



Teacher Appreciation Week originated in 1953, and teachers have Eleanor Roosevelt and the National Education Association to thank for its inception.

Arkansas educator Mattie Whyte Woodridge began communicating with leaders in the education system to form a day on which teachers would be honored. She ultimately began writing letters to Eleanor Roosevelt. Roosevelt decided the cause was worthy of her attention and took it to Congress.

Even with Eleanor Roosevelt taking the case to members of Congress and getting their help and support, it would take another 27 years to become an official national day. In 1980, the NEA joined together with the Kansas State and Indiana State Boards of Education and began to lobby Congress to have the day nationally recognized.



MISSOURI NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION  
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NATIONAL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK | MAY 2-6, 2022