

# Six Roles, One President

## 1. Chief of State

As the U.S. Chief of State, the president is a living symbol of the nation who stands for the highest values and ideals of the country.

### Examples of Behavior:

- Presenting important national awards to citizens
- Congratulating U.S. Olympic gold medal winners
- Making a patriotic speech on the Fourth of July
- Pitching the first ball of the baseball season

## 2. Chief Executive

As chief executive, the president employs millions of government workers in the Executive Branch, decides how to enforce the laws of the U.S., and chooses officials and advisors to help run the Executive Branch.

### Examples of Behavior:

- Appointing the head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)
- Holding a Cabinet meeting to discuss government business
- Reading a report and recommendations about problems in the management of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

## 3. Chief Diplomat

With the help of his advisors, the president makes the foreign policy of the United States. He or she also determines what American diplomats and ambassadors should say to foreign governments.

### Examples of Behavior:

- Traveling to London to meet with British leaders regarding European issues
- Entertaining Japanese diplomats in the White House to discuss trade issues
- Writing a message or a letter to Russian leaders on arm control
- Trying to bring peace to the Middle East

## 4. Commander in Chief

As commander of the nation's armed services, the president determines the size and deployment of the armed forces and, with Defense Department leaders and the highest military officers he or she appoints, shapes the defense policy. The president shares some military powers with Congress—top appointments, major military expenses, and plans to expand the armed forces require congressional approval; and only Congress can declare war.

### Examples of Behavior:

- Inspecting a Navy yard
- Deciding whether to bomb foreign cities in wartime
- Calling troops to stop a riot
- Deciding on which new weapon systems to request

## 5. Chief Legislator

While only Congress has the actual power to make law, the Constitution gives the president power to influence Congress in its lawmaking—a president may urge Congress to pass new laws and may veto bills that he or she does not favor.

### Examples of Behavior:

- Inviting members of Congress to lunch to discuss pending legislation
- Signing a bill passed by Congress
- Making public statements supporting or opposing pending legislation in Congress

## 6. Chief of Party

As chief of his or her political party, the president helps members of his or her political party get elected or appointed to office.

### Examples of Behavior:

- Choosing leading party members to serve in the Cabinet
- Speaking at a rally for a party nominee to the U.S. Senate
- Attending events to raise funds for his party's congressional candidates