



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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# Nationwide Treasure Hunt Begins Monday

## **“Hunt” Designed by Kids Features Fabulous Prizes and a Treasure Chest of Jewels – All Proceeds Benefit Military Family Scholarships**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – A new nation-wide treasure hunt for fabulous prizes begins Monday, May 29<sup>th</sup> when the ThanksUSA clue book goes on-line at 8:00 a.m. EST. Kids, parents, families, school classes and other groups, and people of all ages can participate in the treasure hunt by downloading the clue book at [www.ThanksUSA.org](http://www.ThanksUSA.org). All participants are strongly encouraged to make a contribution to the ThanksUSA scholarship fund, which provides post-secondary educational scholarships to the children and spouses of active-duty military personnel.

The treasure hunt quizzes players on their knowledge of American history, culture, geography and trivia through 12 challenging puzzles, each relating to a U.S. State. A number of corporations and individuals have donated amazing prizes for the winners of each stage of the treasure hunt, including: a family vacation to Walt Disney World; a family vacation to the pyramids in Egypt; a trip to the 2007 Academy Awards; and a vacation to the 2007 Super Bowl. See [www.ThanksUSA.org](http://www.ThanksUSA.org) for a complete list of prizes. Players who successfully solve all 12 stages of the hunt will be eligible for the grand prize – a Washington, D.C. family adventure including a behind-the-scenes tour of the nation’s capital and a stay in the Presidential suite at the historic Willard Intercontinental Hotel. While in D.C, the grand prize winner will search for the hidden ThanksUSA Treasure Chest – a veritable pirate’s booty, filled with rare gems, jewelry and coins.

2000 Clue Books have also been sent to American soldiers serving in Iraq so that they, too, can play ThanksUSA’s American History National Treasure Hunt.

Enrollment in the nationwide treasure hunt begins today and players can sign up at [www.ThanksUSA.org](http://www.ThanksUSA.org). Participation is open to any U.S. citizen, but children younger than 14 years old must obtain their parents' permission.

ThanksUSA is the brainchild of two Virginia school children, Rachel and Kelsi, ages 10 and 8. A new non-partisan, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, ThanksUSA is dedicated to providing scholarships for post-secondary education to the spouses and children of active-duty military personnel. The scholarships are funded by federal, corporate and individual contributions, and also through the nationwide treasure hunt.

“We wanted to say thank you to our troops and wanted to show that we care about them,” said Kelsi Okun, who along with her sister Rachel, is the primary architect of the treasure hunt. “Maybe they’ll make a difference in science or politics, or maybe in their community. They might even choose to serve our country like their mom or dad,” added Rachel, the treasure hunt’s co-founder. “ThanksUSA will help military families make the world a better place and take part in an historic treasure hunt. It will let all Americans show their appreciation for the heroes who keep us all safe and free.”

The girls inspired their parents to think about how they could help, and the family worked together over the past year, along with a broad array of other volunteers, to bring their idea to fruition. Individuals and corporations are encouraged to make a direct donation to the ThanksUSA scholarship fund at [www.ThanksUSA.org](http://www.ThanksUSA.org).

“This is a treasure hunt designed by kids, for kids of all ages. I hope it will help kids whose moms and dads are protecting our country,” said Kelsi. “We hope that by working as a team, the treasure hunt will bring kids and parents closer together, as it did our family,” observed Rachel.

### **About ThanksUSA**

ThanksUSA, a 501(c) (3) organization, is a unique national effort to thank the men and women of our armed forces and their families through a nationwide treasure hunt rooted in American history. An acronym for **T**reasure **H**unt **A**iding **N**eeds of **K**ids (and spouses) of those **S**erving the **U**nited **S**tates of **A**merica, ThanksUSA is the brainchild of two Virginia school children, Rachel and Kelsi, ages 10 and 8. Founded in the fall of 2005, ThanksUSA is dedicated to providing educational opportunities through competitive scholarships to the children and spouses of active duty military personnel. ThanksUSA encourages kids of all ages to learn and appreciate American history and the contributions and sacrifices of America’s heroes in the armed forces.