



## Help us make the Four Score and Seven Simultaneous Reading of the Gettysburg Address a RECORD event!

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the record for most people reading aloud simultaneously is 223,363 participants at 909 venues across the United States for an event organized by Walden Media on December 13, 2006.

**We're out to break that record and we're asking you to help us!**

School students across the nation are encouraged to join us for a live simultaneous reading of Lincoln's most famous speech at 9:30 a.m. (CST) on February 12, 2009 to mark the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of America's most revered presidents.

### How to participate:

- Step 1:** Visit [www.PresidentLincoln.org](http://www.PresidentLincoln.org) to learn about the Gettysburg Address *Four Score and Seven* simultaneous reading event & celebration of Lincoln's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Step 2:** Discuss your desire to participate in this event with your principal and other teachers in your school.
- Step 3:** Fill out the [registration form](#) and submit via email or fax to: [Randy.Wiseman@illinois.gov](mailto:Randy.Wiseman@illinois.gov); +1 217.558.1559 (fax).
- Step 4:** Download [Gettysburg Address online teacher resources and lesson plans](#); Review the talking points for the event; prep your students by practicing the reading in advance.
- Step 5:** On February 12 at 9:30 a.m. (CST) lead your students in reading the Gettysburg Address.
- Step 6:** Help us make history by setting a new Guinness World Record. **See requirements listed below.**
- Step 7:** Fill out the event evaluation online at [www.PresidentLincoln.org/survey](http://www.PresidentLincoln.org/survey)

### Rules and Guidelines to Meet Guinness World Record Requirements

This is a record for the largest number of people to read the same piece of literature aloud, simultaneously, in multiple locations.

1. A headcount of all participants must be taken prior to the record attempt by registration. All participants must sign his or her name on a form **witnessed by two independent persons**. (See sample form below.)
2. All participants should read the same piece **out loud** simultaneously, thus all participants should be able to hear the voice of a person chosen to lead the reading. Participants should keep pace with the leader.
3. [Gettysburg Address text available here](#). This version must be used.
4. The start of the reading should be at exactly 9:30 a.m. (Central Standard Time).
5. There needs to be **one independent witness** for every 15-20 participants
6. **A witness statement is required** from an independent person from every venue to confirm the exact number of participants at the venue. **(See additional information below)**
7. All documentation of participation must be submitted to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum on or before March 1, 2009. Documentation should include:
  - a. Documentation of headcount witnessed by two independent persons (see form below); all participants must sign their name to be considered.
  - b. Two signed witness statements from independent persons
  - c. Any other evidence such as videos, still photographs, media accounts (please note these materials will not be returned; copies are acceptable)
  - d. Return all supporting evidence to: Randy Wiseman, Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, 212 North Sixth Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701 USA



## **Witness Statements**

Every record attempt at every venue must be accompanied by signed statements of authentication by **two independent persons** who have attended the event and can confirm all details of the claim or **one** sworn statement form a witness, validated by **public notary**.

Preferably, the witness must have “standing” in the local community, such as a prominent and respected citizen. Examples include: judges, police officers, mayors, town council members, doctors, ministers, newspaper editors, local business owners etc. This is not always possible but the witness must be **truly independent**. For example the principal, superintendent or PTO president would not be considered independent. **Independent means they are not normally associated with or related to the record organizers or participants, nor have anything to gain from the attempt.**

**Each statement must be prepared by the witness themselves and be signed in their own hand.**

### **Witness Statements should include the following:**

- Full contact information for the witness: Name, Address, Telephone Number, Employment Details, Email Address, etc.) Please use letterhead when possible.
- Date, Time and Location of event
- Record attempted, e.g. This is a record for the largest number of people to read the same piece of literature aloud, simultaneously, in multiple locations.
- Confirmation that the guidelines were followed
- Number of participants and how this number was calculated and documented