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NOTE TO READER



Kids Activity Downloads

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GINGER CRINKLES

A recipe from the White House Pastry Kitchen

8 oz. (2 sticks) butter, room temperature

1 ½ cups packed brown sugar

2 whole eggs

⅓ cup molasses

2 tsp fresh ginger, grated

3 cups all-purpose flour

1 tsp baking soda

pinch of salt

1 tsp dried ginger

1 tsp cinnamon

¼ cup granulated sugar (for dipping)

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Beat butter and brown sugar in large mixing bowl until creamy.
3. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.
4. Add molasses and fresh ginger.
5. Combine flour, baking soda, ground ginger, cinnamon, and salt in a small mixing bowl.
6. Add the flour mixture to large mixing bowl, and stir until combined.
7. Use a small spoon to scoop cookies into small balls, dip in ¼ cup of granulated sugar, and place on parchment-lined baking sheet sugar side up.
8. Bake at 350° F for 12 minutes, or less if you like them chewy.
9. Remove from oven and allow cookies to rest for 2 minutes before removing from cookie sheet.

Yields 30-36 cookies.





WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY HOW-TOS: *Beaded Stars*

The trees in the East Landing Room are decorated with a variety of handmade beaded stars of red, white, and blue. You can make these yourself with supplies you can find at any craft store.



A beaded star ornament in the East Landing Room of the White House, December, 2012.

Materials

- 18 gauge wire
- 22 gauge wire
- Star-shaped cookie cutters
- Red glass beads
- Blue glass beads
- White glass beads
- Clear glass beads
- Wire cutters
- Pliers

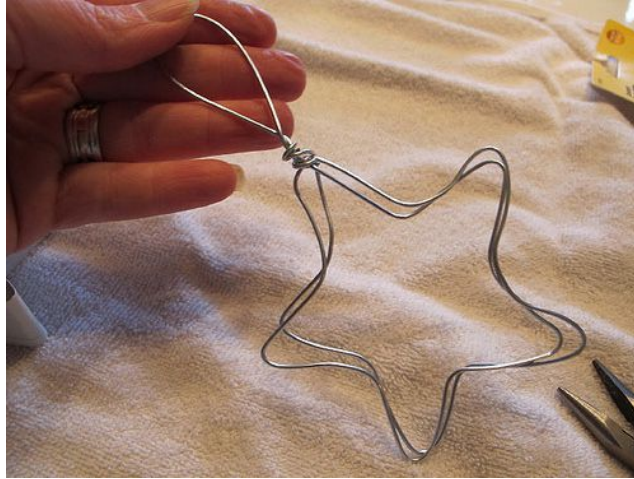
MORE ON THE NEXT PAGE





Assembly

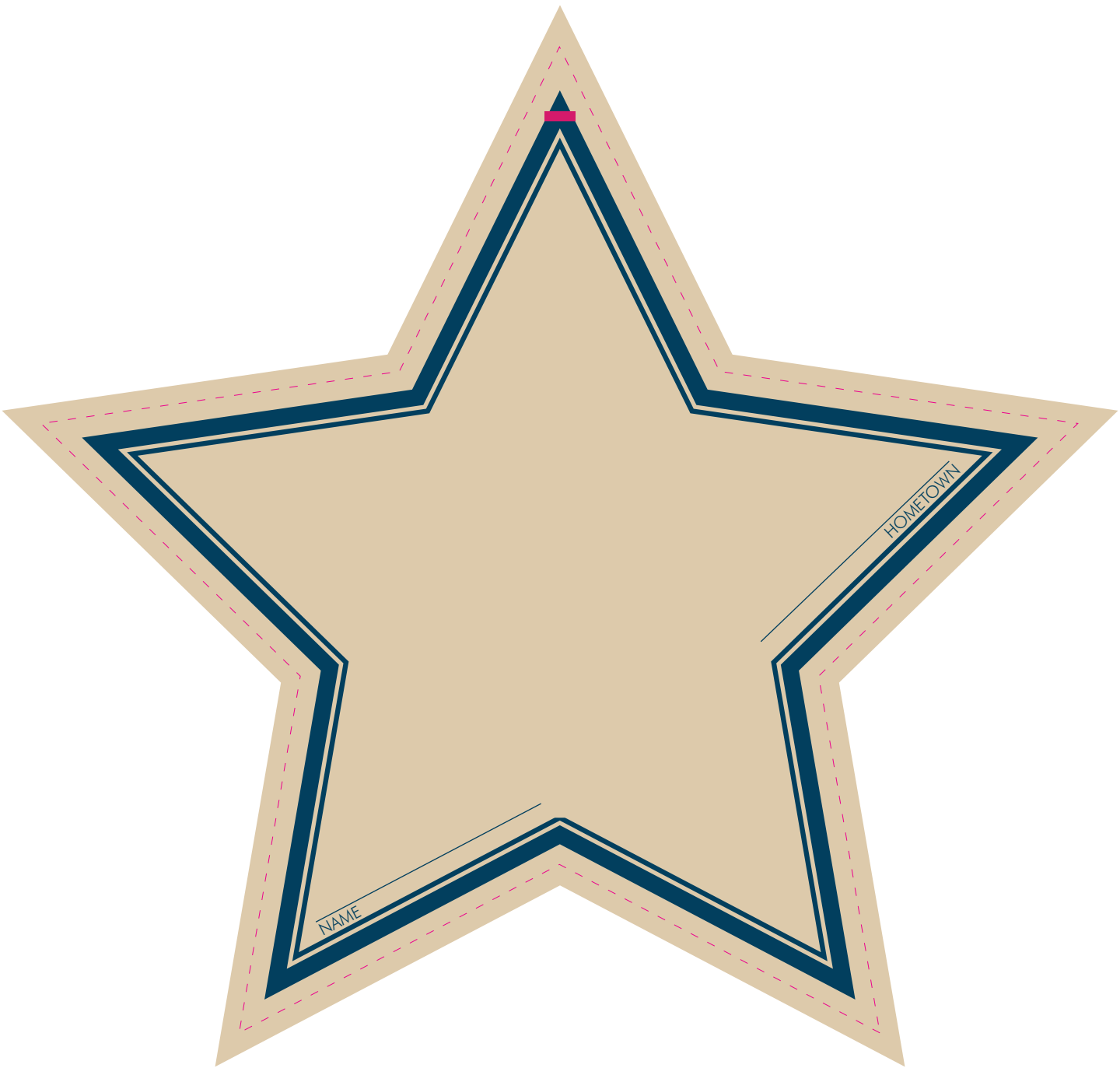
1. Measure out about 3 feet of 18 gauge wire, and cut with a wire cutter.
2. Make a loop at the top for hanging.
3. Holding the loop at the top, shape the wire around the star cookie cutter, twice. Cut the rest of the wire with your pliers and wrap the last bit around the stem of the hanging loop.



4. Pull a few lengths of the smaller 22 gauge wire and start stringing it with glass beads. Do not string the entire length with beads, leave empty space along the way.
5. Attach the beaded wire to the star frame and begin wrapping. As you are wrapping the wire, slip beads into different areas. While you do this, be sure not to bend the star into a different shape.





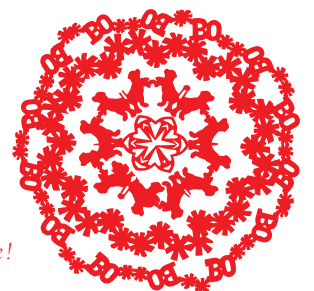
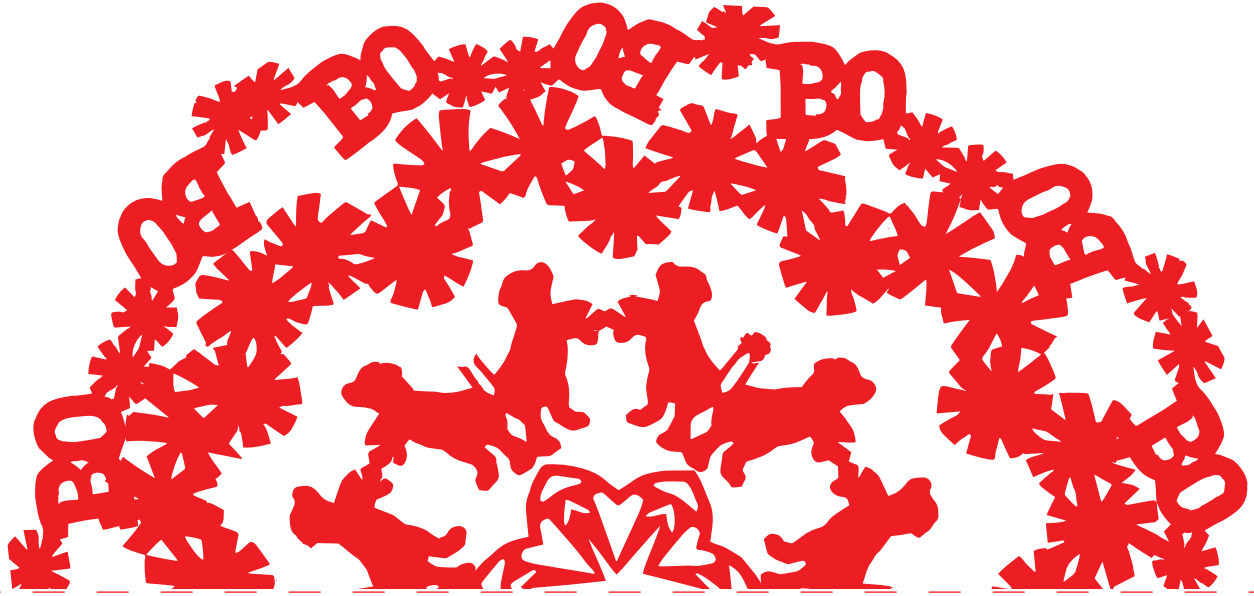


NAME

HOMETOWN

"BO FLAKE" SNOWFLAKE

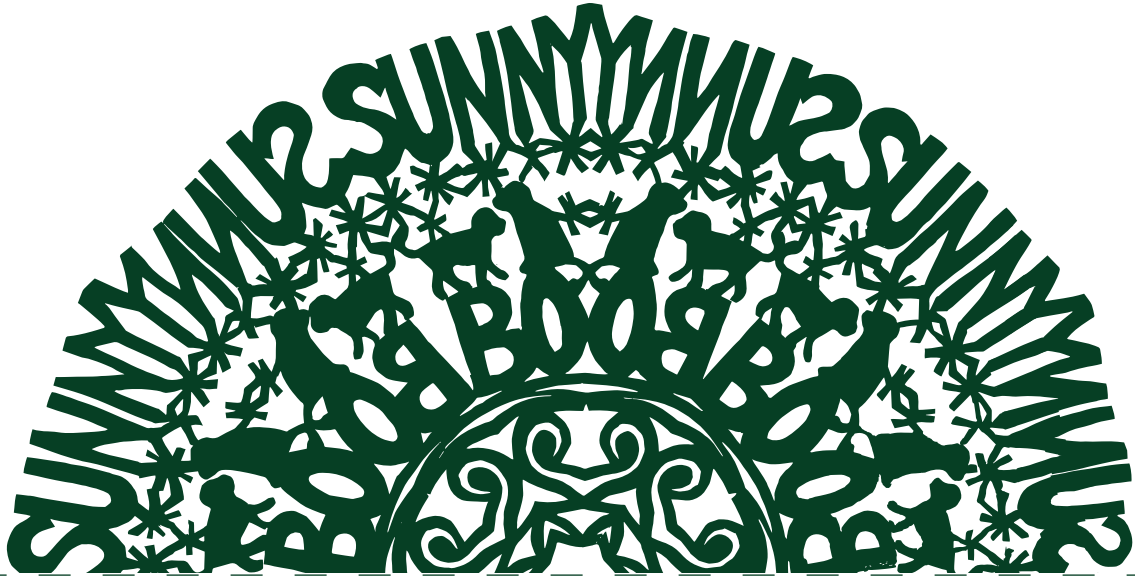
Print, fold and half, and cut out red snowflake



Complete "Bo flake" exmple!

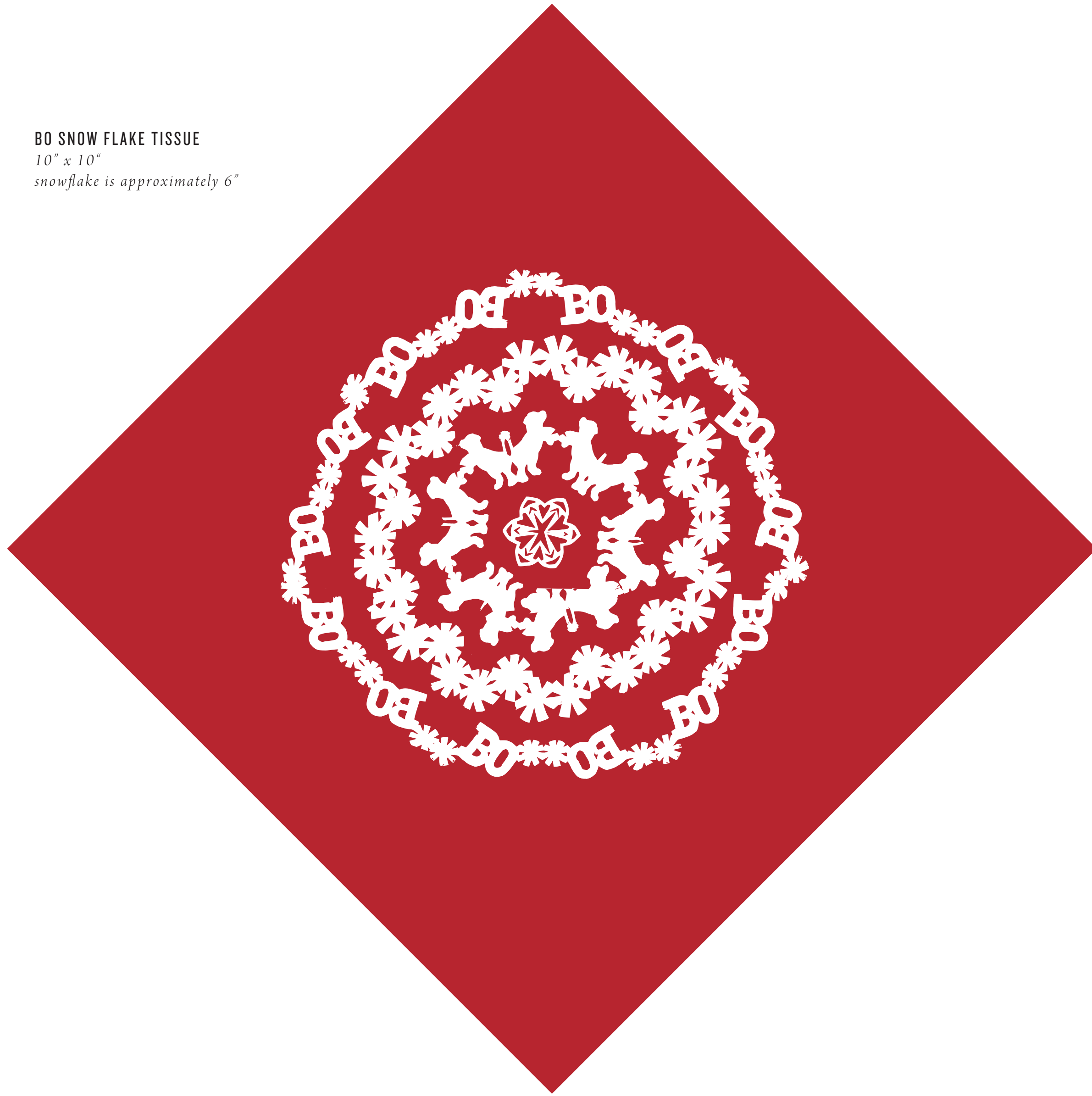
"SUNNY FLAKE" SNOWFLAKE

Print, fold and half, and cut out green snowflake

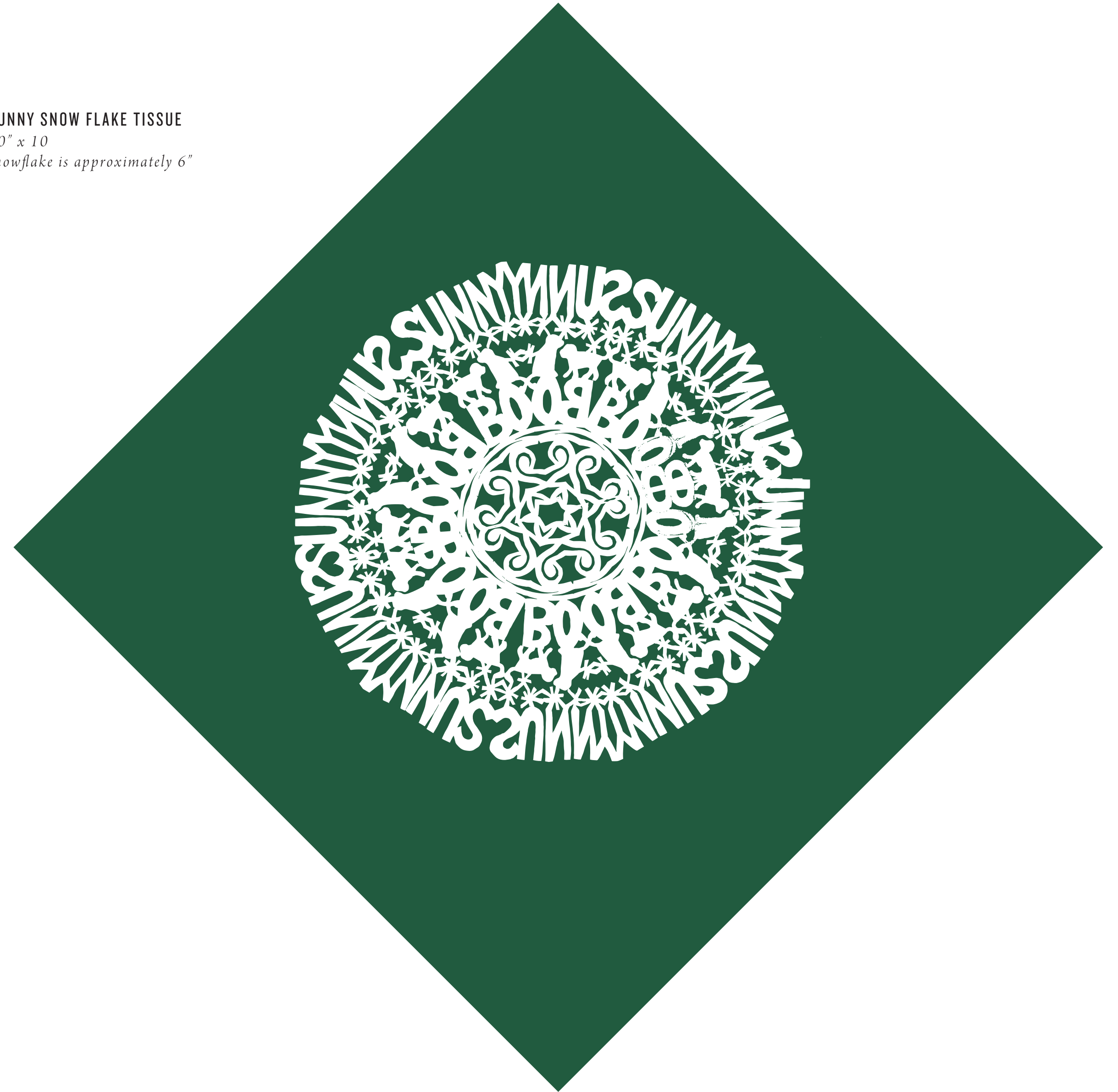


Complete "Sunny flake" example!

BO SNOW FLAKE TISSUE
10" x 10"
snowflake is approximately 6"



SUNNY SNOW FLAKE TISSUE
10" x 10"
snowflake is approximately 6"





THE WHITE HOUSE CHRISTMAS TREE

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia



WWW.EBOOKBAG.ORG

The 2005 Blue Room Christmas Tree

The **White House Christmas Tree**, also known as the **Blue Room Christmas Tree**, is the official indoor [Christmas tree](#) at the residence of the [President of the United States](#), the [White House](#). The first indoor Christmas tree was installed in the White House sometime in the 19th century (there are varying claims as to the exact year) and since 1961 the tree has had a themed motif at the discretion of the [First Lady of the United States](#).

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History



President John F. Kennedy and First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy with the first themed Blue Room tree in 1961.



The 2002 Blue Room Christmas tree.

First tree

The White House had its first Christmas tree in 1889, when Benjamin Harrison was President. Depending on which sources are consulted, the White House never had a Christmas tree until the 1850s or 1889.^[11] There are two claims to the "first" genuine White House Christmas tree. President [Franklin Pierce](#) is said to have had the first indoor Christmas tree at the White House during the 1850s,^[2] variously reported as 1853^[3] or 1856.^[4] Others claim the first tree was during President [Benjamin Harrison](#)'s administration (either in 1888,^[5] 1889,^{[6][7]} or 1891^[2]). First Lady [Caroline Harrison](#) helped decorate the tree, which was installed in the second floor oval parlor today's [Yellow Oval Room](#).^[6] There is an 1880 reference to [President Tyler] in the 1840s hosting a children's party at which there was a Christmas tree with gifts.^[8]

General

Following the [Harrison administration](#) indoor trees were not always used at the White House. First Lady [Lou Henry Hoover](#) began the tradition of presidential wives decorating the White House tree with the first "official" White House Christmas tree in 1929.^[6] In 1961 First Lady [Jacqueline Kennedy](#) began the tradition of selecting a theme for the White House Christmas tree by decorating with a [Nutcracker](#) motif.^[9]

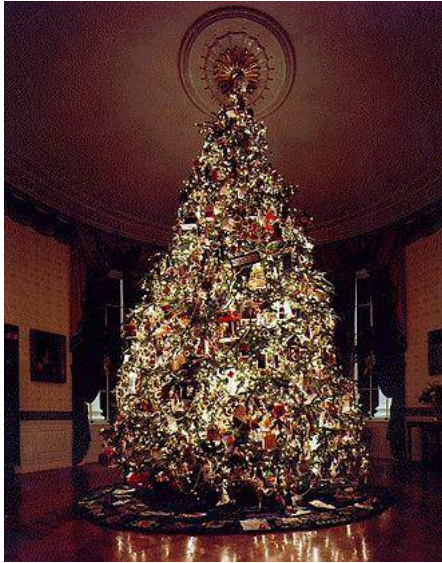
Years without a tree

As stated, there were years where no indoor White House Christmas tree was installed at all. It is verifiable that there was no Christmas tree in the White House in 1902,^[10] 1904,^[11] 1907,^[12] and 1922.^[13] The lack of a tree in 1902 was due to the fact that President [Theodore Roosevelt](#) had not ordered one by December 23.^[10]

Additionally, other presidents never displayed a tree in the White House. First U.S. President George Washington held office at a time when there was no White House, thus it is impossible for him to have displayed a tree there.^[14] There is no evidence that Abraham Lincoln ever

displayed a Christmas tree in the White House.^[15] In 1922 First Lady [Florence Harding](#)'s illness led to a more subdued Christmas celebration at the White House and no Christmas tree.^[13]

Controversy



The 1995 Blue Room Christmas tree – one of its ornaments was a source of political controversy for some.

The official White House Christmas tree has several times been seen as controversial by some. In 1899 the White House of President [William McKinley](#) received letters urging the president to forgo participation in the "Christmas tree habit".^[16] The letter writers, which the *Chicago Daily Tribune* noted had taken up the "forestry fad", referred to "arboreal infanticide", according to the *Tribune*.^[16] Those opposed to a tree in the White House that year also termed Christmas trees "un-American" because it was a historically German tradition.^[16] At least one tree was displayed in the White House that year, in the kitchen department, for the maids.^[16]

The [Nixon administration](#)'s choice of [tree topper](#), the atomic symbol of peace rather than a traditional star, was criticized.^[17] The 1995 Blue Room Christmas Tree sought ornaments made by architecture students from across the United States.^[18] Contest winner Rene Spineto stirred up some controversy when she designed an ornament that depicted two [stockings](#), one marked "Bill" and the other marked "Newt" (in reference to President [Bill Clinton](#) and Speaker of the House [Newt Gingrich](#)).^[18] While the stocking marked "Bill" was filled with candy and presents, the one marked "Newt" was filled with coal.^[18] The Clinton administration hung the ornament on the tree without censorship.^[18]

In his 1998 book *Unlimited Access*, former-FBI agent [Gary Aldrich](#) describes what he claims he saw in the White House during the [Clinton administration](#). The book, published by an established conservative publishing house, [Regnery Publishing](#),^[19] states that the 1994 White House Christmas Tree was decorated with [condoms](#) and [drug paraphernalia](#).^[20] [George Stephanopoulos](#) called the book a "work of fiction";^[19] it has also been called "infamous".^[21]

In 2008 one of the ornaments designed by a [Seattle](#) artist, Deborah Lawrence, was rejected for inclusion on the Blue Room Christmas Tree.^[221] The rejected ornament was a red and white striped 9-inch ball with the words "Impeach Bush" emblazoned on it.^[221] The ornament was the only one of about 370 submitted that was rejected.^[221]

Tree



The 2007 Blue Room Christmas tree arrives by horse-drawn carriage

Description

The White House Christmas tree is selected from various growers nationwide.^[231] [Growers](#) in the state of [North Carolina](#) have provided 11 trees, more than any other state. The states of [Washington](#) and [Wisconsin](#), as of 2011, share the second highest total of trees provided for the White House with seven. The White House Christmas tree has been displayed in the [Blue Room](#) many times since 1961. It has also occasionally been displayed in the [Entrance Hall](#).^{[9][24]}

Generally, there is more than one Christmas tree in and around the White House, for instance, in 1997 there were 36,^[25] in 2008 there were 27.^[26] Traditionally, the tree in the Blue Room is the official White House Christmas tree.^{[25][27]} The White House Christmas tree usually stands nearly 20 feet tall and the crystal chandelier in the Blue Room must be removed for the tree to fit the room.^[27] Frequently, the tree's height is reported as 18^{[28][29]} or 18½ feet tall.^{[30][31]} The Blue Room tree is donated each year by the [National Christmas Tree Association](#) (NCTA).^[27] The NCTA has donated the tree since 1966;^[32] it is chosen through a contest among members of the trade group.^[32]

List of White House Christmas trees (1961–2014)


Image	Year	Species and location grown	Ornamentation notes	First Lady	Location	Theme
	2014	Concolor fir , Lehighton , Pennsylvania ^{[33][34]}		Michelle Obama	Blue Room	
	2013	Douglas fir , Lehighton , Pennsylvania ^{[35][36]}	Ornaments paid tribute to military families. Children living on military bases contributed greeting cards	Michelle Obama	Blue Room	Gather Around: Stories of the Season ^[38]

Image	Year	Species and location grown	Ornamentation notes	First Lady	Location	Theme
	2012	Fraser fir, Jefferson, North Carolina ^[39]	in the shape of their home state. Those were hung from the tree along with round ornaments that silhouetted each state and territory. ^[37] Tree dedicated to U.S. military members, veterans and their families. Ornaments were decorated by children living on U.S. military bases worldwide. ^[40]	Michelle Obama	Blue Room	Joy to All ^[40]
	2011	Balsam fir, Neshkoro, Wisconsin ^[41]	Medals, badges, and patches from all of the military branches were displayed on ornaments. ^[42]	Michelle Obama	Blue Room ^[41]	Shine, Give, Share ^[42]
	2010	Douglas fir , ^[43] Lehighton, Pennsylvania ^[44]	The Blue Room tree had a specific theme within the overall theme – "Gift of the American Spirit." ^[45] It honored state and county fairs and featured prize ribbons from each state and territory. ^[46]	Michelle Obama	Blue Room ^[43]	"Simple Gifts" ^[46]
	2009	Douglas fir, Shepherdstown, West Virginia ^[47]	"We took about 800 ornaments left over from previous administrations, we sent them to 60 local community groups throughout the country, and asked them to decorate them to pay tribute to a favorite local landmark and then send them back to us for display here at the White House." ^[48]	Michelle Obama	Blue Room ^[47]	Reflect, Rejoice, Renew ^[48]







Image	Year	Species and location grown	Ornamentation notes	First Lady	Location	Theme
	2008	Fraser fir, Crumpler, North Carolina ^[49]	Ornaments designed by artists from around the country selected by members of Congress. The ornaments had a patriotic theme. ^[49]	Laura Bush	Blue Room ^[49]	A Red, White, and Blue Christmas ^[49]
	2007	Fraser fir, Laurel Springs, North Carolina ^[50]	Each ornament represented one of the 391 National Park Service sites . ^[24]	Laura Bush	Blue Room ^[24]	Holiday in the National Parks ^[50]
	2006	Douglas fir, Lehighton, Pennsylvania ^[51]	Crystals and ornaments of iridescent glass. ^[51]	Laura Bush	Blue Room ^[51]	Deck the Halls and Welcome All ^[51]
	2005	Fraser fir, Laurel Springs, North Carolina ^[52]	White lilies, crystal spheres and light-catching garland. ^[52]	Laura Bush	Blue Room ^[52]	All Things Bright and Beautiful ^[52]
	2004	Noble fir, Rochester, Washington ^[53]	Musical instruments hand-painted by members of the Society of Decorative Painters . ^[53]	Laura Bush	Blue Room ^[24]	A Season of Merriment and Melody ^[24]
	2003	Fraser fir, Wisconsin ^[54]	Ornaments first used by Barbara Bush in 1989. ^[54]	Laura Bush	Blue Room ^[54]	A Season of Stories ^[54]







Image	Year	Species and location grown	Ornamentation notes	First Lady	Location	Theme
	2002	Noble fir, Elma, Washington ^{[55][56]}	An artist from each state designed an ornament based on a native bird. ^[55]	Laura Bush	Blue Room	All Creatures Great and Small ^[55]
	2001	White fir, Middleburg, Pennsylvania ^[57]	An artist from each state designed miniature replicas of historic houses from their region. ^[57]	Laura Bush	Blue Room ^[57]	Home for the Holidays
	2000	Douglas fir, Auburn, Pennsylvania ^[30]	Ornaments were from the First Lady's past. ^[58]	Hillary Clinton	Blue Room ^[58]	Holiday Reflections ^[58]
	1999	Noble fir, Elma, Washington ^[59]	Doll makers fashioned toys of American historical figures for this tree. ^[58]	Hillary Clinton	Blue Room ^[59]	Holiday Treasures at the White House ^[58]
	1998	Balsam fir, Endeavor, Wisconsin ^[60]	Knitting Guild of America and the Society of Decorative Painters worked together with fabric artists from each state on the ornaments. ^[58]	Hillary Clinton	Blue Room ^[61]	Winter Wonderland ^[58]
	1997	Fraser fir, ^[25] Grassy Creek, North Carolina ^[62]	Members of the National Needlework Association and Council of Fashion Designers of America joined with glass artisans to design the trimmings. ^[58]	Hillary Clinton	Blue Room ^[63]	Santa's Workshop ^[58]








Image	Year	Species and location grown	Ornamentation notes	First Lady	Location	Theme
	1996	Colorado blue spruce , Coshocton, Ohio ^[64]	Woodcraft artisans and professional ballet companies helped with the ornaments. ^[58]	Hillary Clinton	Blue Room ^[64]	Nutcracker Suite ^[58]
	1995	Fraser fir, North Carolina ^[18]	Ornaments contributed by American architecture students and members of the American Institute of Architects . ^[58]	Hillary Clinton	Blue Room ^[65]	A Visit From St. Nicholas ^[58]
	1994	Blue spruce , Missouri ^[66]	Ornaments contributed by American art students. ^[58]	Hillary Clinton	Blue Room ^[58]	The Twelve Days of Christmas ^[58]
	1993	Fraser fir, North Carolina ^[66]	More than 1,000 artists contributed angel-themed ornaments. ^[67]	Hillary Clinton	Blue Room ^[67]	Angels ^[67]
	1992	Grand fir , ^[66] Oregon ^[68]	White House florists made 88 gift-giving characters. ^[69]	Barbara Bush	Blue Room ^[68]	Gift-givers ^[69]
	1991	Noble fir, Salem, Oregon ^[70]	Saintly Stitchers of St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston created a needlepoint village and 92 pieces for a White House staff built Noah's Ark. ^[69]	Barbara Bush	Blue Room ^[70]	Needle work tree ^[69]
	1990	Fraser fir, North Carolina ^[66]	Used miniature porcelain dancers. ^[69]	Barbara Bush	Blue Room ^[24]	Nutcracker Suite ^[69]







Image	Year	Species and location grown	Ornamentation notes	First Lady	Location	Theme
	1989	Fraser fir, Pennsylvania ^[66]	White House staff created 80 soft-sculpture literary characters. ^[69]	Barbara Bush	Blue Room ^[69]	Family literacy ^[69]
	1988	Balsam fir, Montello, Wisconsin ^[71]	Reused hand-blown glass ornaments from the Eisenhower administration , and reused Nixon's state flower balls. White House carpenters made 300 wood candles. ^[72]	Nancy Reagan	Blue Room ^[71]	Old-fashioned tree ^[71]
	1987	Fraser fir, West Virginia ^[66]	Miniature instruments, notes and sheet music made by patients at Second Genesis, drug-treatment program. ^[72]	Nancy Reagan	Blue Room ^[73]	Musical theme ^[72]
	1986	Fraser fir, Washington ^[66]	15 soft-sculpture nursery rhyme scenes and 100 geese made by patients at Second Genesis, drug-treatment program. ^[72]	Nancy Reagan	Blue Room ^[74]	Mother Goose theme ^[72]
	1985	Blue spruce, Michigan ^[66]	1,500 Ornaments made by patients at Second Genesis, drug-treatment program. ^[72]	Nancy Reagan	Blue Room ^[75]	Ornaments made from Christmas cards sent to the Reagans in 1984. ^[72]
	1984	Fraser fir, North Carolina ^[66]	Ornaments made by patients at Second Genesis, drug-treatment program. ^[72]	Nancy Reagan	Blue Room ^[76]	Ornaments made from plant material and other handcrafted natural ornaments. ^[72]







Image	Year	Species and location grown	Ornamentation notes	First Lady	Location	Theme
	1983	Noble fir, Orting, Washington ^[77]	Reused 1982 ornaments and added old-fashioned toys lent by Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum . ^[72]	Nancy Reagan	Blue Room ^[77]	Old-Fashioned toys. ^[72]
	1982	Fraser fir, North Carolina ^[66]	Ornaments made by patients at Second Genesis, drug-treatment program. ^[72]	Nancy Reagan	Blue Room ^[78]	Foil paper cones and metallic snowflakes ^[72]
	1981	Douglas fir, ^[79] Pennsylvania ^[66]	Nancy Reagan's first tree did not involve Second Genesis. The ornaments were loaned by the Museum of American Folk Art . ^[72]	Nancy Reagan	Blue Room ^[72]	Ornaments from the Museum of American Folk Art. ^[72]
	1980	Douglas fir, Bristol, Indiana ^[80]	Dolls, hats, fans, tapestries and laces. ^[81]	Rosalynn Carter	Blue Room ^[82]	Victorian theme ^[81]
	1979	Douglas fir, West Virginia ^[83]	Corcoran School of Art created ornaments from balsa wood , fabric and dried flowers. ^[81]	Rosalynn Carter	Blue Room ^[84]	American folk art of the colonial period ^[81]
	1978	Veitch fir , New York ^[66]	Victorian dolls and miniature furniture lent by the Margaret Woodbury Strong Museum. ^[81]	Rosalynn Carter	Blue Room ^[85]	Antique toys ^[81]







Image	Year	Species and location grown	Ornamentation notes	First Lady	Location	Theme
	1977	Noble fir, Washington ^[66]	National Association for Retarded Citizens made eggshell ornaments. ^[81]	Rosalynn Carter	Blue Room ^[81]	Painted milkweed pods, nut pods, foil and eggshell ornaments. ^[81]
	1976	Balsam fir, Wisconsin ^[66]	Natural ornaments made by the Garden Club of America. ^[86]	Betty Ford	Blue Room ^[86]	"Love that is the spirit of Christmas"
	1975	Douglas fir, New York ^[87]	Used ornaments from 1974 plus experts from Colonial Williamsburg made ornaments from paper snowflakes , acorns, dried fruits, pinecones, vegetables, straw, cookies and yarn. ^[86]	Betty Ford	Blue Room ^[24]	Old-fashioned children's Christmas ^[86]
	1974	Concolor fir, Michigan ^[66]	Ornaments made by Appalachian women and senior citizens groups. ^[86]	Betty Ford	Blue Room ^[86]	Handmade crafts, thrift and recycling ^[86]
	1973	Fraser fir, North Carolina ^[66]	In honor of James Madison ^[88]	Pat Nixon	Blue Room ^[84]	Gold theme ^[88]
	1972	Noble fir, Washington ^[66]	Reused 1969 ornaments, added 3,000 pastel satin finish balls, and 150 gold federal stars. ^[88]	Pat Nixon	Blue Room ^[89]	<i>Still Life with Fruit and Nature's Bounty</i> , paintings by Severin Roesen ^[88]






Image	Year	Species and location grown	Ornamentation notes	First Lady	Location	Theme
	1971	Fraser fir, North Carolina ^[66]	Reused 1969 ornaments, added Monroe fans, and gold foil angels. ^[88]	Pat Nixon	Blue Room ^[89]	American Flower Tree ^[88]
	1970	White spruce, Wisconsin ^[66]	Reused 1969 ornaments, added 53 Monroe fans. ^[88]	Pat Nixon	Blue Room ^[88]	American Flower Tree ^[88]
	1969	Blue spruce, Ohio ^[66]	Disabled workers from Florida made velvet and satin balls featuring each state's state flower. ^[88]	Pat Nixon	North Entrance ^[24]	American Flower Tree ^[88]
	1968	White pine, Indianapolis ^[90]	19th century American style with gingerbread cookies. ^[91]	Claudia 'Lady Bird' Johnson	Blue Room ^[91]	19th century gingerbread tree ^[91]
	1967	Blue spruce, Ohio ^[66]	Same as 1965–66 but with silver baubles, silver stars, and round mirrors added. ^[92]	Claudia 'Lady Bird' Johnson	Blue Room ^[92]	Early American ^[92]
	1966	Balsam fir, Wisconsin ^[66]	Traditional ornaments: nuts, fruit, popcorn, dried seedpods, gingerbread cookies and wood roses from Hawaii. ^[92]	Claudia 'Lady Bird' Johnson	Blue Room ^[92]	Early American ^[92]
	1965		Traditional ornaments: nuts, fruit, popcorn, dried seedpods, gingerbread cookies and wood roses from Hawaii. ^[92]	Claudia 'Lady Bird' Johnson	Blue Room ^[92]	Early American ^[92]

Image	Year	Species and location grown	Ornamentation notes	First Lady	Location	Theme
	1964	Balsam fir ^[93]		Claudia 'Lady Bird' Johnson	Blue Room ^[94]	
	1963		The tree was very subdued as the nation mourned John F. Kennedy's assassination. ^[95]	Claudia 'Lady Bird' Johnson	Blue Room ^[95]	
	1962		Reused ornaments from 1961 plus other ornaments made by disabled and senior citizens. ^[9]	Jacqueline Kennedy ^[9]	North Entrance ^[9]	Childhood ^[9]
	1961	Balsam fir ^[91]	Toys, birds, and angels modeled after Tchaikovsky's <i>Nutcracker Suite</i> ballet. ^[9]	Jacqueline Kennedy ^[9]	Blue Room ^[9]	<i>Nutcracker Suite</i> ^[9]

List of other known White House Christmas trees

This list is incomplete; you can help by expanding it.

Year	Species and location grown	General notes	First Lady	Location	Theme (if any)
1960		"Presents were piled high under the magnificent tree and stretched for yards into the East Room." ^[96]	Mamie Eisenhower	East Room ^[96]	
1959		Of the 26 trees there were trees in the laundry room, the maid's sitting room and David Eisenhower had his own private tree in the children's quarters. ^[91]	Mamie Eisenhower	26 trees throughout the White House ^[91]	
1958		". . . decorated with electric candle lights, glass balls and large amounts of tinsel." ^[97]	Mamie Eisenhower	27 trees throughout the White House ^[97]	

Year	Species and location grown	General notes	First Lady	Location	Theme (if any)
1957			Mamie Eisenhower	East Room ^[98]	
1955			Mamie Eisenhower	East Room ^[99]	
1954		Silver tinsel , Eisenhower grandchildren opened presents under this tree. ^[100]	Mamie Eisenhower	East Room ^[100]	
1947			Bess Truman	East Room ^[101]	
1944		Elliot Roosevelt : ". . . the Christmas tree was in place and decorated, the piles of presents were ready for the unwrapping – each person's pile heaped on a separate chair." ^[11]	Eleanor Roosevelt	Family quarters ^[11]	
1939			Eleanor Roosevelt	East Room ^[99]	
1937		". . . gleamed with snow and silver trimming." ^[102]	Eleanor Roosevelt	East Room ^[102]	
1936			Eleanor Roosevelt	East Room ^[103]	
1934		Multiple trees were installed in the White House, some for public viewing and others for private enjoyment of the Roosevelts. ^[102] A large tree was installed in the White House East Room. ^[104]	Eleanor Roosevelt	East Room ^[104]	
1929		First "official" White House tree. ^[6]	Lou Henry Hoover		
1926		Mrs. Coolidge chose to display three Christmas trees at the White House. ^[105]	Grace Coolidge		

Year	Species and location grown	General notes	First Lady	Location	Theme (if any)
1923	Norway spruce ^[106]	White House had two Christmas trees. ^[106]	Grace Coolidge	Blue Room, and family quarters ^[106]	
1917 ^[107]			Edith Bolling Galt Wilson		
1916			Edith Bolling Galt Wilson	Library ^[108]	The tree was for Wilson's great niece Josephine Cothran. ^[109]
1915		Laden with gifts from members of the family and household. ^[110]	Edith Bolling Galt Wilson	Library	
1914			none	White House library ^[111]	
1912			Helen Taft	Blue Room ^[112]	
1908		The first time there was a tree in the Roosevelt White House that was not attributed to young Archie Roosevelt. ^[113]	Edith Roosevelt		
1905		Tree decorated and set up by Archie Roosevelt , as the only member of the family who had "a fondness" for Christmas trees he distributed the presents "through this medium". ^[114]	Edith Roosevelt		
1903		Tree decorated solely by young Archie Roosevelt. ^[115]	Edith Roosevelt	Living Room (The President's Den) ^{[115][116]} (then Archie Roosevelt's bedroom) ^{[115][116]}	
1896		Decorated with red, white and blue electric lights. ^[117] The decorating was supervised by Mrs. Cleveland and included tinsel ornaments and toys. ^[116]	Frances Cleveland	Library ^[117]	
1895	Cedar ^[118]	Tree featured electric lights. ^[7]	Frances Cleveland	Library ^[118]	

Year	Species and location grown	General notes	First Lady	Location	Theme (if any)
1894		"Beautifully trimmed and decorated". ^[119] Decorated with "tiny parti-colored electric lamps instead of the old-time wax candles." ^[120]	Frances Cleveland	Library ^[119]	
1893			Frances Cleveland	Library ^[16]	
1891			<u>Caroline Harrison</u>	<u>Library</u> ^[121]	
1890		At least one tree was displayed "for the little ones". ^[122]	Caroline Harrison		
1889	Foxtail <u>hemlock</u> ^[123]	Glass balls and pendants, gold tinsel. ^[123] Four-sided-lanterns ^[123] used candles used for lighting. ^[6] Credited as the first White House Christmas tree though the claim is disputed (<u>see above</u>).	Caroline Harrison	<u>Yellow Oval Room</u> ^[6]	
1853 ^[1] or 1856 ^[4]		Decorated for a group of Washington, D.C. school children. ^[124] Credited as the first White House Christmas tree though the claim is disputed (<u>see above</u>).	<u>Jane Pierce</u>		

See also

- National Christmas Tree
- Capitol Christmas Tree
- The Tree at Rockefeller Center
- White House Hanukkah Party

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WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY HOW-TOS: *Flag Wreaths*

The East Landing pays tribute to our Armed Forces and their families. The walls and the tree are adorned with flag-inspired wreaths crafted by volunteers using Styrofoam forms, yarn and felt.



A large flag wreath in the East Landing Room of the White House, December, 2012.

What You'll Need

- Foam wreaths — we used miniature foam wreaths to make ornaments for the tree and larger 14" and 24" foam forms for wreaths hung on the walls.
- Red yarn — satin yarn for the large wreaths and sparkle yarn for the ornaments.
- Blue yarn — satin yarn for the large wreaths and sparkle yarn for the ornaments.
- White yarn — satin yarn for the large wreaths and sparkle yarn for the ornaments.
- White felt
- Star-shaped whole punch
- Scissors
- Glue

MORE ON THE NEXT PAGE...





A miniature flag wreath in the East Landing Room of the White House, December, 2012.

Assembly

1. Begin with white and red yarn
(satin yarn for large wreaths and sparkle yarn for mini wreaths).

Alternate wrapping the white and red yarn around three-quarters of the foam wreaths. Try to do your best to make these sections even in size.

2. Wrap the blue yarn around the remaining one-quarter of the wreath.
3. Make the stars with the white felt and star-shaped whole punch.
4. Using glue, place the felt stars sporadically in the blue area of the wreath.
5. Allow time for glue to dry.

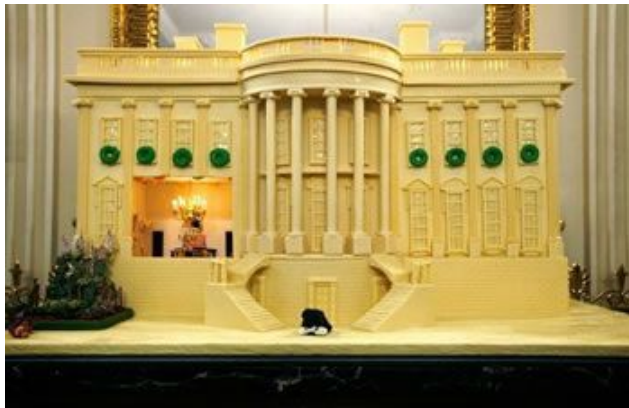




Holiday traditions abound in each family. But, nothing marks the arrival of the holidays more than the smell of gingerbread baking in the oven or decorating a gingerbread house.

Gingerbread arrived in the United States in the early 1700s and has been a staple of American cooking for over 200 years.

However, the White House tradition only began in 1969 when the first gingerbread White House, a simple A-frame rather than the intricate replica of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, was constructed with 16 pounds of gingerbread and six pounds of icing.



Each year, the White House chooses a decorating theme. For this year's theme, First Lady Michelle Obama chose "Reflect, Rejoice, Renew". This year's recreation of the White House took six weeks to make and weighs nearly 400 pounds.

This not-so-miniature version of the White House required 140 pounds of gingerbread and is covered in 250 pounds of white chocolate. Several surprises were included this year, most notably the First Family's beloved dog, Bo, and the White House Garden, both made out of marzipan.

And, if you've always wanted a glimpse into the White House, the pastry chef removed a wall this year and recreated the White House State Dining Room, complete with furniture made out of chocolate.

In 2008, former first lady Laura Bush chose, "A Red, White and Blue Christmas." This is how pastry chef Bill Yosses interpreted the theme for the White House Gingerbread house that year:

And, in 2001, the theme was "All Things Bright and Beautiful".

So, if you aspire to become the White House Pastry Chef, we suggest you start small, making your own gingerbread house at home first!



HOW TO MAKE A SNOW GLOBE

Materials:

Jar with Screw-top Lid	Oil-based Enamel Paint
Distilled Water	Paint Brush
Sandpaper	Clear-drying Epoxy
Glycerin	Holiday Figurines of your choice
Glitter	

1. Paint the lid a seasonal color.
2. Sand the inside of the lid until the surface is rough.
3. With Clear-drying Epoxy, glue the figurine(s) inside the lid and let dry.
4. Fill the jar almost to the top with distilled water, add a pinch of glitter and a dash of glycerin to keep the glitter from falling too fast.
5. Screw on the lid tightly. Turn the jar over and back again.....ENJOY!



WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY HOW-TOS: “BO-HO-HO” CORSAGES & BOUTONNIERES



A finished “Bo-Ho-Ho” corsage and a finished “Bo-Ho-Ho” boutonniere

MATERIALS

Scissors

Hot glue gun & glue

Double-sided clear tape

Satin ribbon

Clothespins

Elastic wristband

Artificial leaves

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut a nine-inch piece of ribbon and line one side along the bottom edge with clear double-sided tape.
2. Start by rolling up two inches of ribbon into a tight coil. Then pinch the remainder ribbon into loops while circling around the middle coil. To build the petals of the flower, fold bigger and bigger loops as you go.
3. Affix the bottom of the flower to the artificial leaves with hot glue. Then, glue the completed bloom to the tip of a clothes pin for a boutonniere, or to an elastic wristband for a corsage.
4. Hot glue a message or name tag to the artificial leaves.

WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY HOW-TOS: BO-QUET FLOWER



A finished Bo-Quet Flower (poinsettia tissue paper flower)

MATERIALS

Red tissue paper

Green tissue paper

Green pipe cleaner

Gold beads for center of flower

Flower wire

Scissors

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Cut red and green tissue paper into eight-inch square pieces.
2. Stack the tissue squares one on top of another.
3. Starting from one side, fold the tissue paper at one inch intervals until the stacked square is completely folded.
4. Make two petal-shaped cuts on each end of the tissue paper.
5. Using floral wire, tie three small gold beads around the center of the folded tissue paper.
6. Attach a green pipe cleaner stem around the beaded center and wrap around the wire stem.
7. Pull apart each layer of tissue paper to create the poinsettia flower.



WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY HOW-TOS: DECORATIVE RIBBON VASE



Patterned fabric made using remnants and recycled ribbon



A finished decorative ribbon vase

DESCRIPTION

Learn how to make a decorative ribbon vase from your own embellished ribbon designs using remnants and recycled ribbon. The embellished ribbon designs can also be used as garlands, decorative container covers, mantel decorations and more!

MATERIALS

Base ribbon

Card stock for pattern

Ribbon for decorative pattern

Scissors

Hot glue gun & glue

A vase

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Create a pattern (e.g., chevron, triangle, polka dot, etc.) using cut pieces of decorative ribbon.
2. Using a hot glue gun, attach the decorative pattern to the base ribbon.
3. Let the fabric cool and settle.
4. Wrap the embellished ribbon around a glass cylinder or cube vase. Holding it in place, finish the ribbon vase by using a few dabs of hot glue or a few boutonniere pins.
5. Fill the containers with seasonal greens and flowers.

WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY HOW-TOS: SPRINGERLE COOKIES

ORNAMENT/DISPLAY COOKIE RECIPE



MATERIALS

FIRM DOUGH:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ½ Tsp baking powder | ½ Cup unsalted softened butter |
| 2 Tbls milk | ½ Tsp salt |
| 6 Large eggs | 2 Lbs sifted cake flour |
| 6 Cups confectioner's sugar | <i>More flour as needed.</i> |

A MOLD OF YOUR CHOOSING

INSTRUCTIONS

Making the Dough:

1. Beat eggs for 3 minutes until blended, but no more.
2. Add soft butter, baking powder, milk, confectioner's sugar, and salt.
3. Add flour on mixer slow speed and finish by hand. Work until dough is stiff enough to make an imprint.

Continuing the Process:

4. Roll out cookie dough to one quarter inch and press into Springerle Mold dusted with flour.
5. Press dough into the mold to make print.
6. Remove, punch a hole in the top of the cookie and dry for 4 days before baking.
Drying preserves the image.
7. Bake at 250°F for 20 minutes. Let cool.
This will prevent the dough from browning during baking.
8. Tie a ribbon through the hole in the top of the cookie to hang in your favorite spot!

WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY HOW-TOS: SPRINGERLE COOKIES

EDIBLE COOKIE RECIPE



A finished Edible Springerle Cookie

MATERIALS

FIRM DOUGH:

- ½ Tsp baking powder
- 2 Tbls milk
- 6 Large eggs
- 6 Cups confectioner's sugar

½ Cup unsalted softened butter

½ Tsp salt

½ Tsp flavored oil

1 Rind of orange or lemon (zest)

2 Lbs sifted cake flour

More flour as needed.

A MOLD OF YOUR CHOOSING

INSTRUCTIONS

Making the Dough:

1. Beat eggs for 3 minutes until blended, but no more.
2. Add soft butter, baking powder, milk, salt, confectioner's sugar, flavoring and zest.
3. Add flour on mixer slow speed and finish by hand. Work until dough is stiff enough to make an imprint.

Continuing the Process:

4. Roll out cookie dough to one quarter inch and press into Springerle Mold dusted with flour.
5. Press dough into the mold to make a print.
6. Remove, punch a hole in the top of the cookie and dry 2 to 24 hours before baking.
Drying preserves the image during baking.
7. For small cookies you may bake as low as 200°F for 15 minutes.

WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY HOW-TOS:
HOLIDAY WREATH
with
ASSORTED DRY FRUITS & SPICES



A finished Holiday Wreath

MATERIALS

4 cups all-purpose flour

1 cup salt

1 ¹/₂ cups warm water

Egg white glue:

In an electric mixer, slowly incorporate 3 ounces of pasteurized egg whites and 4 cups of powdered sugar until it's shiny. Place in a piping bag or a squeeze bottle.

Wreath "Garnishes"

Dried apricots

Rosemary sprigs

Licorice sticks

Pretzel sticks

Freeze-dried berries

Marshmallows

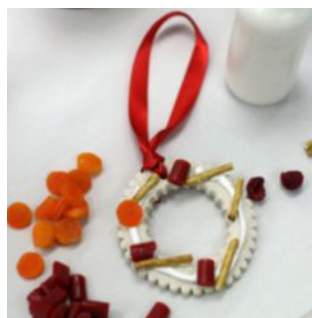
MORE ON THE NEXT PAGE...

TO MAKE THE BASE

1. Preheat the oven to 300°.
2. Mix all the ingredients in a medium-size bowl until well incorporated.
3. Knead for a few minutes until pliable.
4. Form into a ball and roll with a rolling pin to the desired thickness.
Quarter-inch thickness suggested.
5. Cut with a cookie cutter and place onto a parchment-lined cookie sheet.
6. Stamp a small hole on the top for the ribbon.
7. Bake for about an hour and a half or until it's dry.
8. Cool until ready for decorating.

TO ASSEMBLE

1. Lay the wreath form on a paper plate.
2. Lay down a ring of egg white glue.
3. Decorate the wreath with the assortment of fruits and spices.
4. Let dry for a couple of hours.
5. Tie the ribbon through the pre-stamped hole.
6. Hang in your favorite spot!





WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY HOW-TOS:
Star Ball Ornaments

The East Landing of the White House pays tribute to our Armed Forces and their families. Volunteers personalized plain blue glass balls to create our Blue Star ornaments, and you can make them at home using materials found online or at any craft supplies store.



A Blue Star ornament in the East Landing of the White House, December, 2012.

Materials

- Blue ball-shaped ornaments with a matte finish
- Red rhinestones
- Clear rhinestones
- Rhinestone glue
- Rhinestone applicator

Assembly

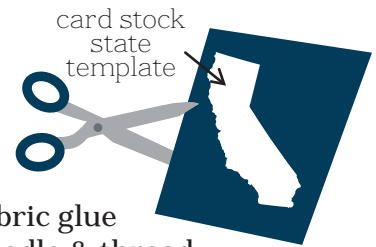
1. Start by applying the inner star with the clear rhinestones and rhinestone glue.
2. Create the outer star with the red rhinestones using rhinestone glue.
3. Allow to dry.



state silhouette ornament

materials:

- embroidery hoop (suggested size 3" - 6")
- printed fabric for background (can repurpose a piece of clothing)
- solid fabric for silhouette (that will show up against background)
- heavy paper or card stock to make a state pattern
- sewing pins
- fabric scissors

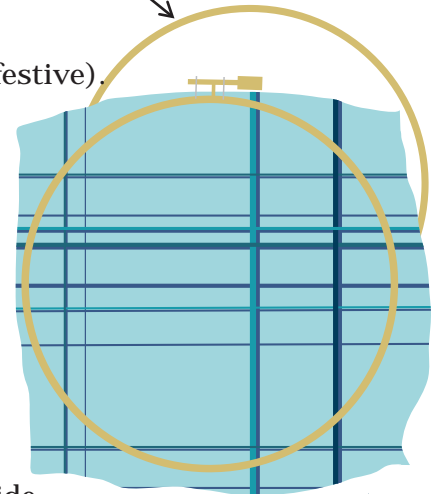


- fabric glue
- needle & thread
- craft paint & paint brush
- ribbon to hang ornament with

assembly:

1. Take your embroidery hoop (making sure it is clear of tags) and paint both rings a fun color. (We've used gold paint to make it feel festive).
2. Set the painted hoop aside on newspaper or wax paper to dry.
3. Print out on card stock the state silhouette you want to make (or any other shape that holds meaning to you). If you need to, use a copy machine to enlarge the shape to the desired size to fit your hoop.
4. Cut out your state silhouette pattern from the card stock. This will be your pattern.
5. Pin your state silhouette pattern to the fabric you have chosen for the silhouette and cut it out carefully. Remove pins and pattern and set aside.
6. Make sure both rings of the embroidery hoop are dry. Take the background fabric you have selected and lay it in the center over the inner circle of the embroidery hoop.
7. Take the larger outer ring of the embroidery hoop and lay it on top of the background fabric. Secure it in place by tightening the pin at the top of the hoop. Be sure to pull the background fabric taut as you tighten the pin. Trim excess fabric from edges.
8. Use fabric glue to secure your state silhouette in place on the background fabric. You can use needle & thread to embellish your state- stitch around the edges or stitch a heart or star on your home town or capital of your home state.
9. Thread the ribbon through the tightening pin at the top of the hoop and tie a knot. Your home made state silhouette ornament is ready to hang somewhere special!

inner circle



state flower ornament

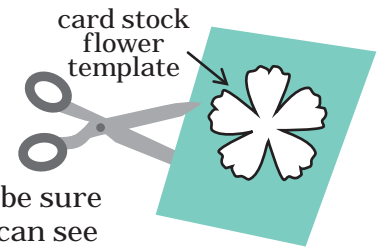
materials:

- felt colors for flower petals
- felt color for leaves
- sewing pins
- fabric scissors
- fabric glue
- needle & thread (to embellish your flower)
- flower patterns
- ribbon to hang ornament with

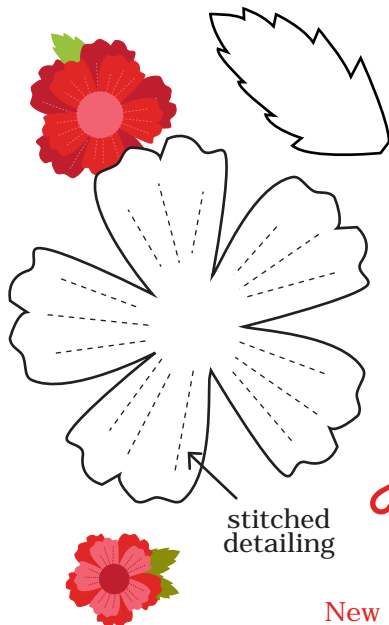


assembly:

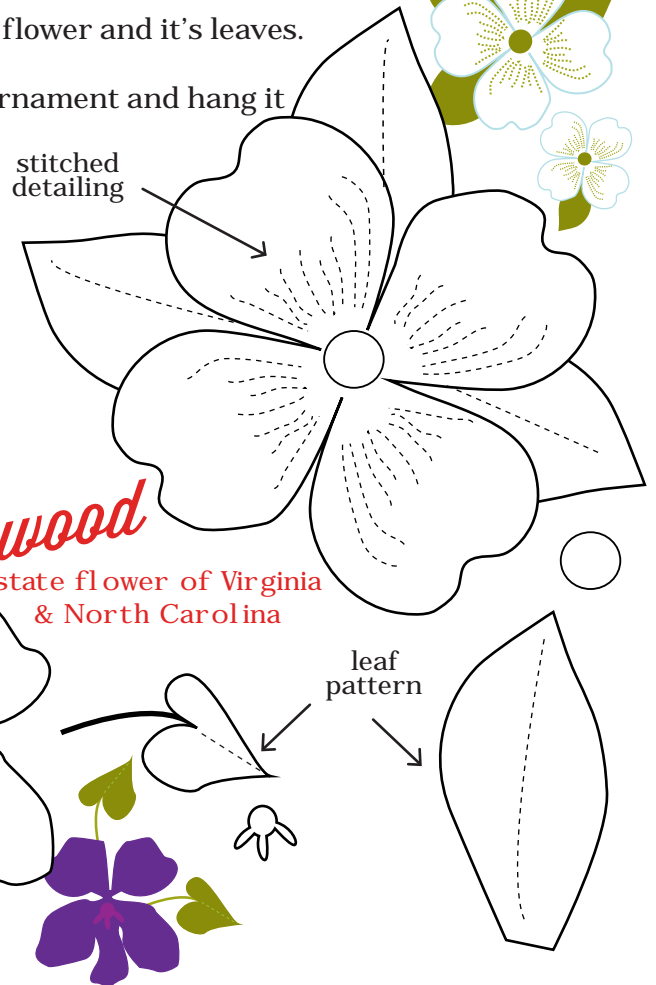
1. Print out the flower patterns you want to make. If you would like to make a larger flower, use a copy machine to enlarge the pattern.
2. Pin the flower pattern onto your felt and cut one of each flower shape.
3. Use fabric glue to adhere your flowers. On flowers with multiple layers, be sure to lay the top flower in a staggered position to the bottom flower so you can see the flower shape on bottom.
4. Cut center shape in a different felt color or use a button to create flower center and glue in middle of flower.
5. Cut (1-3) leaf shapes out depending on what flower you are making.
6. Apply a small drop of glue to front of leaf towards the bottom end. Adhere leaf to back of bottom layer of flower so it looks like leaves are growing out from under the flower.
7. Use needle and thread to add details and embellish each flower and it's leaves.
8. Stitch or glue a piece of ribbon to the backside of your ornament and hang it somewhere special!



Rose
state flower of Iowa,
New York & Oklahoma



Dogwood
state flower of Virginia
& North Carolina



Violet
state flower
of Illinois,
New Jersey & Rhode Island





WHITE HOUSE HOLIDAY HOW-TOS:
Build Your Own Terrarium

The trees in the Green Room are decorated with a variety of handmade miniature terrariums that remind us of the beauty of the outdoors. You can make these eco-ornaments yourself with supplies you can find at any craft or gardening store.

Materials

- Clear Glass Jar
- Stones
- Activated Charcoal
- Soil (potting soil or cacti/succulent soil)
- Plants (of the same type)
- Decorative items



A terrarium from the Green Room of the White House, December, 2012.

Assembly

1. Wash and dry container.
2. Add 1-4 inches of pebbles or stone depending on size of container.
3. Add a thin layer of charcoal.
4. Add enough soil to match size of plant. For example, 2 inches of soil for a 2-inch plant.
5. Create a hole in the soil and place root ball into the hole. Cover with soil and lightly press down.
6. Now have fun! Add moss, crystals, shells, colored rock, colored sand, figurines.

MORE ON THE NEXT PAGE





Tips & Ideas

- Look around the house for any clear glass jar with an opening big enough for planting. Some examples are water pitchers, cookie jars, or apothecary jars.
- Make sure the plants you will be using have the same needs. Succulents with succulents, ferns with ferns for example.
- Plant the larger plants first.
- Do not over crowd plants
- Any pruning should be done before you plant.

Care

- Do not place near a heat source or in direct sunlight.
- Indirect light is best.
- Keep soil moist. Do not over water as that can lead to mold and rotting. If it is a closed terrarium you should rarely need to water.





Shine GIVE Share

HOLIDAYS AT THE WHITE HOUSE 2011



THE WHITE HOUSE VISITOR CENTER

During the holiday season, examples of this year's White House decorations will be on display at the Visitor Center. The Center is located inside the north end of the Department of Commerce building, between 14th and 15th Streets at 1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., and is open from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day. You will find interesting exhibits, tourist information, and helpful staff to answer your questions.

IN APPRECIATION

The White House is grateful to the Executive Residence staff, *agencyEA*, Stephanie Jessica Gilliam, Jami Chiang, Emily Thompson, and the many volunteers from around the country for decorating the White House this holiday season. We greatly appreciate the beautiful artwork for this holiday booklet. The featured illustrations were drawn by high school students Olivia Bruce and Brandon Martinez from the Duke Ellington School for the Arts, and Meta Carr, Mary Elcano, Aidan Elisabeth Fredericks, Eleanor Graves, Annemarie Heekin, Sarah Miller, Erin Schwartz, and Lois Rothman from the Corcoran Gallery of Art and College of Art + Design.

Thanks to the hard work and creativity of those involved, this year's holiday decorations reflect the spirit of service and common values that define our Nation.

Thank you for visiting the White House as we celebrate the countless ways we can lift up those around us, and take time to reflect on the opportunities we have throughout the season to shine, give, and share.

Time and again, our Nation's strength is revealed when we join together in common purpose. This holiday season, we recognize that each of us holds the power to make a difference in our world through service to one another, whether we serve in uniform to protect all that we hold dear, or share our gifts in our classrooms and neighborhoods. Each act of service touches others in ways we may never see, while guiding us toward an ever-brightening future.

May the sparkling brilliance of the People's House, and all it represents, remain with us throughout the year, and may it remind us to reflect the light and joy of this season each day in our service to each other.

We send warm wishes to you and your loved ones for a happy new year.

 *Michelle Obama*





EAST VISITOR ENTRANCE AND LANDING

Our history has been shaped by Americans who have given of themselves to strengthen our Nation, and this holiday season we celebrate this enduring tradition at the White House. Decorated with silver garland and trees adorned with the *Shine, Give, Share* ribbon, the East Wing Lobby captures the warmth of the holidays and welcomes visitors from across our country.

On the East Landing, the Gold Star Families Tree pays tribute to those who gave their lives in service to our Nation and to the families who continue to carry their proud legacy forward. Photos of these fallen heroes and messages from their loved ones honor their courageous service and remind us of the great sacrifices made for our freedom.

As a Nation, we owe a debt of gratitude to these heroes, and to all those who serve our country in uniform. By taking a moment to write a note of thanks to a service member, you can show your appreciation to these remarkable Americans.

GROUND FLOOR
EAST GARDEN ROOM, VERMEIL ROOM, LIBRARY, AND CHINA ROOM

Bright jewel tones, playful paper trees, and colorful felt garland help set the scene for the charming topiary of the First Family's dog in the East Garden Room. Bo, a rambunctious Portuguese water dog, can often be seen throughout the White House, and this holiday season is no different—if you look carefully you can spot Bo in just about every room.

On the Ground Floor, hundreds of delicate handmade snowflakes nestled between copper, bronze, and plum ribbon create an enchanting canopy. In the Library, a room filled with over 2,700 books, there is a display of original and replicated holiday cards, letters, and seasonal memorabilia dating back to the Eisenhower Administration.

The first holiday greeting issued by a President was in 1927, when President Calvin Coolidge had a Christmas message printed in newspapers around the country. President and Mrs. Hoover sent engraved cards bearing the Presidential Seal as thanks for the hundreds of holiday cards and gifts they received during their time in the White House. In 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt sent a Christmas card featuring the White House to staff and friends, and in 1944 he expanded the holiday card mailing list to include Heads of State. President Dwight Eisenhower included Ambassadors, Members of Congress, and Cabinet Secretaries. Today, this tradition continues.



In the Vermeil Room, seasonal greenery trims the mantel and the gilded silver, for which the room is named, shines in the light from the trees in each window. The glowing warmth of this room reminds us of the hospitality and remarkable contributions of all our First Ladies, seven of whom are portrayed in the artwork adorning the walls.

The George W. Bush State China is displayed in the China Room, set for a wonderful holiday gathering in celebration of the time-honored tradition of sharing meals with our families and friends.

EAST ROOM

The East Room, the largest in the White House, has transformed into a wintery scene set with shimmering snowflake ornaments and paper leaves that decorate four Christmas trees.



Since 1835, when President Andrew Jackson created an indoor winter wonderland for children—complete with a cotton ball snowball fight—the East Room has been part of the White House holiday tradition. The first official White House Christmas tree was set up in the East Room in the late 1920s, and during the Franklin D. Roosevelt Administration, the tree sparkled with silver tinsel between the paintings of President George Washington and First Lady Martha Washington that remain in this room today.

GREEN ROOM

Handcrafted, glittering gold and silver trees made of recycled aluminum decorate the Green Room, drawing attention to the timeless elegance of this storied space. Throughout much of its existence, the Green Room has served as a parlor for teas and receptions. President Thomas Jefferson used it as a dining room, and President John Quincy Adams named it the Green Drawing Room in 1825 for the color of the draperies and upholsteries.



BLUE ROOM

The spirit of service and selflessness we see in our troops, veterans, and their families represents what is best about America. Their strength and commitment to our country inspire us all, and this holiday season we celebrate the contributions of these heroes and honor their sacrifice.

The centerpiece of the Blue Room is the official White House Christmas tree—a breathtaking 18-foot-6-inch balsam fir from Neshkoro, Wisconsin—which features holiday cards from military children. Collected from United States military installations around the world, these thoughtful and poignant cards honor their parents serving in uniform. Medals, badges, and patches from all of the military branches are displayed on ornaments, and ribbons inspired by the Armed Forces colors represent the brave women and men who protect our Nation and defend our freedom.

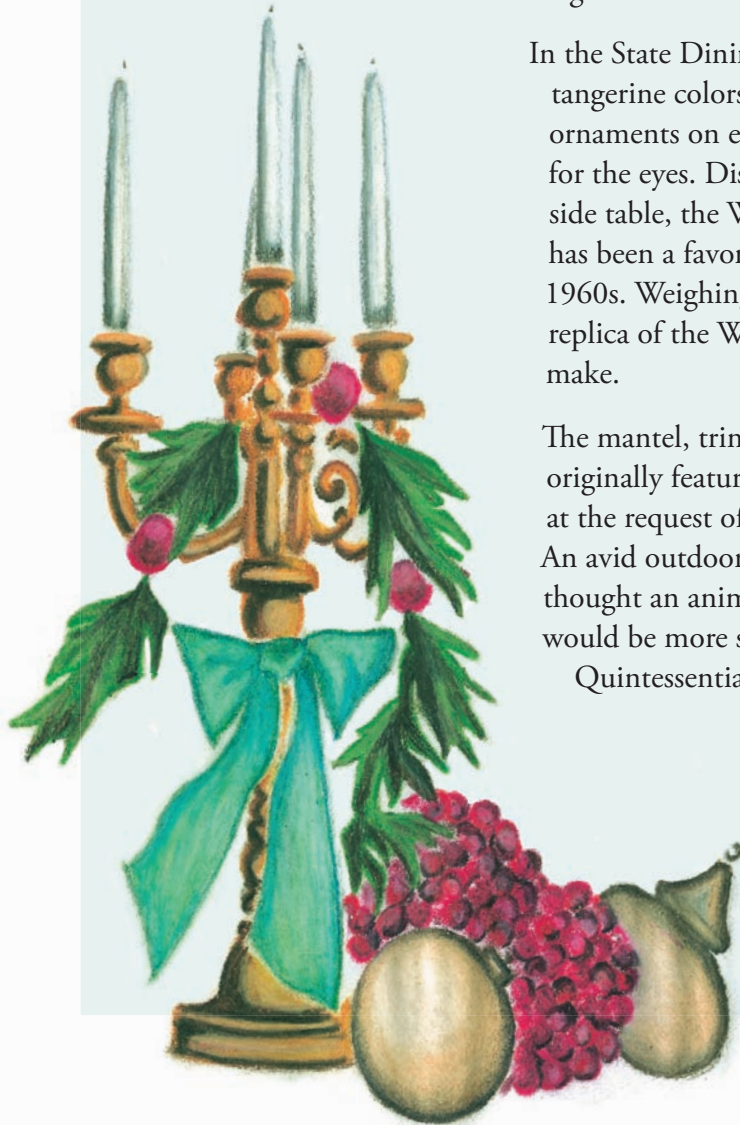
In communities all across our Nation, our service members and their families are heroes living among us. During this season of giving, each American can find ways to support our military families. To connect with service members, veterans, and military families in your community, please visit: www.JoiningForces.gov.





RED ROOM AND STATE DINING ROOM

A lush arrangement of seasonal flowers, fruit, and foliage, set in a handmade cranberry-covered vase, continues the holiday tradition of including cranberries in the Red Room.



In the State Dining Room, vivid coral and tangerine colors, along with shimmering ruby ornaments on each of the trees, offer a feast for the eyes. Displayed on the eagle-pedestal side table, the White House gingerbread house has been a favorite holiday tradition since the 1960s. Weighing 300 pounds, this accurate replica of the White House took six weeks to make.

The mantel, trimmed with frasier fir garland, originally featured lions until it was replaced at the request of President Theodore Roosevelt. An avid outdoorsman, President Roosevelt thought an animal native to the United States would be more suitable for this stately room.

Quintessential American bison now frame the fireplace, which is especially fitting in the very room where Thomas Jefferson and Meriwether Lewis planned the historic Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1802.



More than a century later, President Herbert Hoover was hosting a special holiday party on Christmas Eve for young people in the State Dining Room when a fire broke out in the West Wing. Upon learning of the fire, he directed the Marine Band to strike up a lively tune and rushed out into the frosty night to oversee the removal of important papers from the Oval Office. First Lady Lou Hoover stayed behind to keep the festivities going in the house. President Hoover later invited the children, who had attended the gathering, back to the White House and presented them each with a toy fire truck as a keepsake.





PUMPKIN CAKE

with Orange Cream Cheese Frosting
A recipe from the White House Pastry Kitchen

<i>2 cups all-purpose flour</i>	<i>¼ teaspoon ground cloves</i>
<i>2 teaspoons baking powder</i>	<i>1 ¼ cups dark brown sugar</i>
<i>1 teaspoon salt</i>	<i>4 eggs</i>
<i>2 teaspoons cinnamon</i>	<i>¾ cup vegetable oil</i>
<i>1 ½ teaspoons ground ginger</i>	<i>7 ounces of pumpkin puree (either homemade or from a can)</i>
<i>¾ teaspoon baking soda</i>	<i>¼ cup whole milk, warmed</i>
<i>½ teaspoon nutmeg</i>	

Pre-heat the oven to 340° Fahrenheit.

Sift the flour, baking powder, salt, cinnamon, ground ginger, baking soda, nutmeg, and ground cloves into a large bowl. Put this aside. Whisk together brown sugar and eggs with a mixer. Beat in the vegetable oil and then the pumpkin puree. Add the dry ingredients mixture alternating with the whole milk in three parts. Mix well and scrape the sides and bottom of bowl between each part.

Grease and flour bundt pan.

Bake for about one hour. Let the cake cool in the pan and then turn out onto a cooling rack. For the finishing touch, pour the orange cream cheese icing over the top of the cooled bundt cake.

Makes one cake from a 2 quart bundt pan

FROSTING

<i>1 cup confectioners' sugar</i>	<i>2 tablespoons heavy cream</i>
<i>1 tablespoon orange zest</i>	<i>1 pound cream cheese, room temperature</i>
<i>1 vanilla bean or 2 teaspoons vanilla extract</i>	<i>Pinch of salt</i>
<i>6 ounces butter, softened</i>	<i>½ cup fresh squeezed orange juice, strained</i>

Place cream cheese and confectioners' sugar in bowl and use a mixer until it becomes a smooth cream. If you are using a standing mixer, use the paddle attachment for the best results. Add the softened butter to the bowl. Scrape down the sides and bottom of the bowl with a plastic spatula and then add the orange zest, vanilla bean or extract, heavy cream, pinch of salt and orange juice. Set the frosting aside until you are ready to pour over cake.

ENTRANCE HALL AND CROSS HALL

The season's splendor surrounds the glittering Entrance Hall. Translucent crystal snowflakes drift from the ceiling and silver ornament clusters dangle from the trees, bringing to mind the beauty of a winter landscape and encouraging us to give thanks for nature's simple inspirations.

Music fills the air, and the magnificent grand piano, with gilded scenes of American music and dance, reminds us of our proud cultural traditions and the countless holiday melodies shared over the years in this great hall.





Create your own "East Garden Room" Mini-Tree

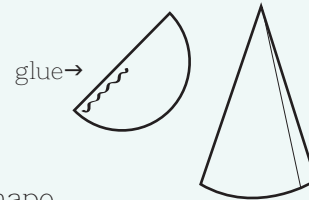
Materials:

8 1/2" x 11" text weight paper:
2 sheets of bright green
1 sheet of dark green
1 sheet of a bright, contrasting color

scissors
glue stick
pencil
1 toothpick (optional)

Assembly:

1. Download the half-circle template from:
<http://WhiteHouse.gov/2011HolidayTour>,
and cut it out from the bright green paper.



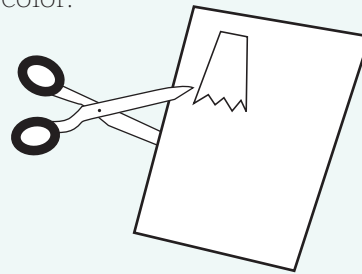
2. Apply glue to one edge and roll into a cone shape.

3. Using the leaf template, trace and cut 15 leaves in dark green, 10 in bright green and 4-6 in a bright color. Using the tree top template, trace and cut 5 tree tops in bright green and 1-2 in the bright color.

leaf
template →



tree top
template →



4. Starting from the bottom of the cone, glue the leaves around the cone layering the leaves as you go up. Our sample shows bright colors under a few leaves with edges rolled up a little for the color to peek through. Continue layering until you reach the top of the cone. On the top layer, use the tree top pieces to complete the tree.

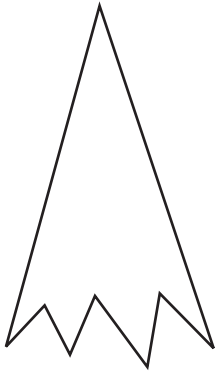


5. Optional tree topper: Cut 2 small stars out of the colored paper of your choice. Glue stars on either side of a toothpick and poke through top of the tree.

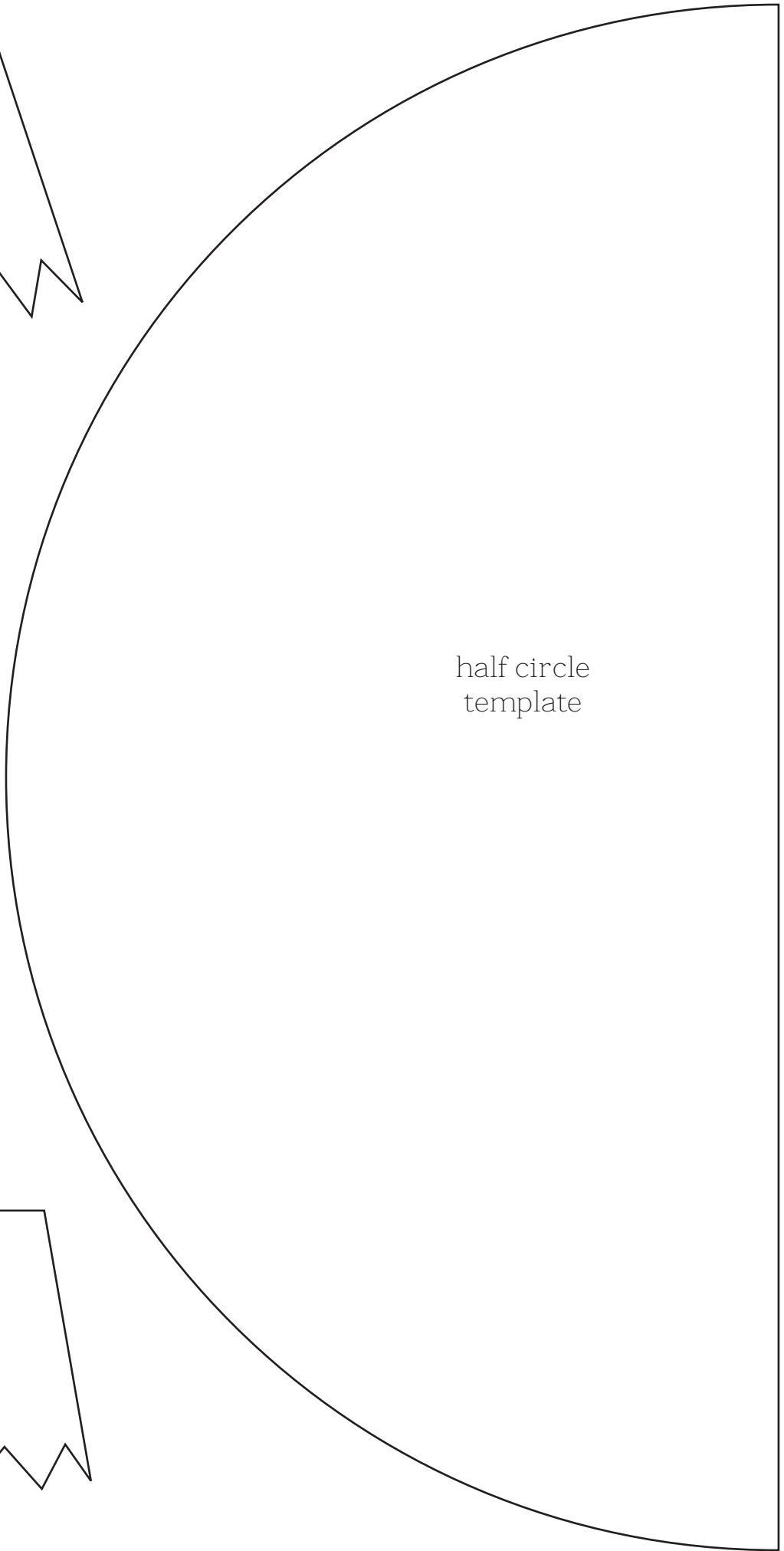


toothpick →

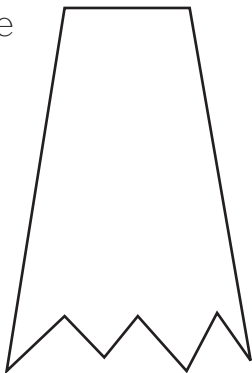
tree top
template

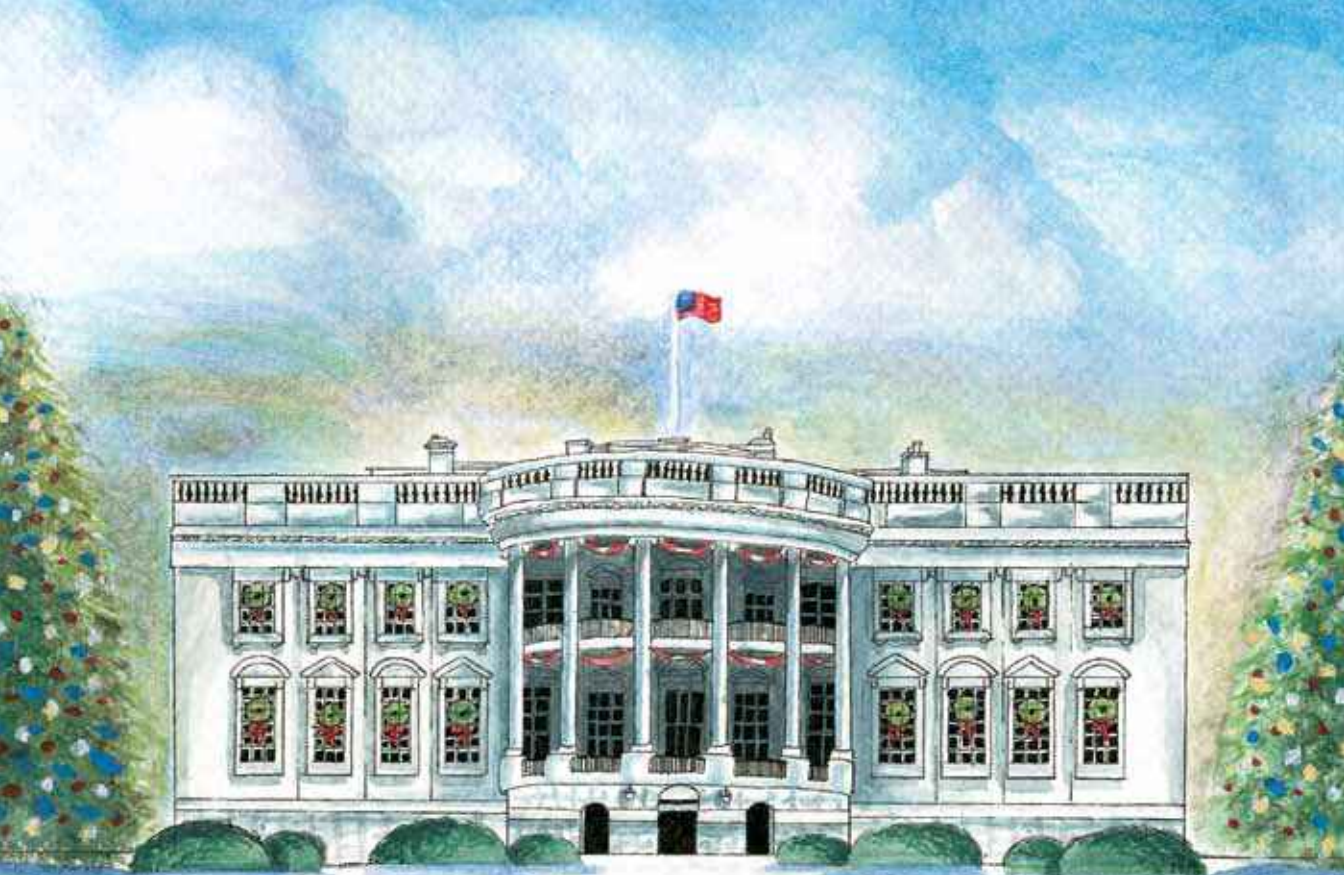


half circle
template



leaf
template





JOY^{to}ALL

HOLIDAYS AT THE WHITE HOUSE 2012





Thank you for visiting the White House. Our family is so pleased you could join us as we take time to share in the many joys of the holiday season. This year at the White House, we celebrate the traditional holiday festivities that fill our hearts with warmth and cheer.

Each year, the holidays remind us of the many blessings we experience over the course of our lives, from the simple pleasures of laughing and sharing our meals with friends and family to the fulfillment that comes from giving back and serving others. May we all carry forth the spirit of the season and take time to lift up others in our homes and communities—not only during this special time, but also throughout the year.

We hope the decorations and time-honored traditions you see in the White House bring you the same joy they bring our family. We send our warmest wishes to you and your loved ones for peace and happiness in the New Year.

 Michelle Obama

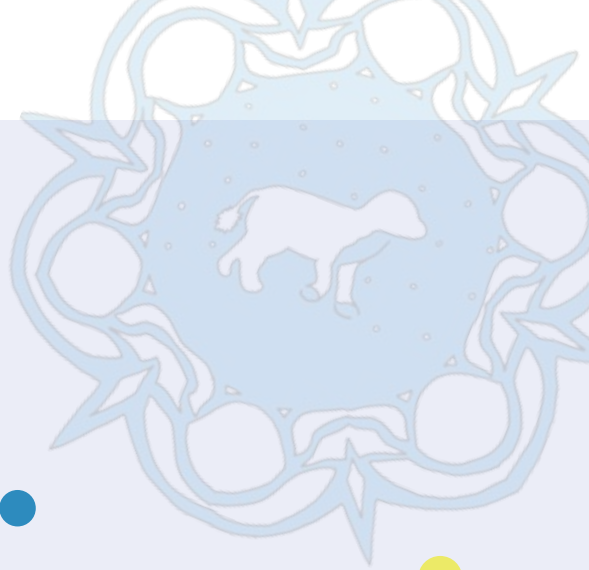


EAST VISITOR ENTRANCE AND LANDING

The White House, or as it is often known, the People's House, is a place where visitors from all across our country and around the world can come together to share in the storied history of the United States of America.

The entrance to the East Wing of the White House celebrates the joy of welcoming guests into the home. Wreaths covered with festive snowflakes line the walkway to the visitors' entrance, while old-fashioned lanterns and flickering candles light the way to the threshold of the Residence.

The East Landing pays tribute to our Armed Forces and their families. Wreaths crafted with red, white, and blue yarn adorn the walls, and a Christmas tree decorated with festive ornaments completes the space. Every day, we are grateful for the courageous service of our troops, veterans, and their families, and in the spirit of the season, we take time to honor their countless contributions to our Nation. Operation Honor Cards are displayed, and we invite you to take the time to fill out a card and pledge to serve your community in honor of our military families, service members, and veterans. You can also write a note of thanks to these brave men and women, and we welcome you to send the spirit and joy of the holidays to those who sacrifice so much for our country.



EAST GARDEN ROOM

The East Garden Room is a children's wonderland! The room is filled with vibrant colors and wreaths made of gingerbread. A life-size replica of Bo, the First Family's Portuguese water dog, is the centerpiece of the room, and handmade "Boflakes" hang from the trees.

THE LIBRARY

The Library is decorated in classic red and green tones. On display are replicas of holiday cards and notes from past Administrations. Sending warm tidings in the form of holiday cards is a long-standing American tradition—one our past Presidents and First Families have carried forward with their own distinct touches. Today, the Library is home to 2,700 books, but prior to a renovation in 1935, the room served as a laundry room and a gentlemen's waiting room.



CHINA ROOM

In the China Room, the Truman China is set to illustrate the joy of families sitting down to enjoy a holiday dinner. This set was selected by First Lady Bess Truman in 1951 and is the first state china service to feature the Presidential Coat of Arms as redesigned by President Harry Truman in 1945. Following the end of World War II, President Truman issued an Executive Order to standardize the Presidential Seal. The Coat of Arms was modified so that the eagle faces to its right, the direction of honor, and also toward the olive branch, a symbol of peace, rather than toward the arrows which represent war.



VERMEIL ROOM

The timeless elegance and grace of our Nation's past First Ladies can be felt in the Vermeil Room, where we pause to celebrate the joy of giving. Lovely presents large and small, wrapped with care, remind us of the fulfillment we experience when we give of ourselves to others around us. Given to the White House by philanthropist Margaret Thompson Biddle in 1958, the 1,575-piece vermeil silver collection represents the spirit of generosity.





EAST ROOM

Decorations evoking our country's proud artistic heritage festoon the East Room, where we take time to marvel at the joy of American folk art. Over the course of our history, folk artisans have delighted Americans young and old with the scenes and stories depicted in their work. This year, creative traditions central to our cultural identity are represented in every corner of this historic space—from the handcrafted wooden ornaments on each of the trees to antique paintings and needlework on display.

GREEN ROOM

In the Green Room, wintertime's serene splendor surrounds us as we reflect on the joy of the winter garden. Miniature terrariums dangle from the trees and remind us of the beauty of the outdoors. President Theodore Roosevelt—one of our Nation's most ardent and effective conservationists—would not allow trees to be cut down for use in the White House during the holidays. Not to be deterred, his vivacious children snuck a small tree into the house, which they secretly decorated with twinkling white lights with the help of a staff electrician. Imagine President Roosevelt's surprise on Christmas morning when the tree was finally revealed!



BLUE ROOM

The history of our Nation has been shaped by the brave men and women who have devoted themselves to protecting our country. The troops, veterans, and military families who serve our country with pride represent what is best about America, and this holiday season, the Blue Room pays tribute to their courageous service.

By contributing ornaments they decorated themselves, military children living on U.S. Military Bases all over the world helped trim the official White House Christmas tree—an enchanting 18-foot-6-inch Fraser Fir from Jefferson, North Carolina. These one-of-a-kind ornaments honor their parents' commitment to service.

As a Nation, we must serve these brave members of our American family, as well as they have served this country. To join in the spirit of service and connect with members of our armed forces, veterans, and their families in your community, please visit:

WWW.JOININGFORCES.GOV







RED ROOM

In the early 19th century, First Lady Dolley Madison used this room to receive visitors during her famous Wednesday-evening receptions. At that time, the fabrics throughout the room were a bright sunflower yellow; in fact, the famous red color scheme was not adopted until 1845.

In honor of its current red hue, the room is customarily decorated with cranberries—and the tradition continues this year with a cranberry, peppercorn, and billy ball flower-covered vase holding a festive floral arrangement. As a tribute to Mrs. Dolley Madison and its former golden shade, lemon topiaries are on display to provide cheerful pops of yellow throughout the room. Christmas trees frame the space and a colorful garland of crimson cranberries and sunny lemons adorns the mantel.



STATE DINING ROOM

The State Dining Room—a site for official dinners and diplomatic receptions—is filled with vibrant holiday tones. The 300-pound gingerbread house on display is a favorite for children and parents alike and has been a popular holiday ritual at the White House since the 1960s. Brightly colored stained glass covers the bay windows, and seasonal garland frames George P. A. Healy's famous portrait of President Abraham Lincoln.



GINGER CRINKLES

A recipe from the White House Pastry Kitchen

8 oz. (2 sticks) butter, room temperature

1 ½ cups packed brown sugar

2 whole eggs

⅓ cup molasses

2 tsp fresh ginger, grated

3 cups all-purpose flour

1 tsp baking soda

pinch of salt

1 tsp dried ginger

1 tsp cinnamon

¼ cup granulated sugar (for dipping)

1. Preheat oven to 350°.
2. Beat butter and brown sugar in large mixing bowl until creamy.
3. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.
4. Add molasses and fresh ginger.
5. Combine flour, baking soda, ground ginger, cinnamon, and salt in a small mixing bowl.
6. Add the flour mixture to large mixing bowl, and stir until combined.
7. Use a small spoon to scoop cookies into small balls, dip in ¼ cup of granulated sugar, and place on parchment-lined baking sheet sugar side up.
8. Bake at 350° F for 12 minutes, or less if you like them chewy.
9. Remove from oven and allow cookies to rest for 2 minutes before removing from cookie sheet.

Yields 30-36 cookies.



ENTRANCE HALL AND CROSS HALL

The North Entrance and Cross Hall create a warm atmosphere for White House visitors. Garland cascades down the Grand Staircase, greenery wraps the columns, and festive wreaths cover the windows overlooking Pennsylvania Avenue. Four trees are decorated with a collection of iconic ornaments that best represent the holiday legacies of former First Ladies.

This space is designed to celebrate and pay tribute to past White House holidays and the rich heritage of celebrations, traditions, and styles that have evolved over the years. The custom of selecting an official holiday theme began in the 1960s, when First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy created a Nutcracker-themed Christmas for her daughter, Caroline. The tradition has been honored for over 50 years with such themes as Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson's "Early Americana," Mrs. Patricia Nixon's "Season of Gold," Mrs. Betty Ford's "Homespun Christmas," Mrs. Rosalynn Carter's "Classic American Christmas," Mrs. Nancy Reagan's "Old Fashioned Christmas," Mrs. Barbara Bush's "Christmas in Storyland," Mrs. Hillary Clinton's "Winter Wonderland," and Mrs. Laura Bush's "Red, White, and Blue Christmas."



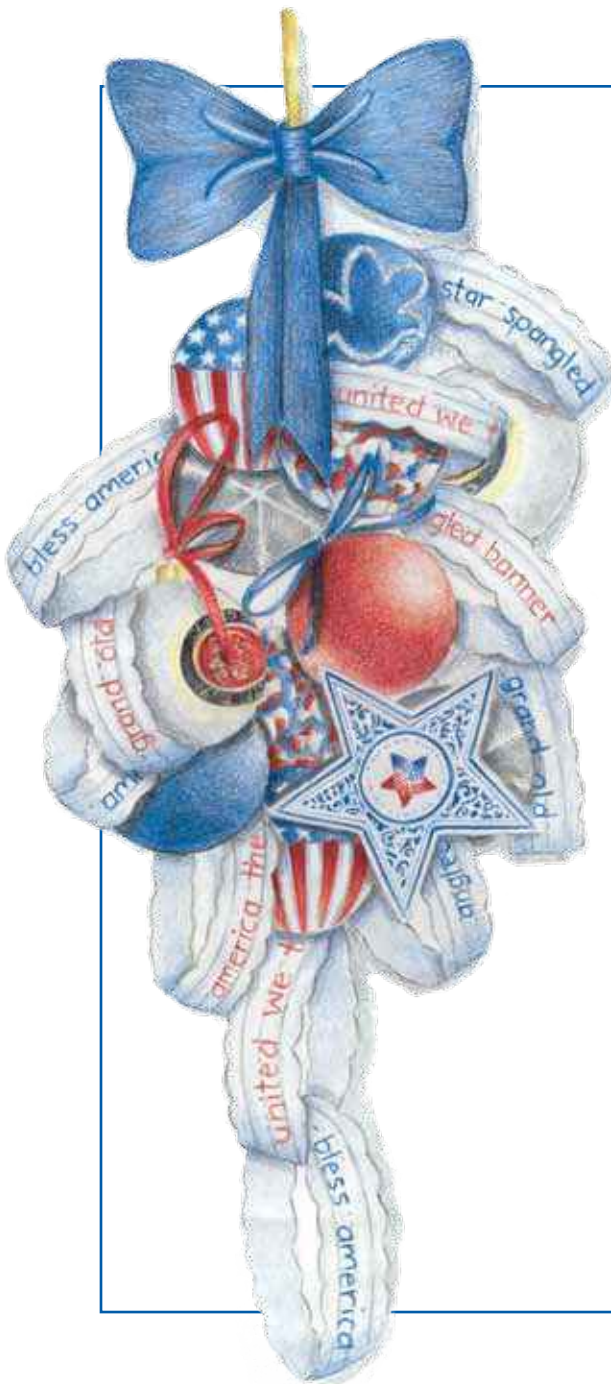
HOW TO MAKE A SNOW GLOBE

Materials:

Jar with Screw-top Lid	Oil-based Enamel Paint
Distilled Water	Paint Brush
Sandpaper	Clear-drying Epoxy
Glycerin	Holiday Figurines of your choice
Glitter	

1. Paint the lid a seasonal color.
2. Sand the inside of the lid until the surface is rough.
3. With Clear-drying Epoxy, glue the figurine(s) inside the lid and let dry.
4. Fill the jar almost to the top with distilled water, add a pinch of glitter and a dash of glycerin to keep the glitter from falling too fast.
5. Screw on the lid tightly. Turn the jar over and back again.....ENJOY!

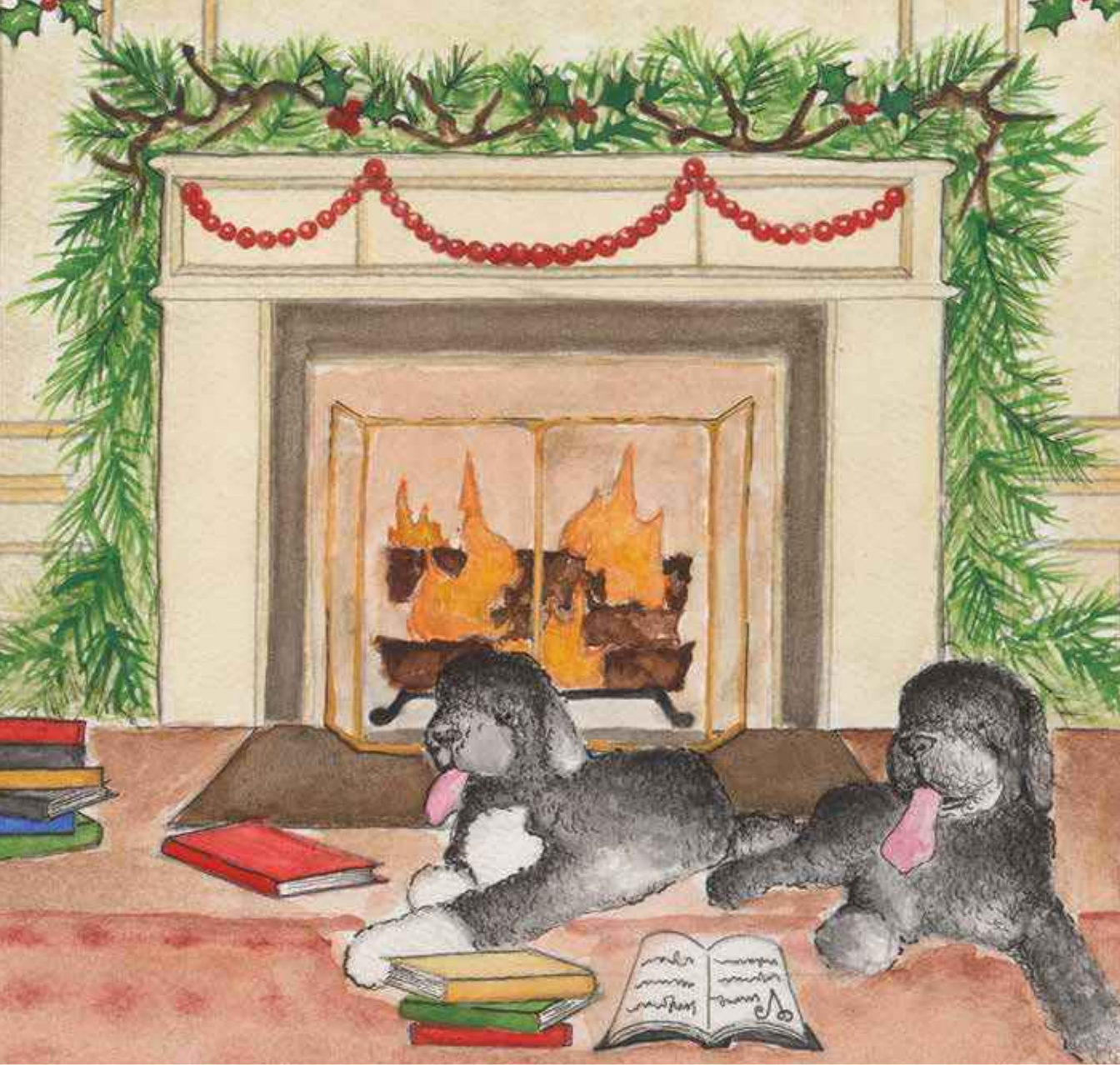




IN APPRECIATION

The White House is grateful to the Executive Residence staff, *agencyEA*, and the many volunteers from across our country for preparing and decorating the White House this holiday season. We greatly appreciate all of the hard work of the students from the Duke Ellington School for the Arts who created the artwork for this holiday booklet. The featured illustrations were drawn by Diona Boler, Rhythm Bowers, Evelyn Cahall, Darius Moreno Dozier, Zoe Gatti, Massiel Estefany Gonzalez, Adela Guterrez, Glenda Gutierrez, and Nathaniel Oliver.





Gather Around

HOLIDAYS AT THE WHITE HOUSE 2013





Thank you for visiting the White House! We are delighted to welcome you as we gather around and celebrate the stories and traditions that bring us together at this special time of year.

As members of one American family, we are united in a story built over the course of two centuries. The holidays are a wonderful opportunity to recall our Nation's journey, to reflect on the blessings we enjoy and the trials we weather, and to remember those who serve and sacrifice for our freedoms. It is a season when each of us can do our part to care for one another—whether by volunteering, offering a kind word to a stranger, or opening our hearts to someone in need.

May you be inspired by your visit to the “People’s House,” where you will discover festive decorations and rich tales, and may we all carry the spirit of the season with us throughout the New Year. Our family wishes you and your loved ones the very best, and we hope your holidays are filled with joy and peace.

 *Michelle Obama*

EAST VISITOR ENTRANCE AND LANDING

The outer walls of the White House's East Wing are decorated with lush garland and gleaming gold vines; flickering lanterns encourage guests to gather inside the entry way of the "People's House." Overhead, chandeliers are covered in fresh greenery and dangling ornaments, while the pillars are decorated with a red berry and gold-and-green leaf design.

The first tree within the walls of the White House pays tribute to the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces. Decked in red, white, and blue ornaments, it proudly sits on the East Landing of the East Wing. To honor our Gold Star Families, who have lost a loved one serving in the military, ornaments in the shape of stars hang from the tree's branches. These small tokens of remembrance represent the brave service members who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country and serve as a constant reminder that our fallen heroes, and their families, will never be forgotten.



EAST COLONNADE

Peek out the floor-length windows and past the stained glass wreaths to the Jacqueline Kennedy Garden; there stands another Christmas tree wrapped in twinkling lights perched atop a scarlet sleigh. A hand-made ruby and jade archway, composed of satin ribbon and chenille stems, leads to a room dedicated to celebrating the joy of being a child during the holiday season.



EAST GARDEN ROOM

Imagination runs wild in the East Garden Room, where the magic of the season transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary. Books morph into stunning Christmas trees, and their pages become unique works of art. On the east wall of the room, black and white ribbons intertwine to bring replicas of First Dogs Bo and Sunny to life. If you watch closely, you might even catch the Portuguese Water Dogs wagging their tails!



VERMEIL ROOM

The glow of gilded silver brightens the portraits of First Ladies gracing the walls of the Vermeil Room, and rings draped in pink and cream satin give the room a wintry flair. A festive arrangement of purple roses and hydrangeas complements the décor, adding a touch of natural elegance to the space. Since the Nixon Administration, this area has been a sitting room. In ages past, it served as a storeroom, dressing room, office, and billiard room.



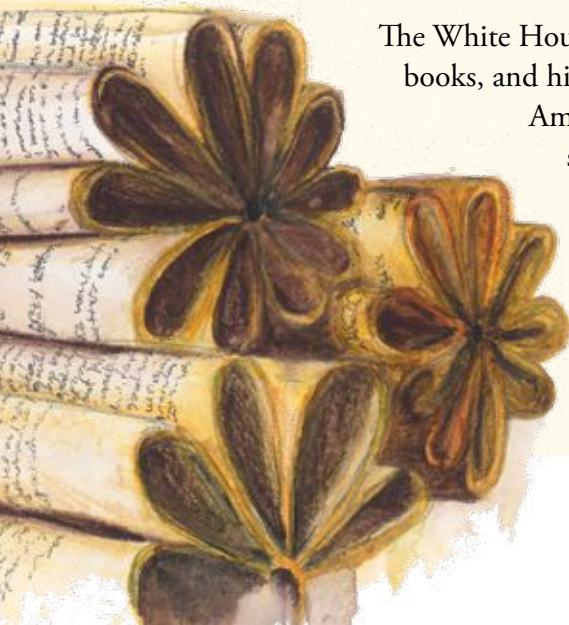
CHINA ROOM


Dangling crystal ornaments decorated with greenery and berries hang from the tree, and candles placed atop vermeil candlesticks shimmer on the mantelpiece. Though the tradition of commissioned White House China began in 1817, it was not until decades later that First Lady Caroline Harrison began cataloguing and displaying the china services associated with previous First Families. Years afterward, First Lady Edith Wilson established this room as the China Room.

LIBRARY

The White House Library is home to 2,700 books, and highlights the long-standing American tradition of sharing stories with family and friends.

Reading holiday classics is a ritual that First Families, like families across our country, have enjoyed for generations. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, our country's 32nd President, read

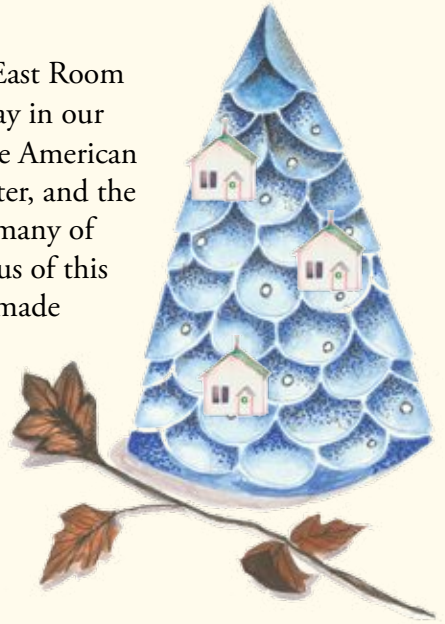




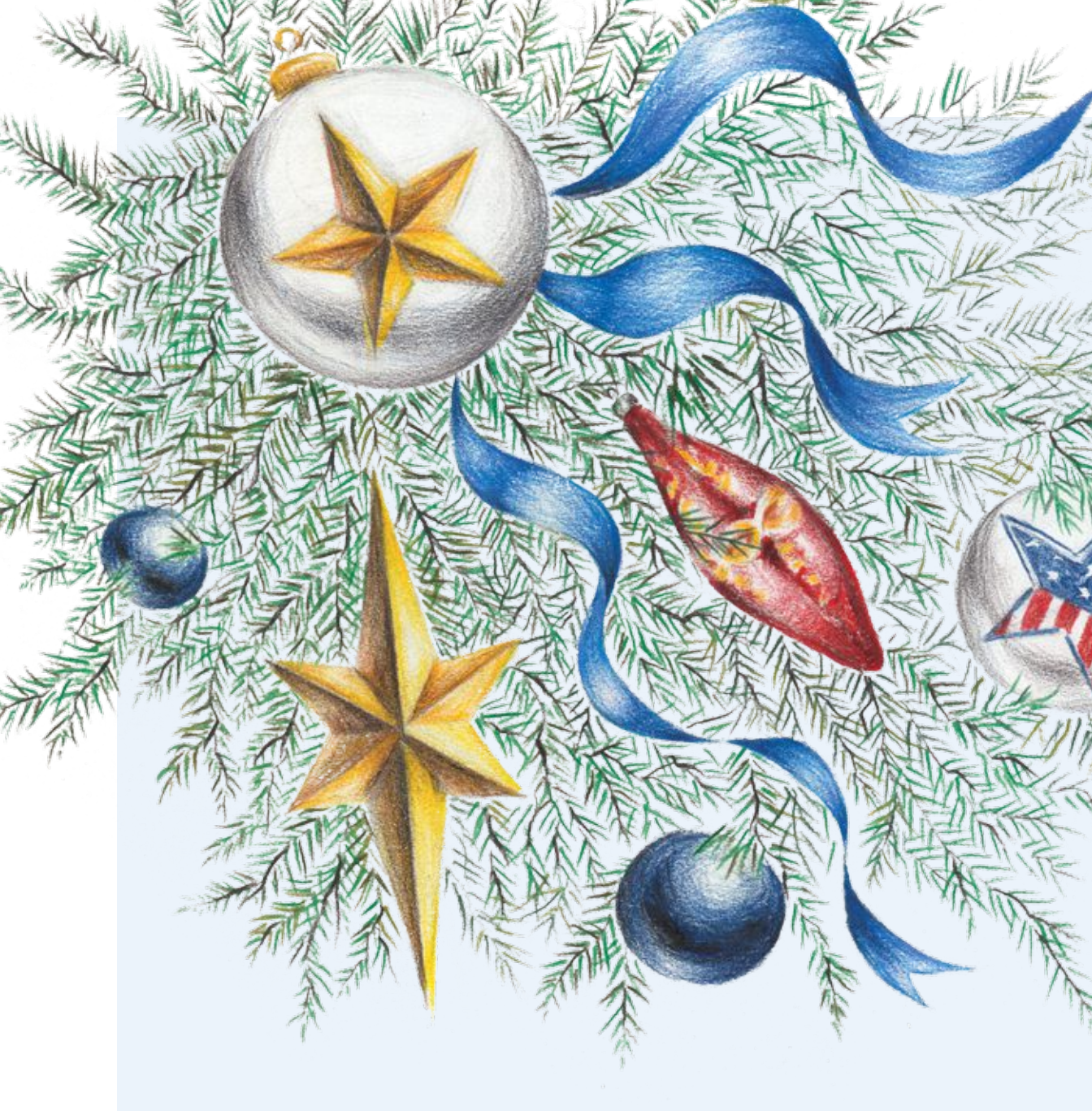
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens to his family every Christmas. And today, First Lady Michelle Obama visits patients at the Children's National Medical Center every year to read holiday favorites such as *T'was the Night Before Christmas*.

EAST ROOM

The largest room on the State Floor, the East Room pays tribute to the special role the arts play in our country's history. The arts both reflect the American spirit and help shape our national character, and the decorations throughout the East Room, many of which were made by volunteers, remind us of this cornerstone of American culture. Hand-made cardboard houses decorate the four grand trees spread throughout the room. Brightly colored finial ornaments and painted pinecones are nestled in the trees, while fresh green garlands line the mantelpieces and door frames. Wreaths hang over the mirrors reflecting the famous paintings of President George Washington and First Lady Martha Washington.



On the wall of the East Room sits the White House crèche. The crèche has been a part of the White House holiday décor since it was given by the Engelhard Family during the Johnson Administration in 1967. Originally from Naples, Italy, the Baroque-style set consists of 44 terracotta and wood figures, some over 300 years old.



A blue ribbon flows across the top left. Below it, green pine branches are visible, with a round ornament featuring a blue star and red and white stripes. The background is a light blue gradient.

GREEN ROOM

Flower ornaments, sugared fruits, and lush foliage convey the beauty of nature in the Green Room, accenting the oldest piece of architecture found inside the White House: a marble mantel installed in 1819. Originally placed in the State Dining Room, this magnificent mantelpiece moved to the Green Room when President Theodore Roosevelt renovated the White House in 1902. Multiple administrations have worked to ensure this room and its furnishings portray the Federal style reminiscent of our Nation's early days.

THE BLUE ROOM

At the heart of the White House lies the Blue Room. This oval room is home to the official White House Christmas Tree, and this year's tree, like many in years past, features decorations honoring our military families. Children, living on bases across our country, created holiday greeting cards made in the shape of their home state. These unique decorations, along with round ornaments featuring the silhouettes of each state and territory, hang from the tree's majestic branches. Red, white, and blue ribbon trim the 18-foot-6-inch Douglas-fir from Lehighton, Pennsylvania.

Through long deployments and frequent moves, our service members and their families remain our country's most resilient patriots, and, as the decorations remind us, these brave Americans come from every corner of the United States. As a Nation, we have an obligation to serve our military families as well as they serve our country. To send a message of thanks, share your family's story of service, or get involved in your community, please visit:

WWW.JOININGFORCES.GOV

THE RED ROOM

The final parlor room on the State Floor is the Red Room. Embroidered satin ribbons cascade down the two trees, painted nutcrackers accent side tables, and stained-glass wreaths adorn windows overlooking the South Lawn. During the Roosevelt Administration, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt used the room to host the first of many gatherings for women reporters who at that time were excluded from the President's press conferences.

For many years, the Red Room has been home to the traditional White House cranberry tree. In keeping with this custom, a vibrant crimson and plum-colored flower and fruit vase—made entirely of sugar paste—contains a one-of-a-kind arrangement of scarlet and fuchsia flowers and cranberries.





STATE DINING ROOM

George P.A. Healy's iconic portrait of President Abraham Lincoln hangs in the State Dining Room, where timeless decorations like wreaths, ribbons, and snowflakes evoke memories of the first Christmases observed within these walls.

In 1800, President John Adams was the first leader to step inside the newly built White House. Shortly after his arrival, President Adams penned a moving letter to his wife, Abigail, who was still living in New England: "I pray Heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this House, and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof." Over 200 years later, his inspired words form the centerpiece of the State Dining Room's mantel.

The State Dining Room is also home to the famous gingerbread house. Over the course of several weeks, members of the White House pastry team work diligently to perfect every detail of the 300-pound, edible White House replica. This year, the gingerbread house rests on a custom-made hearth fashioned from Springerle Cookies. These sweet treats tell stories through images imprinted on their dough by hand-carved, wooden molds. Framing the opening of the hearth are sugar paste recreations of the tiles commissioned for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's fireplace. The act of gathering around a fireplace reminds us of President Roosevelt's famous "fireside chats," which lifted the spirits of Americans during a time of great trial.

PINECONE CANDLE

MATERIALS:

- 3 inch glass votive candle
- pinecones (you can buy scented pinecones from your local crafts store, or use a dry pinecone that you have found outdoors)
- masking tape
- hot glue/hot glue gun
- glitter spray (optional)
- clippers and/or pliers

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Wrap the glass votive in masking tape to provide a protective layer.
2. Using clippers and/or pliers, cut the pinecone scales from the pinecone, creating enough material to cover the entire surface.
3. Starting at the top of the votive, glue a row of pinecone scales around the perimeter.
4. Continue gluing rows in an overlapping fish-scale motif until the entire votive has been covered.

Optional: Spray the finished piece with glitter spray to add sparkle.



ENTRANCE HALL AND CROSS HALL

Decorations that represent our Nation's heritage drape the North Entrance and Cross Hall. Celebrating the holiday season with guests from across our country and around the world has been a White House tradition since the 1800s.

On January 1, 1863—one of the most historic days in our Nation's history—President Abraham Lincoln welcomed thousands of visitors to the White House for a New Year's Day reception before he signed the Emancipation Proclamation. After shaking thousands of hands, he went upstairs to sign the momentous document. Fatigued from greeting so many guests, the President's right hand trembled as he went to sign. President Lincoln knew that a jittery signature would make it appear as though he hesitated in his decision. So he paused, waited for his hand to steady, then slowly and firmly signed his name. One hundred and fifty years later, we gather in these historic halls and remember the ongoing work of perfecting our Union.



Cranberry Upside Down Cake

A recipe from the White House Pastry Kitchen

For the bottom of the cake pan:

*1/4 cup butter (1/2 stick)
1/2 cup tightly packed dark brown sugar
1 cup fresh cranberries*

Cake:

*1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour 3/4 cup granulated sugar
2 teaspoons baking soda 3 tablespoons orange juice
1/4 teaspoon salt 2 large eggs, **separated**
1/2 cup unsalted butter, 1/2 cup milk
(1 stick)*

Pre-heat oven to 350°.

Melt butter and brown sugar together in a saucepan and pour into the bottom of a greased 9" cake pan with a parchment circle on the bottom. Add cranberries.

In a large bowl, sift together the flour, baking powder, and salt.

In the bowl of your electric mixer, or with a hand mixer, beat the butter with half the sugar until light and fluffy. Scrape down the sides of the bowl and then beat in the orange juice.

Add the egg yolks one by one, beating well after each addition. Scrape down the sides of the bowl. Add the flour mixture alternately with the milk.

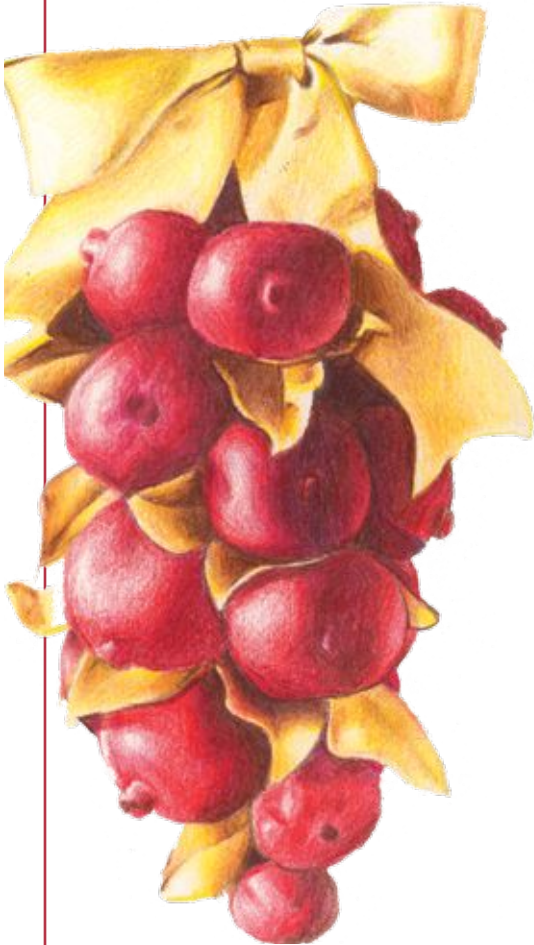
In a clean bowl, beat the egg whites with the other half of the sugar until the whites hold a firm peak. With a large spatula gently fold the beaten egg whites into the cake batter in two additions.

Pour the batter into the cake pan containing the sugar and cranberry mixture.

Bake in preheated oven for 30 - 40 minutes, or until the top of the cake has browned, starts to pull away from the sides of the pan, and a toothpick inserted in the center of the cake comes out clean.

Remove from oven and place on a wire rack to cool for about 15 minutes. Run a sharp knife around the edge of the pan and then flip the cake over onto your serving plate.

Makes one 9-inch cake



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