

## Take a Tour of St. John's College—Steeped in United States and Maryland History

Welcome to St. John's College, the third oldest college in America, founded in 1696 as the King William's School. The college has served an integral role in Maryland and American history. In fact, four of the college's founders signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776, George Washington visited the school in 1791, and Abraham Lincoln walked the grounds in 1865. Other notable visitors include First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, program author W. E. B. Du Bois, and American folk legend Woody Guthrie.

Today, the college is known as one of the country's premier liberal arts colleges due to our distinctive Great Books curriculum. At St. John's in Annapolis, more than 500 undergraduate and graduate students read more than 200 of the greatest books ever written across dozens of subjects and discuss those books with our faculty in small, seminar-style classes. The college also has a campus with another 500 students in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The campus grounds are open to the public. The Admissions Office, located in the Charles Carroll Barrister House, offers student-led campus tours, and self-guided tours are available using your mobile device. For information on campus tours, visit sjc.edu/visit.

For information on special events and operating hours, visit sjc.edu.

## Sites of Interest

Alumni Memorial Tablets These memorials, located on front campus, honor the St. John's College alumni who died in service to their country.

**Bookstore** Stop by the campus bookstore to pick up a copy of any book on the curriculum, or get some St. John's swag such as T-shirts, baseball caps and more. *The bookstore is open to the public and is generally open Monday through Friday. Hours may vary.* 

College Cannon This cannon, one of 13 dredged out of the Baltimore Harbor, was used during the War of 1812.

Francis Scott Key Auditorium Named after the famous St. John's alum who

penned "The Star-Spangled Banner," the auditorium hosts a variety of world-class events throughout the year. President Dwight Eisenhower, after landing in a helicopter on back campus, took part in the dedication of Mellon Hall and the Francis Scott Key Auditorium in 1958. *Under renovation; reopening in 2023.* 

French Monument This monument, dedicated in 1911 by President William Howard Taft, honors the French soldiers and sailors who were buried on the shores of College Creek during the Revolutionary War.

**Greenfield Library** The library is housed in the renovated building once known as the Maryland Hall of Records. The collection consists of more than 102,000 books, recordings, videos, and print and electronic periodicals. The library is open to the public.

**Liberty Bell** The replica of the Liberty Bell standing on the front campus is one of 48 cast in 1950 by the U.S. Department of Treasury. This is the state of Maryland's only copy of the Liberty Bell.

McDowell Hall The former governor's mansion, McDowell Hall, was completed in 1789 and serves as the foundation for the college; it is now one of the oldest academic buildings in continuous use in the country. In addition to classroom space, the Great Hall serves as a meeting place for the community. Be sure to stop by for a free Friday night lecture or concert. The coffee shop in the basement is open to the public.

The Mitchell Gallery Located in Mellon Hall, the Elizabeth Myers Mitchell Gallery hosts a diverse array of exhibitions and programs annually. *Under renovation; reopening in 2023.* 

New Program Seal The bronze-cast New Program seal is located at the foot of the quad and features the motto "Facio liberos ex liberis libris libraque," which translates to "I make free adults from children by means of books and a balance." The "New Program" is the name for the Great Books curriculum that the college adopted in 1937.

Ptolemy Stone A Ptolemy Stone is an ancient device for measuring the angle of the sun compared to the earth, which is the basis for many navigational devices such as the sextant. This Ptolemy Stone is one of the only working versions in the country. All freshmen use the device when studying astronomy.