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Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library Announces Re-Opening with Free Admission The organization seeks dialogue with local community

STAUNTON, VA –After temporarily closing its doors in March due to the COVID 19 pandemic, The Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library has announced that it plans to re-open to the public on Wednesday, July 1st at 10:00 am. The museum will operate at 50% capacity and has established new protocols to provide a safe and responsible experience to visitors and staff. These protocols include advance registration, social distancing guidelines, and enhanced sanitizing and cleaning protocols. Admission will be free to the public from July 1st to July 5th, but visitors must pre-register.

To help ensure public safety and to prevent lines, timed ticket purchases will be required. Timed tickets will be available every half hour starting at 10:00 with last entry time at 3:30. Registration is now available at www.woodrowwilson.org. All visitors are required to wear a mask.

"We are offering free admission to the public for the first five days of July as a way to share both our current exhibits and our plans for major museum upgrades as part of our one-year museum planning phase that started last July" said Robin von Seldeneck, President and CEO. "We know that Wilson is a controversial figure and that some do not understand the mission of our organization. We are not a shrine to Woodrow Wilson, but we seek to educate on the life and times of the 28th President and to offer a complete and balanced view of Wilson- 'warts and all'. We also understand that as museum, we have a duty to listen to our community; to ask questions and to educate future generations. Because of this, senior staff will be available to share planned updates to the museum and to listen to ideas and comments from the community during this first week of re-opening".

Throughout this initial phase of reopening, the museum will be open but birthplace tours will be given virtually in an interactive format. In addition to the virtual birthplace tours, we will continue to offer free digital content and programming, including the popular "The Enslaved Laborers in the Birthplace Manse" and "The 1918 Flu Pandemic" programs along with several other programs. For more information please go www.woodrowwilson.org.

In addition to welcoming museum visitors from around the country and the world, the Presidential Library sponsors educational programming for thousands of schoolchildren each year and hosts teachers' institutes, and a variety of other educational programs. The Museum is located at 20 N. Coalter Street and is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday – Saturday, and 12 – 4 p.m. on Sundays. For additional information, call 540-885-0897 x 113 or visit www.woodrowwilson.org.

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