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### **VSA Delaware Selected To Create Delaware's Ornaments For The 2013 National Christmas Tree Display**

*Ornaments from all 56 U.S. states, territories and the District of Columbia to be displayed at the 2013 National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in Washington, D.C.*

Delaware (November 1, 2013) – VSA Delaware and *Friends* have been chosen to design and create the ornaments for Delaware's tree for the 2013 National Christmas Tree display in [President's Park](#) in Washington, D.C., the [National Park Foundation](#) announced today. VSA Delaware, teaching Artist, Kizzie Cobb, and Kent Elementary ILC students, join local artists and youth from each U.S. state, territory and the District of Columbia who were selected to design and create 24 ornaments for their respective state or territory tree.

"It is an honor to be selected to be a part of this process and to offer this creative opportunity to the students of Kent Elementary ILC," said Jennifer Gunther, Executive Director, VSA Delaware. "We are excited to be a part of the National Christmas Tree display."

Delaware's ornaments were created by students from the Kent Elementary Intensive Learning Center under the guidance of teaching artist Kizzie Cobb, and with support from VSA Delaware. The inspiration to create ornaments that represented the unique state symbols of Delaware resulted in ornaments involving the state bird (Blue Hen), flower (Peach Blossom), butterfly (Swallowtail), bug (Ladybug) and tree (American Holly). Students had great enthusiasm for the project and were dedicated to creating the various components of the ornaments. Kent Elementary ILC is a program in the Caesar Rodney School District that educates students with learning and social/emotional disabilities.

"We are very pleased that VSA Delaware, Kizzie Cobb and Kent ILC students will represent Delaware in this year's National Christmas Tree display," said Neil Mulholland, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. "This time-honored tradition is the perfect way to kick off the holiday season."

Four weeks of holiday events in President's Park will kick off with the 91st [National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony](#) presented by the [National Park Service](#) and National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks. The exact date of the National Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony will be announced in the coming weeks.

As one of America's oldest holiday traditions, the National Christmas Tree Lighting began on Christmas Eve in 1923, when President Calvin Coolidge lit a Christmas tree in front of 3,000 spectators on the Ellipse in President's Park. Since 1923, each succeeding President has carried on the tradition of what now has become a month-long

event presented by the National Park Foundation and National Park Service. In addition to the National Christmas Tree display, President's Park hosts a variety of family-oriented holiday attractions, such as the Santa's Workshop, nightly holiday performances, a Yule log, nativity scene, and model train display.

For ticket information and talent announcements, as well as other event details, please visit [www.thenationaltree.org](http://www.thenationaltree.org).

### **VSA Delaware**

VSA Delaware is a statewide arts education organization dedicated to supporting artistic learning opportunities for children and adults with disabilities. [www.vsadelaware.org](http://www.vsadelaware.org)

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### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION**

The National Park Foundation, the official charity of America's national parks, raises private funds that directly aid, support and enrich America's more than 400 national parks and their programs. Chartered by Congress as the nonprofit partner of the National Park Service, the National Park Foundation plays a critical role in conservation and preservation efforts, establishing national parks as powerful learning environments, and giving all audiences an equal and abundant opportunity to experience, enjoy and support America's treasured places. [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org).

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