets will be distributed (one ticket per person) on a first-come, first-served basis on the morning of the tour. You may stand in line for these free, timed tickets at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion located at 15th and E Streets, where the National Park Service will begin distributing tickets on each tour day beginning at 8:00 a.m. Congressional offices are not involved in distributing tickets for the Garden Tours, so there is no need to contact my office.

For security reasons, many items cannot be carried onto the White House grounds. A list of prohibited items and other information about the White House tours is available at the White House website: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/about/tours-and-events> .

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. this spring or summer, I encourage you to consult my website. There are many wonderful things to see and do in Washington, including exploring the monuments and memorials, perusing the Smithsonian museums and the National Galleries, and observing the deliberations of Congress. The Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the Library of Congress, the Kennedy Center, the Washington Monument, and the National Archives all offer public tours. The Supreme Court offers a public lecture in the Courtroom. You will find information about how to arrange these tours and about a variety of other attractions in Washington on my website at <http://olver.house.gov/tours> .