

# NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER**

*In conjunction with NAPOLEÓN exhibition*

Philadelphia, PA (June 24, 2009) – Only one week after the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday, visitors to the National Constitution Center can celebrate the 220<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Bastille Day, the French equivalent of Independence Day, from Saturday, July 11 to Tuesday, July 14, 2009. Through interactive presentations, craft activities, and special tours from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., guests will learn about the actions that led to Bastille Day and the events that transpired on July 14, 1789. The Center's Bastille Day Celebration is FREE with museum admission.

Visitors can join in an interactive demonstration comparing and contrasting the French and American Revolutions at 10:30 a.m. (on Monday and Tuesday ONLY), 12:00 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. During a special tour of *Signers' Hall* at 11:30 a.m. (on Monday and Tuesday ONLY), 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m., guests will discover which Signers visited France during and after the American Revolution and how they contributed to the history of both countries. In addition, on Saturday, July 11 at 2:00 p.m., guests can sample crepes, freshly prepared by Derek Steele, Sous Chef for *Max and Me Catering*, and learn about the history of French food.

Craft activities for children will take place throughout the day, including the chance to create bicorn Napoléon hats, multi-colored cockades, and French tricolor flags, while learning about their significance. Marie Antoinette lookalikes may wander the museum, as visitors create their own wigs and have their faces powdered to get into the spirit of the day. During a cutting edge – and perfectly safe – presentation, visitors can create their own miniature (and harmless!) toy guillotines while learning about their use during the French Revolution.

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## ADD ONE/BASTILLE DAY

The Center is also offering a walking tour of Philadelphia, highlighting the city's connections with France during the French Revolution and the time of Napoléon's reign. Participants will explore the French presence in the city during stops at the former residences of Joseph Bonaparte and Louis Philippe, the Duke of Orléans, among other destinations. Tours depart from the Center at 10:00 a.m. and tickets cost \$23 (includes admission to the Center and the *NAPOLÉON* exhibition).

Through September 7, 2009, the National Constitution Center is hosting *NAPOLÉON*, an exhibition offering visitors a rare opportunity to explore the private life of the Emperor of France and to see beyond the legend to gain an understanding of this complex political leader whose actions reshaped the landscape of Europe and America.

Created from the extraordinary collection of First Empire authority and author, Pierre-Jean Chalençon, the exhibition showcases rare, personal belongings of Napoléon I, as well as some of the most famous depictions of him by important artists of the time. The Constitution Center is the sixth stop on the *NAPOLÉON* exhibition's first North American Tour. The exhibition marks the first time a number of items from the Chalençon Collection have ever been on display to the general public. *NAPOLÉON* is a 6,000 square foot international traveling exhibition distributed by Exhibits Development Group in cooperation with Cultural Arts Entertainment Group.

Admission to *NAPOLÉON* is \$17.50 for adults, \$16.50 for seniors ages 65 and up, and \$13.50 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 \$4. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

Shire Pharmaceuticals is the local presenting sponsor of the Center's showing of *NAPOLÉON* and CBS 3 is the official media partner. CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV) are part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

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## ADD TWO/BASTILLE DAY

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. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org).

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