

United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities, reaffirming our dedication to freedom and democracy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

BARACK OBAMA

Proclamation 8753 of November 14, 2011

American Education Week, 2011

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

Ensuring our future leaders and innovators receive a complete and competitive education is fundamental to our Nation's economic prosperity and our role as a thriving democracy. During American Education Week, we acknowledge the central role education plays in our society and resolve to make rigorous and lasting investments in our education system so the American dream remains within reach of each of our children.

From small towns to our largest cities, schools serve as laboratories where students test new ideas and kindle new academic interests. In the classroom, young people cultivate scholarship, discover talents they never knew they had, and build the skills they need to pursue careers of their choosing. And with every step they take toward their future, our students are guided by men and women who work tirelessly to help them realize their full potential. Teachers, administrators, and other education professionals are unfaltering in their dedication to giving children the education they deserve, and it is essential we do our part to help them succeed. To secure a bright future for our students and our Nation, we must support educators by strengthening our schools, creating better opportunities for professional development, and recruiting top college graduates to be our next generation of devoted teachers.

The task of preparing our children for a lifetime of scholarship and achievement rests not only in the classroom, but also in our homes and neighborhoods. Parents, community leaders, and mentors play a vital role in cultivating a love of learning and instilling in our children the self-confidence, creativity, and discipline that serve as a foundation for success. Together, our families, schools, and communities carry a profound responsibility to do right by our children. This week and throughout the year, let us strive to fulfill that promise.

By working toward thoughtful education reform and making every classroom a place of high expectations and high performance, we can take steps to ensure our future generations are prepared to uphold our founding promise of opportunity, and to make great discoveries and develop groundbreaking ideas here in America. During American Education Week, we renew our promise to give our children the chance to achieve their dreams and to write the next proud chapter in the American story.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 13 through November 19, 2011, as American Education Week. I call upon all Americans to observe this week by supporting their local schools through appropriate activities, events, and programs designed to help create opportunities for every school and student in America.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this fourteenth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand eleven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth.

BARACK OBAMA

Proclamation 8754 of November 15, 2011

America Recycles Day, 2011

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

As Americans, we have a responsibility to ensure future generations benefit from an abundance of natural resources and a healthy planet. To meet this obligation, we must take steps to consume carefully, recycle a wide variety of products and materials, and reuse whenever possible. On America Recycles Day, we celebrate the commitment of individuals across our country to live sustainably, and we rededicate ourselves to thoughtful resource management at home and in the workplace.

For decades, American families have advanced the common good of our Nation by recycling regularly and promoting conservation. During the First and Second World Wars, families participated in scrap drives, gathering cloth, paper, and metals for reuse in manufacturing that helped fuel our military and our economic growth. Since then, we have bolstered recycling programs through individual action, community engagement, and national initiatives, and we have broadened our efforts to include a vast array of pioneering industrial processes that will drive our clean economy and create green jobs. These advances cut waste, preserve our natural bounty, and spur the robust and sustainable economic growth that will carry us through this century and into the next.

To meet the economic and environmental challenges that confront our country today, we must update and expand existing recycling programs and dedicate ourselves to devising new strategies to accommodate emerging technologies. Our Nation generates over two million tons of used electronics annually, and without following proper recycling and management practices, the disposal of our old computers, monitors, and cell phones can release toxic materials into our environment, endanger human health, and prevent the recovery and reuse of valuable resources. For the well-being of our people and our planet, we must consider the full lifecycle impacts of our products and strive to manage our resources in a sustainable way.