

**Celebrate America  
@  
Camp Constitution**

**Sandi Wells**

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# Celebrate America @ Camp Constitution

The purpose of Constitution Camp is to “*Celebrate America Through the Constitution*”. Our goal is to reach out to our young people and teach them about our Country, and the freedoms that are afforded us only through our Constitution, unlike other countries throughout the world.

Our children need to know that Americans are Exceptional people. We work hard, we present to work in crisis situations throughout the world, we are innovators and we give generously to aid people.

We must make certain that our children understand the difference between a Democracy and the Republic form of government that exists in the United States; not commonly taught in our schools. Our children do not understand that when they quote the Pledge of Allegiance, the phrase “to the Republic” has meaning. We exist because of the desire and willingness of our Founding Fathers to go to war to be free from British tyranny. A Republic versus a Democracy equates to freedom versus government control.

Lastly, our country was founded on Christian principles. We receive our unalienable rights from our God our Creator, not the government. God is referenced by many of our Founding Fathers. A Bible is placed in the cornerstone of the Washington Monument. On the Jefferson Memorial is a quote from Thomas Jefferson, “Justice refers to God as the holy author of our religion.” And, “God who gave us life gave us liberty.” Church services were held in the U.S. Capitol for 50 years.

There is much to teach our children as they are our future.

# **Camp Marketing**

## Sample Promotional for Radio, Newspapers, Websites

The Third Annual "Celebrate America @ Camp Constitution" will be held on June 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-3:00 at the Brentwood Library for rising 5<sup>th</sup> through existing 8<sup>th</sup> graders. The Camp focuses on our Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights and the Exceptionalism of America. The morning will begin with a performance by Abigail Adams, King George and a Colonist discussing America's desire to live free of tyranny and to establish our own Republic form of government.

In addition to interactive breakout groups, the kids participate in Jeopardy, Concentration, "Get a Clue" and Pictionary games to reinforce what they learned throughout the day. Lunch, snacks and prizes are included in the \$20 registration fee (discounted fee for additional family members). Please contact the Brentwood Library, 371-0090 to register. Seating is limited due to space.

## Sample Media Follow Up Article

The Republican Women of Williamson County, the Brentwood Library and Sandi Wells hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual “Celebrate America at Camp Constitution” on June 29<sup>th</sup> at the Brentwood Library with 75 young adults in attendance. The Camp focuses on our Constitution, Declaration of Independence, the Bill of Rights, the Pledge and our American Exceptionalism.

The morning began with a performance by Abigail Adams, King George, and a Colonist discussing America’s desire to live free of tyranny and establish our Republic form of government. The skit was followed by an example of American Exceptionalism and during lunch, the kids watched a YouTube video of “Dr. Kirk from Star Trek” sharing an exchange with an Alien about our Constitution’s Preamble!

In addition to the interactive focus groups, during the afternoon, Campers participated in Jeopardy, Concentration, “Get a Clue” and Pictionary games to reinforce teachings from the morning focus groups. The Campers love the games and win prizes for their correct answers.

# Marketing Sites

Local radio spots

Newspapers

Web Sites

Middle Schools

Private Schools

Home School Organizations & Websites

912 Group(s)

County Republican Women

County Republican Party

Flyers on Storefronts

Grocery stores

Local Dining Restaurants

Hair Salons

Boy and Girl Scout Troops



# Camp Activities

# Camp Constitution Day Schedule

8:30-9:00 Registrations  
9:00-9:15 Pledge, Prayer, Welcome/Mayor  
9:15-9:28 Boat Film/American Exceptionalism  
9:30-9:50 Green Beret Soldier – Guest Speaker

10 min. Break (Move out chairs)

10:00-10:25 Breakout Group (25 min. each)  
10:27-10:52 Breakout Group

10 min. Break

11:05-11:30 Breakout Group  
11:33-11:58 Breakout Group

12:00-12:35 Lunch (Show YouTube of Capt. Kirk discussing Preamble with Alien)

12:40 Call to begin Games (25 min/game)

12:45-1:10 Call at 1:10  
1:15-1:40 Call at 1:35  
1:45-2:10 Call at 2:05 (Approximate times)  
2:15-2:40 Call at 2:35

3:00-3:15 Evaluations

Jeopardy – 10 x 2 = 20 children  
Concentration – 8 x 2 = 16 “  
Pictionary – 8x 2 = 16 “  
Get A Clue – 10 x 2 = 20 “

## Sample Parent Letter

June 29, 2012

Good Morning!

I want to thank you for letting us have this time with your child. We hope that they will have a great time as they learn more about our wonderful Country. We will show them examples of our American Exceptionalism and even allow "Dr. Kirk from Star Trek" to share an exchange with an Alien about our Constitution's Preamble!

During our breakout groups, we will be focus on three themes:

- Our Freedoms because of our Constitution
- Self-reliance vs. government dependency
- Our Country's foundation based on Judeo-Christian principles

After the focus groups and lunch, we will begin our games. The kids loved this time last year. We will be playing Jeopardy, Pictionary, Concentration, Password and Constitution Crossword/Preamble Scramble. There are lots of good prizes for "correct" answers to the games and bonus questions!

Again, thank you for bringing your child today. They are our future.

Sincerely,

Sandi Wells

## URL's

**Star Trek Captain Kirk clip about the Constitution (Minute 0:00 to 1:35) available at URL: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3b56e0u0EgQ&feature=related>.**

**Boatlift, 9-11**

**<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MDOrzF7B2Kg>**

**Madison Rising rendition of Star Spangled Banner**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c8C7i9kdEf8&feature=kp>**

# **Focus Groups**

**Constitution by Claudia Henneberry**

**Declaration by Jo Ellen Pierce**

**Pledge/Republic vs. Democracy**

**by Sandi Wells**

**Bill of Rights by Mindy McAlindon**

# **The U. S. Constitution**

## **The Supreme Law of the Land**

(by Claudia Henneberry)

- I. Constitutional Convention
  - A. May 25 - September 17, 1787 at Independence Hall  
Philadelphia, PA
  - B. George Washington - President of the Convention  
James Madison - Father of the Constitution
  - C. 39 Delegates signed the Constitution
  
- II. Preamble - Purpose
  - A. Justice
  - B. Domestic Tranquility
  - C. Common Defense
  - D. General Welfare
  - E. Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our posterity
  
- III. 7 Articles
  - A. Articles 1 - 3
    - 1. Legislative Branch - Congress - Makes the laws
    - 2. Executive Branch - President and Cabinet - Enforces  
the laws
    - 3. Judicial Branch - Courts - Interprets the laws
  - B. Articles 5 - 7
    - 1. Amending the Constitution
    - 2. Separation of powers between Federal government and  
State governments

#### IV. Checks and Balances

How each branch of government can *check* the other branches to maintain *balance* of power.

- A. Examples of Legislative checks
- B. Examples of Executive checks
- C. Examples of Judicial checks

#### V. 27 Amendments

A. Bill of Rights (further protection of the peoples' natural rights) - added in 1791

1. Religion, speech, press, assembly and petition
2. Right to bear arms for protection
3. Anti-quartering act
4. Protection from search and seizure
5. Government must follow the law when punishing citizens
6. The right to a fair and speedy trial
7. The right to a jury trial in civil cases
8. No excessive bail nor cruel and unusual punishment
9. People and states have other rights not listed in Constitution.
10. Powers not given to the Federal government belong to the States.

B. Amendments 11 - 27

# Declaration of Independence

(by Jo Ellen Pierce)

## British Heritage and Colonial Thought

American Colonists were British Citizens

Grievances against the King – review

Desire for Independence

Ownership of property

Local control – ocean separated

Independent thought – self-government

Freedom of Religion

## Resisting Tyranny

Leaders from each Colony met in Philadelphia, PA to  
work on solution

Pleas ignored by King George

Taxation without Representation

Boston Tea Party – Why?

## From Resistance to Independence

Jefferson recruited to craft Independence document

Declaration signed by 56 men representing 13  
colonies with one refusal to sign

## Declaration of Independence – Definition of terms

All men are created equal

Endowed by their Creator

Laws of Nature and Nature's God



Unalienable Rights –

Unalienable – inherent rights from God which  
cannot change or be taken away

Life – physical, intellectual and moral

Liberty – personal freedom

Pursuit of happiness – acquiring, possessing and  
protecting property

Pursuit – a verb, not a given or a guarantee

**“...we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our Sacred Honor.”**

# Pledge, Republic, Electoral College

(By Sandi Wells)

## Pledge

Meaning – [www.buzzle.com/articles/why-is-the-pledge](http://www.buzzle.com/articles/why-is-the-pledge)

Explain each line

Emphasize “One nation under God”

Importance

Sign of patriotism

Symbolizes loyalty to the US and proud to be an

American

**Republic vs. Democracy government** – p. 152-161 “The 5000 Year Leap”  
(Self-reliance vs. government dependency)

**Democracy** – defined in the historical sense

Will of the majority shall rule, whereas our Declaration states that “all men are created equal”

Attitude toward owning your own property is seen as bad

Results in “mobs” running the government the way they want it run, not having individuals elected who vote the way ALL the people ask them to vote (Yes, I know this hasn’t held true for the last 75 years, but we want them to know this is how it SHOULD be.)

1930’s, some people decided that they would promote that the United States is a Democracy, but IT IS NOT

**Republic** – defined in the historical sense

Derives its power directly from “We the people”

Governs through elected representatives of the people

(House, Senate, President)

Respects individual rights

Believes in administration of justice according to written laws

and regard for consequences for failure to follow laws

**Electoral College** – Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution

Established as a compromise between the Congress electing the

President or “We the People” electing the President

Protects each individual’s right to have their vote counted - freedom

Elects the President and the Vice-President by Electors

Electors – representatives of your state who are committed to

vote for individuals who received the popular vote in your

state, each state’s number of electors is determined by the

number of seats in the House of Representatives plus 2

for each Senate seat

Purpose – proportional state representation for the Presidential

election, Founders fearful of tyranny from the majority

Complex system – intentionally made complex

Some states are trying to eliminate the system replacing it with the

“Popular Vote” – very dangerous and Unconstitutional

**James Madison definition of a republic (*Federalist Papers, No. 39, p. 241*)**

**We may define a republic to be ...a government which derives all its powers directly or indirectly from the great body of the people and is administered by persons holding their offices during (the people’s) pleasure for a limited period, or during good behavior.**

# Bill of Rights

(by Mindy McAlindon)

## I. Why do we have the Bill of Rights?

- After the leaders of the new United States wrote the Constitution, they had to get the thirteen states to agree to it. Some of the states didn't want to agree unless they could add some specific “rights” for individual people, allowing more freedom for people. So in 1791 the United States added ten new rights to the Constitution. These are called the Bill of Rights
- Freedom we have as a result of our Constitution
- Define and demonstrate self-reliance (responsibility) vs. government reliance
- Review Bill of Rights – 10 Rights

Congress can't make any law about your religion, or stop you from practicing your religion, or keep you from saying whatever you want, or publishing whatever you want (like in a newspaper or a book). And Congress can't stop you from meeting peacefully for a demonstration to ask the government to change something. Maybe discuss that the Founders knew how important religion was as they based our Constitution on the Bible that they made this the very first Amendment.

- Congress can't stop people from having and carrying weapons, because we need to be able to defend ourselves.
- You don't have to let soldiers live in your house, except if there is a war, and even then only if Congress has passed a law about it.
- Nobody can search your body, or your house, or your papers and things, unless they can prove to a judge that they have a good reason to think you have committed a crime.
- You can't be tried for any serious crime without a Grand Jury meeting first to decide whether there's enough evidence for a trial. And if the jury decides you

are innocent, the government can't try again with another jury. You don't have to say anything at your trial. You can't be killed, or put in jail, or fined, unless you were convicted of a crime by a jury. And the government can't take your house or your farm or anything that is yours, unless the government pays for it.

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- If you're arrested, you have a right to have your trial pretty soon, and the government can't keep you in jail without trying you. The trial has to be public, so everyone knows what is happening. The case has to be decided by a jury of ordinary people from your area. You have the right to know what you are accused of, to see and hear the people who are witnesses against you, to have the government help you get witnesses on your side, and you have the right to a lawyer to help you.
- You also have the right to a jury when it is a civil case (a law case between two people rather than between you and the government).
- The government can't make you pay more than is reasonable in bail or in fines, and the government can't order you to have cruel or unusual punishments (like torture) even if you are convicted of a crime.
- Just because these rights are listed in the Constitution doesn't mean that you don't have other rights too.
- Anything that the Constitution doesn't say that Congress can do should be left up to the states, or to the people.

## II. What is an Amendment and how does it work?

- Very few things last long without change. Nothing is perfect. The writers of the Constitution realized this when they presented the first twelve amendments to the Constitution. Amendments to the Constitution can be either additions or changes to the original text. It is not easy to change the Constitution. Since 1787, over 9,000 amendments have been proposed, but only 27 have been approved.
- Article 5 of the Constitution provides for the amendment of the Constitution by various means. However an amendment is proposed, it does not become part of the Constitution unless it is ratified by three-quarters of the states (either the legislatures thereof, or in amendment conventions).

### III. Additional Amendments

- 12 Amendment separate votes for President and Vice President
- 13 Amendment abolished slavery
- 17 amendment provides for direct election of Senators
- 19 Amendment Gave women the right to vote

# Games

**Pictionary**

**Jeopardy**

**Concentration**

**Preamble Scramble**

**Constitution Crossword**

**Get a Clue**

# Pictionary Game Rules

(Everyone will rotate in 24 min. increments)

2 teams of 4.

The first child will choose a card w/the Amendment.

They will read and draw the Amendment. They may need your help.

They have 1 min. to read and draw. Their team has 1 ½ min. to answer. They have their Constitutions to look up the answers.

Each team is allowed a total of 2' per Amendment, then go to the opposing team and let them begin.



Alternate between teams for each Amendment.

At the end of the game, total the points. (1 point/ amendment). The team w/the most points then has an opportunity to answer the BONUS question. No collaboration.

Only 1 team mate will win a prize.



# Jeopardy



Everyone rotates in 24' increments.

2 teams of 5, total of 10 playing at one time

Each child will choose a category and a square.

They may confer with their team mates for the answer.

They have 1.5 min. to answer their square.

When answered (or unanswered), the opposing team then gets to choose a square. They too will have 1.5 min. to answer.

You will go back and forth between teams for each question.

After each child has had a chance to answer a question, TOTAL the points for the team. 1 point/question

The winning team will then have the opportunity to be asked the BONUS question.

The prize is given to the one team mate who answers the question correctly. No collaboration.

## Jeopardy Diagram

Declaration of Independence	Constitution	Bill of Rights	The Pledge
"All men are created _____"	The Constitution was written in Philadelphia in _____	Freedom of Speech	The U. S. form of government
From whom do we get our rights?	Father of the Constitution	Right to bear arms	"One under God"
We fought a war with _____ to gain our independence.	The beginning part of the Constitution is called the _____.	No unreasonable searches and seizures	"and (equal) _____ for all."
The author of the Declaration of Independence	Name the 3 branches of government	The 26th Amendment allowed who to vote?	Our country is a Republic, not a _____.
Name 3 unalienable rights	System which prevents the 3 branches from becoming too powerful	The states have all other rights the Federal government does not.	Our President is elected by this method.

# Concentration

Everyone will rotate in 24' Increments.

Each team will have 4 players.

There are 24 squares. There are 12 phrases and 12 coordinating answers to those phrases.

Each child will have 1.5 min. to call out which square they want turned over and then confer w/their team mates as to the second square to turn over with the correct answer.

Toss a coin to decide who begins the game.

Alternate between teams for each turn.

At the end of the game, total the points to decide which team wins. One point/answer. This team will then have the opportunity to answer the bonus question for the prize. No collaboration at this point.

# Concentration Diagram

A	B	C	D	E	F
1 Self-evident	1 "... and to the _____ of or which it stands"	1 Change to the Constitution	1 Promise	1 God-given Rights	1 Republic
2 Amendment	2 Congress	2 Women can vote	2 Freedom	2 House and Senate	2 Judicial branch
3 Courts	3 Democracy	3 Unalienable rights	3 Loyalty	3 Pledge	3 Majority rule (mob)
4 Allegiance	4 "We the People"	4 Liberty	4 Preamble	4 "We hold these truths to be _____"	4 19th Amendment

# Preamble Scramble



We the \_\_\_\_\_  
of the United States,  
in \_\_\_\_\_ to form a  
more perfect \_\_\_\_\_,  
establish \_\_\_\_\_, insure  
\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
provide for the common  
\_\_\_\_\_, promote the  
general \_\_\_\_\_, and secure  
the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ to ourselves  
and our \_\_\_\_\_, do ordain and  
establish this Constitution for  
the \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

roder, niuon, detinu, psotreyti, ceujtsi, farelew, sgnisselb ibltyre,  
pleep,dmsioetc, tasset, acriema, tqlytirianu, feensed

# Constitution Crossword

[www.tlsbooks.com](http://www.tlsbooks.com)

## Constitution Word Searches

Research websites under Constitution Games

# GET A CLUE

(by Claudia Henneberry)

Allegiance	Loyalty; We pledge <i>this</i> to the flag; respect for the flag;
Amendment	A change to the Constitution; there are 27 of these at the end of the Constitution; the first 10 are the Bill of Rights; 3/4 of the states have to approve one of these.
Bill of Rights	The first 10 amendments; these protect the peoples' rights; the states also have rights listed in this; Freedom of speech is in the 1st one of these.
Congress	The House of Representative and the Senate (together); the legislative branch of the Federal government; makes the laws; has 535 members
Constitution	The Supreme Law of the Land; James Madison is the "Father" of this document; was written in 1787; protects "We the People" from a strong government
Creator	We get our rights from Him when we are born; We are "endowed by our _____"; Another word for God;
Declaration of Independence	Document signed in 1776; Thomas Jefferson is considered the "Father" of this document; It declared us "independent" from England; listed grievances against the King
Democracy	A kind of government in which the majority rules; mob rule which may become tyranny; Some people believe the U.S. has this type of government; in Greek (demos cratien) (people rule).
Electoral College	The procedure by which we elect our President; Each state determines its votes by adding the number of Representatives it sends to Washington plus its 2 Senators; they meet in each state's capitol to vote for our President after the election;
Executive Branch	The President is in this part (branch) of government; the President's Cabinet is in this branch; This branch enforces the laws;
Grievances	Complaints; the last part of the Declaration of Independence; a list of what King George III did to the colonies;
Judicial Branch	The part (branch) of government that interprets the laws; courts; the President appoints judges who serve in this branch;
Justice	Equal treatment for everyone; "with liberty and _____ for all"; the courts provide this

## **Camp Bonus Questions** (Sample list)

Who is Tennessee's Governor? Bill Haslam

What does unalienable mean? Cannot be changed or taken away

In a Republic government, where does the power come from? People

Individual rights vs. Group rights – Which 2 forms of governments are represented?  
Republic vs. Democracy

How do you determine the number of electors per state? The # of House  
Representatives plus the 2 Senators

Who sacrificed their lives, fortunes and sacred honors? Signers of the Declaration

Is the phrase "separation of church and state" in the Constitution? No

What is the 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment about? States' rights

Why did our Founding Fathers think we needed the Bill of Rights?

We needed a clear definition of individuals' rights and clearly restrict the  
powers of the government.

More than 11,000 amendments have been introduced in Congress, how many  
have passed? 27

How many times is the word "democracy" used in the Constitution? 0,  
Why? We are a Republic.

What phrase was added to the "Pledge" in 1954? "under God"

Who will serve as President if the President and Vice Pres. are not available?  
Speaker of the House



# **Budget**

**(Sample, 2012)**

## 2012 Budget

	<u>Proposed</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Promotional Pieces Flyers		
(.25	\$ 50	\$ 22.56
Posters (.05 each)	5	
Misc. copies (letter, Scrabble, evaluations, .05 each)	40	
Facility	0	
Speaker	0	
Food		
Pizza	200	104.88
(Gift certificates received from Costco and Fresh Market to help with expenses.)		
Beverages, snacks, plates, napkins	95	17.92
Cookies – no receipt		16.73
Games Supplies		244.96
(Focus groups' materials – receipts grouped together)		
Boards	30	
Other (tri-folds, Const. paper, etc.)	35	
Constitutions (hopefully donated)	0	35.00
Gift Bags		
Frisbees		123.31
Visors		56.39
Bags	35	
DVDs	160	
Candy	65	
Prizes	200	
Cece's		40.00
Starbucks		40.00
Target		40.00
Table Decorations	<u>25</u>	<u>12.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$740.00</b>	<b>\$753.75</b>

# Evaluation Questions for Constitution Camp

What did you like the most about Camp?

What did you like the least about Camp?

Overall, do you think this experience was worthwhile? We really want your opinion!

On a scale of 1-10 where 1 is "I could have been a better teacher!" and 10 is "I learned a lot!" ....Where would you rank how much you learned today?

The morning skit about King George and the American colonists was helpful to my understanding about setting the stage for the creation of our country.

(1) Yes (2) Maybe (3) Not really (4) It was boring.

How can we make this event better next year?

How would you help get the word out regarding when Camp was being held and what activities Camp would be having?