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It's Illegal to Take it, But Not to Make It

Local DC Students Learn Origami to Design their own Cherry Blossoms for Museum Charity Initiative

Media are invited to attend the demonstration on Wednesday, March 3rd from 9:00 AM until 11:00 AM at Transition Academy. For security reasons, media must RSVP beforehand to gain access; please contact Lisa Marie Czop through the information above before Tuesday, March 2nd at 8:00 PM.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In preparation for the annual Cherry Blossom Festival in April, the **National Museum of Crime and Punishment (NMCP)** will teach DC Public School students about the history and laws regarding preservation surrounding the area's cherry blossoms. The NMCP is working with students from Transition Academy at Shadd to create cherry blossoms for both the Cherry Blossom Tree Fund and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

On Wednesday, March 3, students at Transition Academy will be instructed by a NMCP representative on how to assemble an origami cherry blossom using construction paper and tissue paper; this demonstration will serve as a lesson on the history of cherry blossoms and the art of origami.

"Our students are excited to gain this new experience, as it is a unique therapeutic outlet for them," said Transition Academy Assistant Principal Andrea Jones.

NMCP is using this event as a kickoff to their annual fundraiser. The museum will sell each of the origami cherry blossoms made by Transition Academy students for \$1, and the proceeds from the sale will benefit the National Center of Missing and Exploited Children and the Cherry Blossom Fund.

About the National Museum of Crime & Punishment

NMCP's mission is to provide guests of all ages with a memorable insight into the issues of crime, crime fighting, and the consequences of committing a crime in America through a captivating interactive, entertaining and educational experience. The museum is located on 7th Street NW between E and F Streets in downtown Washington, D.C. at the Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro (Arena exit). For more information, visit www.crimemuseum.org

About Transition Academy at Shadd

The Transition Academy at Shadd's mission is to enable students to reach their full academic and behavioral potential by providing all students access to a rigorous curriculum in a safe and effective learning environment that integrates the necessary clinical and academic supports required to meet the individual learning and social/emotional needs of each student.

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