



150 YEARS
1864 - 2014

Charter Day Festival – Frequently Asked Questions

What is Charter Day Festival? Charter Day Festival is a celebration of our sesquicentennial – the anniversary marking 150 years to the day that President Abraham Lincoln signed the Enabling Act (Charter) allowing the school to become a College and confer degrees. Charter Day comes every year on April 8th, but a sesquicentennial is a milestone in Gallaudet University’s history, hence this Charter Day Festival!

When? April 8, 2014, 9:00 – 9:00 – Make sure it is on your calendar!

Where? The Gallaudet University Campus, starting in Elstad Auditorium at 9:00 a.m.

Who? You! This celebration is for the entire Gallaudet community – students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends.

What will happen? The day is jam-packed with events, including:

9:00 a.m.—Opening ceremony, Elstad Auditorium

10:30—Campus Photo, Campus Mall

11:00 —Gallaudet University Alumni Association Wreath-laying, Edward Miner Gallaudet statue, Campus Mall

11:15—Tree planting, Sustainable Gallaudet tours, Sorenson Conversation bike tours

Noon-2 p.m.—Lunch at the Mall – student organizations selling food, all other food services open

Noon—[Deaf Studies Digital Journal-Special 150 issue launch](#), Sorenson Language and Communications Center

1-4—Exhibitions and presentations (student services, academic departments, student organizations, residence life), Jordan Student Academic Center

1:30—Gallaudet Museum Exhibition Opening: *Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond*, Chapel Hall steps - <http://www.gallaudet.edu/museum.html>

2:30—Sesquicentennial Cake, on the Mall

6:30—SBG’s "Mindvolt" ASL Performance Art, Elstad Auditorium(ticket required)

8:30—Closing, Light up Chapel Hall

What about parking and road closures? During the Charter Day Festival visitors may use the 6th Street parking lot without a permit. Be sure to follow signs for reserved, accessible spaces. The College Hall lot will be reserved for people who need close access to buildings and the media.

During the day the road in front of Chapel Hall will be closed in the afternoon and evening for Festival events. Please drive and walk with extra care and follow directions from Security.

What food will be for sale? Student groups will be selling food in the patio plaza between the Jordan Student Academic Center and Foster Auditorium. All campus food services will remain open during the day.

Will the Opening Ceremony and the Gallaudet University Museum exhibition opening be streamed on the web? Yes, but the opening ceremony will be delayed streamed and the Gallaudet Museum exhibition opening will be live streamed. Use the links below:

The morning Opening Ceremony will be delayed-streamed from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time, and can be viewed via this link: <http://webcast.gallaudet.edu/?id=172>

The opening of the Gallaudet University Museum exhibition *Gallaudet at 150 and Beyond* will be streamed live starting at 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time. Click on this link to view the grand opening ceremony: <http://webcast.gallaudet.edu/?id=173>

What are the language access plans? Gallaudet is a bilingual University; American Sign Language and English will be the languages of the day. One event – MindVolt, at 6:30, is ASL artistic performance and will be offered only in ASL. This is a time to take in ASL artistry without interpretation.

Individuals requesting tactile or close-vision interpreting or other access considerations should contact Emma.Bixler@gallaudet.edu. Please make every effort to submit your request early, by April 3rd, so that the team can ensure this Charter Day Festival is accessible for all.

Is there a book that documents Gallaudet's first 150 Years? Yes! Gallaudet Press will release: *The History of Gallaudet University: 150 years of a Deaf American Institution*, by David Armstrong. Gallaudet University Press will be in the Jordan Student Academic Center. <http://gupress.gallaudet.edu/bookpage/HGUbookpage.html>

Where can I find 150th anniversary memorabilia? Medallions commemorating the 150th anniversary will be available for purchase in the Festival booths area, as will a special 150 poster of the campus community standing in 150 formation. The event was planned and documented by students. Gallaudet's Bison Bookstore also has a variety of products that will become keepsakes of the celebration.

May I set up a booth at the Festival? Festival booths are for Gallaudet University departments, units, and organizations only.

Are there exhibits and demonstrations outside of the Jordan Student Academic Center? Yes! Gallaudet University Archives has mounted a new exhibit on major Gallaudet Anniversaries. Stop by the Merrill Learning Center, lower level and see the cases. Also, in the Linda K. Jordan Gallery in the Washburn Arts Building, see an exhibition of work by Deaf artists called **De'VIA: A**

New Wave. Some academic departments are holding outdoor demonstrations as well – see the program booklet map.

What is the Deaf Studies Digital Journal and how does it launch? The Deaf Studies Digital Journal is an online “magazine” with articles, stories, images and film about Deaf life. The DSDJ will release, or launch a special issue on Gallaudet University’s 150th anniversary during the Charter Day Festival. See the schedule for time and place!

Are all events free? All events during the day are free and open except for the Student Body Government performance “MindVolt” which requires tickets. MindVolt tickets (\$10) will be for sale in the Festival booths area of the Jordan Student Academic Center.

What will happen on the Sustainable Gallaudet Tours? Led by the student organization GreenGROW and the Sustainability Council, tours will start at the Laurent Clerc bust between Fowler and Kendall Halls, and circle around the campus, highlighting the many ways Gallaudet has shown leadership in sustainable building, grounds management, recycling, transportation and energy use.

Who is leading the planting of the Sesquicentennial Tree? The Student Body Government and the student organization “GreenGROW” have planned and supported every part of the tree planting, including placement of a massive rock and installation of a commemorative plaque.

What is a “conversation bike?” It’s a contraption that seats 7 people who all must peddle the bike – you’ve got to see it to believe it! Conversation bike tours are planned and led by Sorenson Communications and start at the Sorenson Language and Communication Center. Along the ride there will be stops to see images of campus buildings and spaces.

What is a USPS Pictorial Postmark Cancellation? A U.S. Postal Service Pictorial Postmark Cancellation is an ink stamp that can be added to an envelope or card. The image and text was designed in honor of the Gallaudet University Sesquicentennial. The USPS will have tables with the cancellation equipment inside the Jordan Student Academic Center on April 8 at the Charter Day Festival. To procure this special Pictorial Postmark Cancel, all that is needed is at least a 49¢ “Forever” stamp affixed to an envelope and the USPS will postmark the envelope for you to keep or to mail. *Also for sale:* The 1993 20¢ Thomas H. Gallaudet stamp and the 2003 37¢ District of Columbia stamp (which together will meet the minimum 49¢ charge for postmarking) and a special collector's envelope.

How was the sesquicentennial celebration supported? Several sponsors and many individual donors made it possible to host this year’s events. If you are interested in becoming a donor contact the Gallaudet University Development Office or click here:

<https://giving.gallaudet.edu/sslpage.aspx?pid=720>

For more information on sponsors, see this web page:

http://www.gallaudet.edu/150/learn_more/sponsors.html

Where can I get more information? See the Sesquicentennial Website: <http://www.gallaudet.edu/150.html> During the Festival an information booth will be in the Jordan Student Academic Center at the Campus Services Office. If you have a question now, feel free to contact the festival co-chairs, Karen.Sheffer@gallaudet.edu or Franklin.Torres@gallaudet.edu.