

7-9-88 Unveiling of
The White House Millennium
Covelet Logo

Council Logo

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton
Unveiling of the White House Millennium Council Logo
South Lawn, The White House
July 9, 1998

Thank you all for gathering here on the South Lawn. You need to know we have a White House Millennium Council that is in charge of working on a large project that we intend to pursue, to try to help America mark the passing of the century of a new millennium. We have had a number of activities here at the White House. I will be going to Montpelier today and then touring next week to try to bring attention to not only some of our historic treasures around the country, but also to demonstrate why this is not something that is about the past, or even just about the change of time, but really about how we intend to live together in the future and what kind of values and attitudes we are going to take.

We have a logo that has been designed after a lengthy process, with a lot of talented people putting their ideas in the team that was chosen. Let me show you what it looks like. It is designed to use our national symbols to force us to look towards a horizon of common opportunities that we think represent what is the American spirit: always looking for the future, always trying to think about how we'll solve problems, always worrying about how we're going to continue to make this country everything it should be. The three stars represent the three millennium. We're going into the third millennium if you count time in that way, which much of the world does. [The flag] is the primary symbol by which all of us are bound together. I'm really excited about it. I think it embodies the theme of the millennium celebration that we've chosen: "Honor the past-Imagine the future." That is a theme that really does try to say what we intend to do in the next couple of years. We want to remind ourselves as Americans what really made us who we are; what the values are that we care about; the people who inspired us; and the ideas that have kept our country going and moving.

The most important part about being an American is imagining the future both as an individual, and as a nation. It is that imagination which has always driven us forward and always motivated us, to keep trying to do more and to do better for ourselves and for the community. This [logo] will be available for not only activities, directly through the White House Millennium Council, but also for other inter-agency activities and federal agencies that are involved, and there are many of those that you'll be hearing more about-a lot of the inter-governmental groups like the West Conference of Mayors, which are also going to be working on millennial projects. Also, certain not-for-profit national groups that have a stake in not only preserving the past, but imagining the future as well.

Though I wanted you all to see it this morning and have a chance to be the first to see it, we'll use it officially next week when we go on our tour from Washington to end up in Seneca Falls for the kick-off the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Sentiments that was drafted there.