

President Obama to Throw Out First Pitch at 2009 MLB All-Star Game

Written by Maury Brown
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President Barack Obama will throw out the first pitch at the 2009 Major League Baseball All-Star Game on Tuesday, July 14 at Busch Stadium in St. Louis .

President Obama will be the fourth U.S. President to throw out the first pitch at the Midsummer Classic joining John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, and Gerald Ford. President Obama will be the seventh U.S. President to attend the All-Star Game. The first U.S. President to attend an All-Star Game was Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1937.

The 80th Major League Baseball All-Star Game will be televised nationally by FOX Sports, with pre-game ceremonies beginning at 8 p.m. ET, in Canada by Rogers Sportsnet and Sportsnet HD and televised in more than 200 countries and territories by Major League Baseball International. ESPN Radio will provide exclusive national radio coverage, while MLB.com will provide extensive online coverage.

On April 22, Major League Baseball dedicated its 2009 All-Star Game and surrounding events to raising funds and awareness for charitable initiatives and celebrating the importance of community service. The charity and community service initiatives, which are themed “Going Beyond,” will be the most extensive in Major League Baseball All-Star history. In addition, Major League Baseball is supporting President Obama’s call for community service through “United We Serve,” a program which encourages Americans to engage in sustained and meaningful community service. President Obama is encouraging all Americans to visit www.serve.gov to

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find service opportunities in their area.

“Major League Baseball is truly honored that President Obama will be in attendance to throw out the first pitch at the 80th All-Star Game on July 14 in St. Louis,” said Baseball Commissioner Allan H. (Bud) Selig. “The central theme of the 2009 All-Star Game is community service, celebrating the extraordinary work being done by ordinary people. We are thrilled that we can come together with President Obama, who has encouraged a renewed spirit of national service, and illustrate a call to action in our communities. President Obama will continue a great tradition that joins our nation’s leader and the national pastime.”

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Following is a list of Presidential appearances at the MLB All-Star Game:

- 1937 President Franklin D. Roosevelt
- 1962 President John F. Kennedy threw out the Ceremonial First Pitch
- 1970 President Richard Nixon threw out the Ceremonial First Pitch
- 1976 President Gerald Ford threw out the Ceremonial First Pitch
- 1978 Former President Gerald Ford threw out the Ceremonial First Pitch
- 1989 Former President Ronald Reagan
- 1991 President George H.W. Bush with Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney
- 1992 President George H.W. Bush with President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico

Source: Major League Baseball