

Hi, and welcome to Fenimore Art Museum! We're going to be talking about a very important job today, the President of the United States, and we're going to look at some pictures of two different presidents taken by a photographer named Pete Souza. Let's see what we can learn!

Who is the President and what do they do? Being the president of the United States is a very important job, and every four years people in America are able to vote for the person they want to be president next! People have been doing this since way back in 1789, when George Washington became our first president. We're going to be looking at pictures of Ronald Reagan, who was our 40th president in the 1980s, and Barack Obama, who was our 44th president from 2008 to 2016. Have you ever seen pictures of these two people before?

Who is the person in charge of your classroom at school? It's your teacher, right? Who's the person in charge of the entire school? It's the principal? Who is in charge of your home? It's your parents or the adults who live there. They make sure that everybody is following the rules and helps to keep you safe and taken care of. In some ways the President is in charge of the United States. Let's see how they do that.

The most important job the president does is to act as Commander in Chief. This means that they're in charge of the United States military - the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, and the men and women who work to keep our country safe. Sometimes they need to

send soldiers to parts of the world to fight. It can be a very tough decision because sometimes our soldiers get hurt while protecting us, and the president needs to be there to support their families and to honor them when that happens.

The president meets with important leaders with other countries around the world to talk about important issues like protecting the environment and taking good care of people. Sometimes the leaders get along and sometimes they don't, but it's important to talk to each other. This is called 'diplomacy' and it's another big part of what the president does. They also travel to all sorts of places around our own country. For example, when a tornado destroyed a small town in Missouri in 2011, president Obama went there to meet with the people who lived there and were helping to clean up. When traveling, the president uses their own special plane called Air Force One. This big plane has three floors, two kitchens, and even a gym!

The president lives and works at the White House, a large building in Washington DC, which is the capital of the United States. At the White House, the president sits at a desk in a room called the Oval Office and meets with important people, writes speeches that they give to the public, and works with the other branches of government to create bills, or special rules meant to help serve the citizens of the United States. When Congress passes a bill, the president gets to decide whether they like it. If they do, they sign it and make it law. If they don't, they can veto it, and send it back to Congress to try to change it.

Being the president of the United States is a very important job, but don't forget that presidents are people, just like you! They eat, sleep, and have happy moments and sad moments just like you! They have families too! Ronald Reagan had a wife named Nancy who he loved very much, and Barack Obama has a wife named Michelle and two girls named Sasha and Malia who grew up while their daddy was president. Here they are playing in the snow together outside the White House. A lot of presidents also have pets! Here's Ronald Reagan with his dog Lucky who is getting a helicopter ride in this photo. Reagan had six dogs and even some horses he kept at a ranch! President Obama had two Burmese water dogs while in office. Here he is with one of them named Bo. Do you have any hobbies? Presidents do too! Lots of them like to play golf. Barack Obama was a big fan of basketball and even coached his daughter's team one time! Ronald Reagan liked to spend time at his ranch, rowing canoes and spending time with his wife riding his horses. Both of them had lots of important work to do though, so they didn't get to do these kinds of things very often.

Would you like to be president someday? As long as you were born an American citizen, have lived here for at least 14 years, and are at least 35 years old, you can run for office. All of our presidents so far have been men, but that doesn't mean women can't be president too. Even if you don't want to be president, you have a chance to help decide who is the best choice by voting when you turn 18, and everyone should make their voices heard. Thanks for joining us today!

