

PEACE TRAIL



ACTIVITY KIT

Download the Peace Trail on the National Mall PDF reference guide by clicking [here](#)

About the Peace Trail on the National Mall

The northwest corner of the National Mall could be considered the “War and Peace Corner” of our nation’s capital. It is home to this country’s most famous veterans memorials, which draw tens of millions of visitors each year. It is also home to other symbols and sites with peace themes, which, while generally less prominent, offer an important and complementary narrative.

The Peace Trail on the National Mall* brings a “peace lens” to the experience of visiting the National Mall. Available as a PDF file or as an app for your phone, it may be used as a self-guided walking tour or a reference guide, elevating stories of key figures, institutions, and moments in history that demonstrate America’s enduring commitment to peace.

Peace Trail Activity Kit

This **Activity Kit** provides an opportunity to experience the Peace Trail in a more dynamic way. Created for educators (grades 5+), tour guides and others leading groups in visits to the National Mall, it includes “word cards” with key terms that expand our common understanding of what peace means in practice, while encouraging reflection and dialogue at each site.

Enclosed you will find a complete copy of the Peace Trail content, instructions for the “word card” activity, and the cards themselves.

We would **appreciate your feedback** on this experience – please email us at publiceducation@usip.org.

And while you’re out along the Peace Trail on the National Mall, we encourage you to **share on social media** your pictures and quotes, tagging us on Twitter [@buildingpeace](https://twitter.com/buildingpeace) and using #NationalMallPeaceTrail



* The Peace Trail on the National Mall is the result of a collaboration between the United States Institute of Peace and colleagues at the Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington, D.C. and at the National Park Service.

Activity Instructions

Before beginning, you'll want to **have the Peace Trail content readily on hand**, either in printed form or via the app on your phone. You'll also want to have **pre-cut the word cards**, for shuffling and distribution to your group.

Please note that while this activity can be used at any site along the Peace Trail on the National Mall, **it works most effectively at sites 5 through 13** along the route—from the Lincoln Memorial to the Washington Monument—where there is more space to explore, and more content and signage on which to draw.

Procedures:

1. At your chosen site along the Peace Trail on the National Mall, begin by reading some or all of the Peace Trail content to your group. You might ask for immediate reactions, or you might transition immediately to the next step:
2. Depending on the size of your group, give individuals or small groups one of the word cards, and ask them to take 5-10 minutes to find a symbol, or image, or quote, or other element of the site that they feel relates to the word on the card.
3. Bring the group back together again and ask for volunteers to share their word and the element of the site they identified, and why.
4. Encourage the group to draw connections across, and to build upon, each other's observations. You might also lead a group discussion using some of the following questions:
 - a. What themes did you notice from what was shared?
 - b. Did anyone find it difficult to come up with an element of this site that matched their word? Any thoughts as to why?
 - c. Did anyone learn anything new from this activity at this site? If yes, what?
5. Repeat this activity at as many other sites as you visit – you can allow your group to keep the same card at different sites, or you can shuffle and deal out new cards at each location.
6. At the end, bring the group together for a debrief around three sets of questions:
 - a. What is the value in exploring these peace-related concepts along the National Mall? How can it change or inform our understanding of the meaning and significance of these sites?
 - b. Why does the U.S. commitment to peace around the world matter in today's world?
 - c. If peace matters to you as an individual, what can YOU do about it*?

* NOTE: you can find/suggest resources on peace and conflict, and ways to engage at www.usip.org

Partnership

Dialogue

Reconciliation

Compromise

**Values/
Commitment**

**Unity/
Community**

Justice

Hope

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**International/
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