

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER OFFERS ROMAN-STYLE SPRING FESTIVAL FOR VISITORS

In conjunction with the Ancient Rome & America exhibition

Philadelphia, PA (March 8, 2010) – During Spring Break, children and their families are encouraged to “Rome” over to the National Constitution Center for the ***When in Rome Spring Festival***. Held in conjunction with the *Ancient Rome & America* exhibition, the festival will offer hands-on workshops and activities exploring everything from Roman art and jewelry to athletes and gladiators. The festival runs from Saturday, March 27 through Friday, April 9, 2010, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and is free with museum admission.

Though the governments of ancient Rome and America were created 2,000 years apart, the two republics share much in common. During a special program, “A Tale of Two Republics,” guests will learn about the similarities and differences between the laws and elections of ancient Rome and America, compare the two Senates, learn what the most famous leaders of both nations had in common, and explore the important and unique role of citizens in each republic. The program will take place daily at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the Grand Hall Lobby.

In addition, visitors can design aqueducts, create mosaics, build miniature chariots, and even launch a catapult! Inside the *Ancient Rome & America* exhibition, they can don a toga and learn how to deliver an effective speech by studying speeches

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ADD ONE/SPRING FESTIVAL

of ancient and modern times, including those of Cicero and Martin Luther King, Jr. Children can also build their own models of the Colosseum and the Capitol Building while learning about the styles the United States borrowed from Rome in order to build some of the nation's most iconic buildings.

Guests will learn about two other important legacies left to America from our Roman predecessors – the national census and taxes. Visitors can participate in a primary source workshop to examine historical census data and learn how to become a census taker. And, with tax day around the corner, guests may be curious to learn why taxes have always been an important part of any republic.

On Saturday, March 27 from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., visitors can learn even more about the census, as the 2010 U.S. Census Road Tour makes a special stop at the Center. Visitors will learn how the data is collected, why the census is important to the nation, and how the government uses census information.

On Monday, March 29 from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., visitors can experience the military strength of ancient Rome through a reenactment by Legion XXIV. Guests will see examples of armor and weapons used by soldiers in the Roman army, and will even have the chance to try on some of the military attire.

Through August 1, 2010, the National Constitution Center is hosting the world debut of *Ancient Rome & America* – a multi-million dollar, artifact-rich exhibition showcasing the cultural, political, and social connections between the lost world of ancient Rome and modern America. The 8,000 square foot exhibition, featuring a never-before-seen collection of artifacts, was created by the Center in partnership with Contemporanea Progetti of Florence, Italy, in collaboration with the Ministero per i Beni e Le Attività Culturali, Rome, Italy.

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ADD TWO/SPRING FESTIVAL

Admission to *Ancient Rome & America* is \$20 for adults, \$18 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$12 for children ages 4-12. Active military personnel and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. Admission to the Center's main exhibition, *The Story of We the People*, including the award-winning theater production "Freedom Rising," is included. iPod audio tours cost an additional \$5. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

CBS 3 and The CW Philly are the official media partners of *Ancient Rome & America*. CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV) are part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising". The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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