

Margaret Chase Smith Library

Education Programs

1. **An Introduction to Margaret Chase Smith**

This is our basic offering and is suitable to all grade levels. The program includes a twenty-minute video about the life of Margaret Chase Smith, a self-guided research assignment in the museum timeline exhibit, a tour of Senator Smith's home, and an explanation of the archives.

2. **Margaret Chase Smith: A Legacy of Service**

This is one of our most popular programs. The library invites groups to visit and tell about their service projects. We can provide support to the cause through publicity in our newsletter and possibly with a financial donation, too. We will also talk about Senator Smith's thirty-two year career of public service in Congress and many additional years of community service assisting civic and charitable groups.

3. **Margaret Chase Smith: The Little Engine That Could**

Margaret Chase Smith established the library in part as a forum where she could meet with young people and teach two lessons. One was the importance of service. The other was the significance of aspirations. Come learn how a young girl, who grew up at a time when women did not even have the right to vote, overcame the obstacles of gender, class, and education to become one of the most powerful females in the United States. Can you find the place of prominence Margaret Chase Smith gave the children's literary classic **The Little Engine That Could** in her house?

4. **Margaret Chase Smith: "Up Above the World So High"**

The Wright brothers flew the first airplane three days after Margaret Chase's sixth birthday. She quite literally grew up with advances in aviation and was always fascinated with flight. Learn about her first plane ride in 1925, her jet flight breaking the sound barrier in 1957, and the pivotal role she played overseeing the development of the American space program as a member of the Senate Aeronautical and Space Sciences Committee.

5. **Women's History: "A Woman's Place Is . . . ?"**

In 1848 the women's movement for equal rights began at the Seneca Falls Convention with the writing of the "Declaration of Sentiments." One hundred years later, Margaret Chase Smith became the first woman to gain election to the United States Senate in her own right. Find out how a woman who grew up at a time when women did not have the right to vote went on to become one of the most powerful politicians in the United States during the mid-twentieth century. In addition, learn about the other areas of American society, including athletics, business, the professions, and the military, where Margaret Chase Smith helped open doors for females.

6. The Homes of Margaret Chase Smith

Study the houses Margaret Chase Smith resided in while living in Skowhegan and Washington, DC. Find out what the analysis of architecture and material culture can tell about artistic styles, historical time periods, and the influence of class and gender on society. In addition to viewing pictures of her homes, students will have the opportunity to tour the house Senator Smith designed for herself and resided in from 1949 until her death in 1995. Remaining as she left it, the home continues to provide insight into the character and personality of Margaret Chase Smith.

7. Using Primary Sources: The Cold War

Most of Margaret Chase Smith's congressional career coincided with the emergence and rise of the Cold War with the Soviet Union. By examining speeches, newspaper accounts, and political cartoons, students can learn a great deal about one of the most important historical developments of the twentieth century. Senator Smith's perspective on world events provides an especially important opportunity to study how the role of gender affected American foreign policy.

8. Skowhegan Girl: A Day in the Life of Margaret Chase

Experience what it was like to live in Maine during the early 1900s. Make craft projects, play games, sing songs, and bake recipes from the period. At the same time, learn about the history of the era when Margaret Chase was a young girl growing up in Skowhegan.

9. So You Think You Know Skowhegan

This is an offering for our local audience. Learn how Margaret Chase Smith's life relates to the history of Skowhegan. Do you know where in town her birthplace still stands? Do you know what Skowhegan High School sports team she led to a championship in 1916? Do you know what local landmark was once the home of Margaret and Clyde Smith? Do you know what President dined at Senator Smith's home in 1955? Come to the Margaret Chase Smith Library and find out the answers to these questions while learning more about the town of Skowhegan.

"I have participated in many enrichment opportunities over the years, and none has been better planned and run than yours."

—Lesley Fowler, Albert S. Hall School, Waterville, Maine

All Margaret Chase Smith Library programs are FREE!
If transportation costs are an issue, inquire about our Field Trip Fund.
For further information, contact:

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