

## **The Children's Hour - Jimmy Carter**

**Kids Crew:** Why did the kid want to be the President of the United States?

**Kids Crew:** I don't know. Why?

**Kids Crew:** He heard that politics was full of parties.

**Kids Crew:** It's time for The Children's Hour. Kids public radio.

### **(Music – Over the Rhine: If a Song Could Be President)**

03:22

**Katie Stone:** That's Over the Rhine right here on The Children's Hour with If a Song Could Be President. This is The Children's Hour, I'm Katie Stone. Today on the show, we're going to do something a little bit different. We're going to learn about a particular person all through the hour. His name is President Jimmy Carter. There is a lot to learn about this extraordinary man, not only what he did while he was in office, but how he influenced people around the world since he left office because of his many good deeds. Jimmy Carter was from the state of Georgia. And there is so much to learn. Our intern, Addie, has a lot to teach us today on The Children's Hour. Stick with us as we honor and celebrate President Jimmy Carter. This is Willie Nelson.

### **(Music – Willie Nelson: Georgia On My Mind)**

08:31

**Kids Crew:** Hey everyone! My name is Adi Arenas. I'm the intern for The Children's Hour this summer through the Albuquerque Mayor's Creative Youth Corps. Today I'm going to talk about President Jimmy Carter, who was the first president to be born in a hospital. We're going to go all the way back to 1924, the year he was born in Plains, Georgia. It's a small town in south central Georgia. When Carter was born, it only had about 600 people in it. Today, it has just a little over 700, so it hasn't grown much. Carter is definitely one of my favorite presidents. Not only was he a Georgian state senator, but he was also the governor of Georgia. He then became president of the United States and later went on to win a Nobel Peace Prize. The person whom we know as Jimmy Carter was actually

born with the name James Earl Carter Jr. And although he was born in Plains, his family moved several times. One of the places they moved to was outside a settlement called Archery, which was mainly made up of very poor black families. You have to remember, Georgia is a part of the Deep South, and segregation was law at the time.

To remind everyone of what segregation is, it is a practice of legally keeping white people and black people separated. They couldn't go to the same school, drink from the same water fountains, or even sit with each other in church. And even though his dad believed in segregation, young Jimmy was allowed to play with the black kids in archery. This and his deep Christian faith really influenced his later life. He went to school in Plains and graduated high school in 1941. While he was in high school, he was a member of the Future Farmers of America and the school's basketball team. After he graduated from high school, he went on to study engineering at Georgia Southwestern College, not too far from Plains. He was there for two years before he was admitted to the United States Naval Academy in 1943. While he was at the academy, he met Rosalina Smith, a friend of his sister Ruth. They would marry after Jimmy graduated from the academy in 1946. After graduating and getting married, he was assigned to the submarines and was one of the first to work with nuclear submarines, which he began to do in 1952.

With his knowledge of nuclear reactors, he was sent to Canada to help with a nuclear accident that occurred at the Chalk River Laboratories, where Canada was doing nuclear research. This accident allowed hundreds of thousands of gallons of radioactive water to flood the reactor building's basement. He had to put a lot of protective gear and then was lowered into the nuclear reactor to try and fix the problem. He would later say that this experience would influence how he felt about atomic energy, and caused him to stop the neutron bomb from being developed. After this, he attended more schooling so that he could become an officer on one of the very first nuclear submarines, the USS Sea Wolf. However, something back home changed all of his plans. His dad passed away. Since his dad ran a peanut farm, the job of continuing the farm fell to Jimmy. Although his dad died wealthy, because of forgiving debts and dividing the inheritance, the money was stretched thin. This caused Jimmy, his wife, and their children to live in public housing, the only president to have to do so. Because of his hard work, Jimmy grew the peanut farm and became very successful. He then turned to politics.

**Katie Stone:** That's Addy, our intern, and today on The Children's Hour,

we're learning about President Jimmy Carter. There's a lot more to learn and many links posted at [childrenshour.org](http://childrenshour.org). Look for this episode, Jimmy Carter.

**(Music – PoorFish: Jimmy Carter: America's Loneliest Peanut Farmer)**

15:12

**Katie Stone:** That was Poor Fish with a song I'm not sure is correct. I don't know that Jimmy Carter is America's loneliest peanut farmer. And you're listening to The Children's Hour. We're learning about Jimmy Carter from our intern, Addy, today on The Children's Hour. But before we come back to her, this next one was inspired by Jimmy Carter. It's from a release called a Legion of Peace, songs inspired by Nobel laureates. This is Lori Henriques with A Kinder Way, right here on The Children's Hour, where we're learning about Jimmy Carter.

**(Music – Lori Henriques: A Kinder Way (Inspired by Jimmy Carter) [feat. Joey Alexander])**

19:29

**Kids Crew:** You're listening to The Children's Hour, Kids Public Radio will be right back.

**Katie Stone:** New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs supports The Children's Hour. International Archaeology Day is October 19, 2024. Archaeology at your fingertips. More at [nmarcheology.org](http://nmarcheology.org). Electric Playhouse supports The Children's Hour. Now open in Las Vegas, Nevada, inside the Forum Shops at Caesar's Palace. Learn more at [electricplayhouse.com](http://electricplayhouse.com)

[20:00]

**Katie Stone:** You're listening to The Children's Hour. I'm Katie Stone. Over the break, that was Jazz Jamaica with their version of the peanut vendor from their CD called Skaravan. As we're learning about Jimmy Carter, you can learn more and see pictures and links at [childrenshour.org](http://childrenshour.org). Look for this episode, Jimmy Carter. Our summer intern, Addie, has a lot more to

teach us about the life of Jimmy Carter. Where we left it, He had to leave the military and come back to Plains, Georgia to run the family peanut farm after his father passed away.

**Kids Crew:** Remember when we talked about segregation? After Jimmy moved back to rural Georgia, this was a big problem. The Supreme Court had just handed down its Brown vs. Board of Education decision in 1954, which allowed Black children to go to the same school as white children. This didn't go over well with most Georgians. However, because of his experience with the Black kids in archery and what he saw as he traveled around the world in the Navy, Jimmy was all for racial tolerance. This got him in a lot of trouble. The local chapter of the White Citizens Council boycotted Carter's Peanuts for a while, but this didn't stop him. Even though the 1954 Supreme Court decision made segregation illegal, it was still practiced in Georgia. When a state Senate seat opened up in 1962, he decided to run. At first, everyone thought he lost the election, but Jimmy proved that his opponent had won illegally. A new election was held, and he won. He was a hard worker and did something that I think is pretty cool, which was a speed reading course so that he could keep up with what he had to do. He was so well liked as a state senator that he was re-elected in 1964.

On the last day of his term as state senator, he announced his plan to run for the U.S. Congress. His main opponent was a guy named Bo Calloway. Jimmy thought that Calloway represented selfishness in politics, something he hated. Eventually, Bo decided to drop out of the Congressional race and run for governor of Georgia. This caused Jimmy to do the same thing, since he really didn't like Calloway and didn't want to see him win. There were others running for governor in 1966, not just Calloway and Jimmy. The votes were split so much that he didn't win. He did force a runoff election, though. This resulted in the election of Lester Maddox, a man that was a segregationist. Jimmy hated the thought that he had lost to someone like Maddox. After the election, he went home to Plains to work on his peanut farm and plan for the next election for governor. He ran for governor in 1970. He worked to get both the white and black vote. He didn't do too well with the black vote though. He only got 7% of it, and he didn't win enough votes for an outright win, which led to another runoff election, and this time Jimmy won, becoming Georgians 76th governor.

Two important things he pushed while he was governor were racial equality and education. In his inaugural speech, he said, the time for racial

discrimination is over, something that would later cause the Ku Klux Klan to march against him. He appointed many black people to state offices through the time he was governor and established a Georgia Civil Rights Council that would work on racial issues. But while he was doing all of this, he was also thinking about something else, becoming president of the United States.

**(Music – Oscaar Brand: Jimmy Carter- Why Not the Best)**

**(Music – Alvis Howard and JB Frederick: Goober Man)**

28:09

**Katie Stone:** Two presidential campaign songs in a row for Jimmy Carter's 1976 presidential campaign. The first one you heard was done by Oscar Brand. It was the official campaign song called Jimmy Carter, Why Not the Best. That's from his presidential campaign songs. And then you heard The Goober Man, which was written in 1976 by Alvis Howard and JB Frederick and it was performed here by Craig Moore. The word goober means peanut, but it's also an old slang word for someone from Georgia, where Jimmy Carter is from. Today we're learning about Jimmy Carter with our summer intern, Addie, and she has a lot more to teach us.

**Kids Crew:** Jimmy had already put together a presidential campaign staff in 1972. While he was the governor, he also got himself appointed to several national democratic committees. This helped him to come up with both ideas he could use in a national campaign and the recognition he would need when he ran. He ran in the bicentennial year of 1976 against the person who was president, Gerald R. Ford, the person who took over for Richard Nixon when Nixon resigned. At the time, there was still a lot of racial tension. The economy wasn't doing too well and there were big problems in the Middle East. During the election, he chose Walter Mondale from Minnesota as his vice president. He debated Gerald Ford three times, and when the votes were counted, he won both the popular and the electoral votes. One of the first things that he did was to issue an executive order declaring amnesty for anyone who had evaded the draft during the Vietnam War. This allowed many who had gone to Canada to evade the draft to come home. And he was very interested in energy conservation. He

was the first president to install solar panels onto the White House. He encouraged people to lower their household temperatures and wear sweaters, something he did in the White House.

This was also a hectic time during world history. The Soviet Union, what is now Russia, invaded Afghanistan during the Carter presidency. Jimmy led the world in trying to boycott the 1980 Moscow Olympics. Because of the invasion, relations between the US and the Soviet Union got worse. In spite of this, Jimmy worked to make the world a safer place by negotiating and signing a deal known as SALT II, or the Strategic Arms Limitations Talk. Which worked to limit the amount of nuclear weapons that each country had. But there were other areas of the world that needed attention also. The United States supported the Shah of Iran, but the Iranian people didn't. There was a movement in Iran to overthrow the Shah, which they finally did in 1979. Because the U.S. supported the Shah, Iranian students invaded and took over the U.S. Embassy in the Iranian capital. They captured 52 embassy employees and held them hostage. Jimmy tried to rescue them in a military operation called Operation Eagle Clock. This effort failed, resulting in the deaths of eight soldiers and the destruction of two airplanes. The hostages were held for 444 days. This was a major cause of Jimmy's defeat in the 1980 election. When he decided to run again, it went poorly for him. He ran against the governor of California, Ronald Reagan, and he lost big time.

Ronald Reagan got 489 electoral votes, and Jimmy only got 49. It was the second biggest upset in U.S. history, and that was the end of Jimmy's presidency. But he still had a lot of work to do.

**Katie Stone:** We'll find out what's next for President Jimmy Carter, but first, in his own words, this is Brian Ruth with his single for Jimmy Carter, right here on The Children's Hour.

**(Music – Brian Routh: Jimmy Carter)**

**(Music – Gene Marshall: Jimmy Carter Says 'Yes')**

39:15

**Kids Crew:** You're listening to the Children's Hour Kids Public Radio. We'll be right back.

**Katie Stone:** Thanks to the Outpost Performance Space in Albuquerque, New Mexico for hosting The Children's Hour. Support for The Children's Hour is provided by United Way of North Central New Mexico. Support provided by the City of Albuquerque and the Urban Enhancement Trust Fund. Support for The Children's Hour provided by the County of Bernalillo, New Mexico. Many thanks to the users at tokenibus.org. who direct funds to The Children's Hour every week. Keep up with The Children's Hour and subscribe to our monthly newsletter at childrenshour.org.

[40:00]

**(Music – Dan Bern: Ballad of Jimmy Carter)**

45:44

**Katie Stone:** That was the Ballad of Jimmy Carter by Dan Bern right here on The Children's Hour. And over the break, you heard Bill Frisell from his release called This Land with Jimmy Carter, part one. And before the break. You heard Jimmy Carter Says, Yes, that's the American song poem anthology. We're learning today about Jimmy Carter with our intern, Addie. And before the break, we learned a little bit about Jimmy Carter's presidency. Now Addie is going to let us know what happened after Jimmy Carter left the White House.

**Kids Crew:** Jimmy sure has been busy since he left the presidency. One of the first things he did was establish the Carter Foundation, which is a nonprofit organization that works around the world to advance human rights. It has worked in more than 80 countries. It is active today in everything from getting rid of different kinds of diseases to making sure elections are fair. The Carter Center website is a wealth of information of what it's doing and how you can help. He has also written 30 books, including a children's book with his daughter Amy and several books in which he shares his Christian faith. The faith has guided him in two of the other important things that he has done since he was president. Habitat for Humanity is an organization that builds houses for those trying to break out of poverty. Jimmy has been not only a financial supporter of this program, but him and his wife have helped to build dozens of these houses, many times showing up to lend a hand. Even into his 90s, Jimmy still knows how to use a hammer.

In 2002, he was awarded one of the most important awards in the

world. The Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to him for, and I quote from the award document, his decades of untiring effort to find peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance democracy and human rights, and to promote economic and social development. There have only been 109 Nobel Peace Prizes ever awarded, and Jimmy got one of them. He sure has been really busy. Today, he is 98 years old and he is as active as ever. He speaks out on various topics and still travels to places where he feels he might be needed. It's amazing that he continues to help the community. It is super important to keep his legacy alive for many years to come. Thank you for learning about Jimmy Carter, the 39th president of the United States. Bye.

**(Music – Timothy Scott & Kellie Parr: Jimmy)**

**(Music – Blue Mountain: Jimmy Carter)**

54:10

**Katie Stone:** That was Blue Mountain from Dog Days with their Jimmy Carter song. And before that, you heard Timothy Scott with Jimmy, an original song for Jimmy Carter. We've been learning about Jimmy Carter today on The Children's Hour with our summer intern, Addy. You can find pictures, links, and a lot more information at [childrenshour.org](http://childrenshour.org). Look for this episode, Jimmy Carter. As we are producing this, Jimmy Carter is on hospice. And what that means is that he's nearing the end of his life. His wife Rosalyn already has passed away and he has said that he is looking forward to seeing her again. I'm Katie Stone. We have time for one more here on The Children's Hour. This is the Electric Needle Room with their Jimmy Carter song. We'll catch you next time for another edition of The Children's Hour.

**(Music – Electric Needle Room: Jimmy Carter)**

16:58

**Kids Crew:** The Children's Hour is produced by The Children's Hour Incorporated, a New Mexico non-profit.

**Kids Crew:** You can find photos, links, learn-along guides, and more about



us at [ChildrensHour.org](https://www.ChildrensHour.org).

**Katie Stone:** Today's show had production help from Addy Arenas and was written by Randy Pence. We also had production help from Gus Tafoya and our senior producer, Christina Stella.

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**Kids Crew:** Our theme music was written by C.K. Barlow.

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