

# Freedom's Feast PRESIDENTS' DAY



## ★ MAKE A BUTTON FOR A CAUSE ★

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.* MARGARET MEAD, ANTHROPOLOGIST

Presidents Washington and Lincoln taught us that we can be leaders if we are willing to work hard. Our government serves us and we are responsible for our country. The Constitution they both loved protects our Freedom of speech.

### The Idea

Make your own cause button or lapel pin to wear on your shirt, jacket, hat or collar.

### Why?

Because you have the 1st amendment right of free speech guaranteed by the Constitution. It gives you the privilege of sharing your passions with others. Your right to do that as an adult or a child is protected by the Constitution. There are many wonderful things in America but many other problems need our attention. Involved citizens who care are the key to making our country a better place for everyone. What do you want to convince your fellow citizens to do? You are free to share your message. What cause do you care about? What do you want to change?

### What It Is

Presidential candidates have been using their free speech rights to promote their election campaigns since the 1820s. Lapel pins were used in the civil war to identify army units on both sides and by police and fire departments after WW I. After WWII they gained in popularity for public service campaigns. We have a long history in the United States of using pin on buttons to communicate political, commercial, personal and community-building messages. Social media has made it possible to get our messages out to large numbers of people quickly. We still like to express ourselves through direct interactions. Both ways can be fun and meaningful.

### Directions



*Those who deny freedoms for others do not deserve it for themselves.*

ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
16TH PRESIDENT

*The Constitution is the guide which I never will abandon.*

GEORGE WASHINGTON  
1ST PRESIDENT

*The Bill of Rights, contained in the first ten amendments to the Constitution is every American's guarantee of Freedom.*

HARRY TRUMAN  
33RD PRESIDENT

*The People...are the only sure reliance for the preservation of our liberty.*

THOMAS JEFFERSON  
3RD PRESIDENT



### Option #1: Pop in Designer Button **(CLICK HERE)**

- Order item #8WWBUTNUP from Discount School Supply,
  - Sketch paper
  - Pencils
  - Colored markers
- 1 Brainstorm causes that matter to you.  
Think of logos and slogans that express your passion.
  - 2 Use sketch paper to try out different logos and slogans.
  - 3 Draw your final design and slogan on the paper insert for the button.
  - 4 Pop into the button and snap shut.

### Option #2: Optional Button Materials

**Make your own buttons using the bottom of a Solo cup and and your own paper insert**

- Solo cup
  - Heavy plain paper
  - Safety pin or **pin backs**
  - Tacky glue, glue gun, duck tape
  - Pencils
  - Colored markers
  - Mod Podge if using magazines or other cut out images
  - scissors
- 1 Brainstorm as in step 1 above
  - 2 Cut out bottom of solo cup leaving a very small lip to hold paper insert
  - 3 Use cut out to trace size of insert. Cut out insert.
  - 4 Sketch design on sketch paper.
  - 5 Transfer final design to insert. (Magazine letters or images may be added and secured with Mod Podge.)
  - 6 Glue insert to inside of solo cup back with tacky glue.
  - 7 Attach safety pin with duck tape or pin backing with tacky glue or hot glue gun.

### Options #3: **Shrinky Dinks** Pin

To create a pin out of plastic, you can use Shrinky Dinks sheets which can be purchased online, or at many local outlets (Target, Toys R Us, craft stores) or #6 plastic material (i.e. salad bar containers).

- colored pencils, permanent markers or paint pens
  - oven or toaster oven
  - non-insulated cookie sheet covered with aluminum foil or parchment paper
  - scissors
  - Safety pin or **pin backs**
- 1 Brainstorm as in step 1 above.
  - 2 Sketch and design your pin on sketch paper. Decide on any special shape you want out of the plastic (plastic shrinks to about 1/3 of the original size).
  - 3 Reproduce the sketch on your plastic. Place as close to the edges as possible so that you get maximum use from your sheet.

### **SAMPLE CAUSE IDEAS TO GET YOU STARTED**

#### **Animal Rights**

Action/Slogan:

*Adopt a Dog*

#### **Environmental**

Action/Slogan:

*Recycle and Reuse*

#### **Childhood Obesity**

Action/Slogan:

*Exercise and Eat*

*Smart From the Start*

*Healthy Food in Our*

*Schools*

#### **Get out the Vote**

Action/Slogan:

*Your Vote, Your Voice,*

*Show Me That it*

*Matters*

#### **Hunger**

Action/Slogan:

*No More Hunger in the*

*Land of Plenty*

#### **Transportation**

Action/Slogan:

*Better Mass Transit*

*in Our Cities*

## **PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN BUTTONS, RIBBONS, PINS AND MEDALS: IN BRIEF**

Presidential candidates run on a platform, a set of ideas they think will be good for the country and that voters will support. During campaigns, souvenirs and buttons are one of the strategies candidates have used to communicate their platform and gather support.

People celebrating George Washington's inauguration wore a brass clothing button that read "GW—Long Live the President."

Andrew Jackson's 1828 and 1832 campaigns created plates, ribbons and snuff boxes to attract voters.

The 1840 Harrison Campaign: "Tippecanoe and Tyler Too" marked the start of major political rallies and significant amounts of campaign memorabilia began to appear.

1896: McKinley vs. Bryan campaign used buttons extensively.

1896–1916: "Golden Age" of campaign buttons

Over the course of the 20th century and into the 21st century changes in electronic media and election laws transformed the ways we reached potential voters and campaign funding methods. Buttons and pins became less popular for Presidential campaigns but we still use them for many other purposes (pink ribbons for breast cancer support).

For more info visit [cyberbee.com/campaign/resource.html](http://cyberbee.com/campaign/resource.html)

**...and share it with us too! Visit us on [Facebook!](#)**

ENJOY USING THIS SPACE TO SKETCH YOUR DESIGNS



ENJOY USING THIS SPACE TO SKETCH YOUR DESIGNS

- 4 Color the rough side with colored pencils, markers or pens. The color becomes more intense once shrunk. Cut out your completed design.
- 5 Place the plastic on a clean, thin cookie sheet (not the insulated type).
- 6 Bake plastic at 350 degrees for 2 minutes. Each oven is different so watch closely. You will see the plastic curl up and then it will flatten back out. You may need to use a napkin to flatten it out (once the object is out of the oven). This process does give off some fumes so leave a window open for ventilation. Let pin cool.
- 7 Glue **pin back or tie tac back** onto back of pin with hot glue gun or tacky glue.

Thank you to our partners **Art with a Heart** and **CMOM**, the Children's Museum of Manhattan, with whom we originally developed this project through the civics initiative, **Raising Citizens**.

Have fun creating and please share your designs with us on **facebook!**  
Visit us at [www.freedomfeast.us](http://www.freedomfeast.us)



PRESIDENTS' DAY



MEMORIAL DAY



INDEPENDENCE DAY



LABOR DAY



THANKSGIVING



MLK DAY