

From the President



Greetings!

All of it—our magnificent campus and its buildings; our national network of local volunteer chapters; our relationships with sponsoring partner organizations; our national awards programs; every communication we disseminate; every staff member we employ; every dollar we raise—all of it has one ultimate purpose: to bring students and teachers here to Valley Forge, where we inspire them with the ideals of the American founding.

That's why we exist. It's what motivates and drives and delights us. So we've been eagerly anticipating the return of students this fall for our rescheduled Spirit of America youth leadership programs.

Regrettably, it's become apparent that we'll need to further postpone the resumption of in-person, on-campus programming. This difficult decision is compelled by three factors:

1. The commonwealth of Pennsylvania continues to [prohibit indoor gatherings of more than 25 people](#). No end date for this restriction has been announced.
2. Most students originally scheduled to attend are now unable to do so. A variety of government orders, school policies, chapter considerations, and parental concerns either preclude travel or so complicate it that it has become impracticable.
3. Our stellar program faculty, many of whom are retired college professors or seasoned citizens, are understandably reluctant to return until the pandemic passes.

Accordingly, we are extending the suspension of in-person, on-campus programming through January 31, 2021. The Spirit of America and other student programs previously scheduled for this fall will be rescheduled for next spring and summer.

Foundation-sponsored on-campus events will also be suspended through the same date. Our annual gala, on Saturday, September 12, will be virtual only. Please join us online for that occasion to honor Dr. Larry Arnn, president of Hillsdale College; Dr. Rogers Smith, immediate past president of the American Political Science Association;

and the Philly POPS, represented by its president and CEO, Frank Giordano. (No cost, but register [here](#).)

Pending the resumption of in-person programs, we'll provide some new online opportunities this fall. But we understand that everyone's tired of online programming, and nothing matches the magic of being here where history happened. So we pledge to welcome students back to campus just as soon as it's safe and legal to do so.

Meanwhile, I offer my sincere, heartfelt, and personal apology to all disappointed by the delay. We fervently hope that every student originally scheduled to come to campus this fall will find his or her visit merely postponed, not forgone.

Thank you for your shared commitment to our mission, and for your continued support.

Cordially,



David Harmer
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