The Many Hats of the President

**Chief of State:** Ceremonial head of the government
- Greets and entertains foreign officials
- Attends festivities of historic or national importance
- Tosses the first baseball of the season
- Presents medals and other awards for national service

**Chief Executive:** Head of the executive branch of government
- Enforces/carries out laws passed by Congress and rulings by the Supreme Court
- Manages the executive branch
- Appoints cabinet members, federal judges and justices, and other federal officials
- Grants pardons (forgives crimes)
- Develops federal policies called executive orders

**Chief Legislator:** Proposer of the legislative agenda
- Proposes legislation during the State of the Union speech to Congress
- Signs or vetoes a bill
- Speaks to Congress about matters of national importance (State of the Union Address)

**Commander-in-Chief:** Head of the nation’s armed forces
- Commander of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marines (and in times of emergency can also take control of the U.S. Coast Guard)
- Can send troops into action overseas
- Keeps the nation safe and defended at all times

**Chief Diplomat:** Architect of American foreign policy
- Power to make treaties with other nations
- Decides foreign policy (how U.S. will act toward other countries)
- Meets with foreign leaders, decides whether to recognize new foreign governments, and proposes military aide to other countries

**Chief of Party:** Leader of the political party that controls the executive branch
- Plays major role in deciding his/her party’s stand on major issues
- Campaigns for party members running for political office
- Appears at fundraisers and other political functions

**Chief Citizen:** Representative of all of the people
- Makes sure the people’s voice is heard
- Sets an example of a good citizen
- Works for the public interest