

Inauguration 2009

January 18: President-elect Barack Obama retraces Abraham Lincoln's inaugural path on a train ride from Philadelphia to Washington and welcomes Americans to the inaugural festivities from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

The theme for the 2009 inauguration, "A New Birth of Freedom," commemorates the 200th anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birth.



January 19: Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden participate in a day of community service in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

January 20: Obama and President Bush travel together from the White House to the U.S. Capitol. For the first time, the entire National Mall is open to those wishing to attend the swearing-in ceremony.

- Vice President-elect Joe Biden is sworn into office.
- Obama takes the oath of office using Lincoln's Bible, and then delivers his inaugural address from the Capitol steps.

*"I do solemnly swear (or affirm)
that I will faithfully execute the office of
President of the United States,
and will to the best of my ability,
preserve, protect and defend
the Constitution of the United States."*

- U.S. Presidential Oath of Office

- Obama escorts former President Bush to a departure ceremony; George and Laura Bush leave Washington to return to Texas as private citizens.
- Festivities continue, including the 56th Inaugural Parade from the Capitol to the White House and inaugural balls throughout the city.

