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YOUNG CITIZENS TAKE THE LEAD AT ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF DEMOCRACY

The Parliament of New South Wales invites families with children aged five to 12 to this year's Festival of Democracy as part of the Macquarie Street Adventure these school holidays.

The day-long adventure program, to be held along Macquarie Street, will bring together the Parliament of NSW, the State Library of NSW and the Museums of History NSW. It is a day dedicated to our young citizens, making sure learning about democracy is both fun and engaging.

This year the Festival of Democracy will be held on Tuesday 15 April, from 9:30am to 3:00pm at NSW Parliament House. Young people will be able to have a go at voting, wander through the legislative chambers and participate in engaging democracy-themed activities.

Families are encouraged to pack a lunch, to enjoy in the Speaker's Garden. The Long Bell Café will be open for the purchase of hot and cold drinks, sandwiches and light meals.

President of the NSW Legislative Council, The Hon. Ben Franklin MLC looks forward to welcoming hundreds of youngsters through the doors of NSW Parliament House.

"The Festival of Democracy is one of my favourite ways to connect and engage with the people of NSW, including our smallest citizens," he said.

"Civics education is so important for even the youngest to learn how to be active citizens and get involved in democracy – we promise to make it fun!"

"This year's festival is packed with guided tours of parliament's historic chambers, interactive workshops, live music and arts and craft – there really is something for every family member," Mr Franklin said.

"Some youngsters can even deliver a speech at our mock parliamentary hearing. Who knows, one of our young visitors may even sit in my chair one day, overseeing the Legislative Council."

Speaker of the NSW Legislative Assembly, The Hon. Greg Piper MP, said children having active involvement in the learning process is a key strength of the civics program.

"Kids can experience history firsthand through participation in the Magna Carta - a story dating back to 1215 - where the King and his government were told they were not above the law," Mr Piper said.



"They can also be taken back in time to the suffragette movement of the early 1900s, with a retelling of the peaceful yet determined campaign by women for women's rights."

If you would like to attend the Festival of Democracy, please visit the [Parliament of NSW website](#) to reserve your free tickets and for further information.

Can't make it on the day? Join one of our free public tours, running weekdays during the school holidays at 11.30am and 1.30pm – families are welcome. For more information on tours and to book, visit the [Parliament of NSW website](#).