

Kathryn Childers

Women's History Trailblazer: One of First Five Women Special Agents in United States Secret Service

Please contact a GDA agent for information.

Topics

- Activism / Philanthropy / Civic Engagement
- Courage / Heroism
- Inspiration / Achievement
- Journalism / Literary / Author
- Overcoming Adversity

About Kathryn Childers

Kathryn made history as one of the first five female U.S. Secret Service special agents hired in 1971. She joined 1,100 men in the elite agency where she shot holes in the “glass ceiling” investigating counterfeit, working undercover, and protecting the President and world leaders. Fondly called the “pistol packin’ nanny,” Kathryn was charged with protecting the Kennedy children – Caroline and John Jr. – while traveling with Former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis.

A master of reinvention, Kathryn went on to have a whirlwind of professional and diverse careers. She became a broadcast journalist producing and hosting her own morning talk show for 18 years on the local ABC affiliate, award-winning community advocate creating an organization that to date has given away more than 18,000 free mammograms to women in need, as well as author and publisher selling more than 100,000 of a trio of books about a fluke Texas snowstorm.

Today, Kathryn is sought after on the national speaking circuit not only entertaining audiences with her astonishing and fascinating history, but motivating, engaging, and inspiring audiences to real action. She shares the secret of her success coaching all ages to grasp her life-long mantra – “do it scared!” – and make it their own and taking that first step to courage. Kathryn brings the perfect balance of a one-of-a-kind experience blended with story-telling charm ... taking audiences on a jaw-dropping ride-along sharing anecdotes of training and protecting some the world’s most important people.

Select Keynotes

- **Do It Scared!**

Kathryn Childers’ decision to just “do it scared” led to her an appointment as one of the first five female Special Agents in the United States Secret Service. After smashing that glass ceiling, she protected the President, First Family, foreign heads of state as well as John and Caroline Kennedy while traveling the globe with Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. Even Jacqueline Kennedy-Onassis noted, *“Agent Clark (Childers), you live such an interesting life.”*

A master of reinvention, Kathryn went on to become a broadcast journalist, award-winning community advocate, author and publisher, as well as wife and mother. Through it all, Kathryn not only entertaining audiences with her astonishing and fascinating history, but motivates, engages, and inspires audiences to real action. She shares the secret of her success coaching all ages to grasp her life-long mantra – “do it scared!” – and make it their own. Kathryn brings the perfect balance of a one-of-a-kind experience blended with story-telling charm taking audiences on a jaw-dropping ride-along sharing anecdotes of training and protecting some the world’s most important people.

- **What's In Your Backpack?**

Kathryn Childers coaches middle and high school students as well as college students to “sell their sizzle” by weaving nuggets of advice garnered during her 60 exciting years and four amazing careers into this presentation. She shows how to leverage one’s “backpack of experience,” nail an interview, and be interested versus interesting with on-stage interviews. Kathryn also shows students tactics to get them and their resumes off the shelf and noticed, and discusses the importance of developing a short elevator speech which includes offering three things no one would believe about themselves.



Select Book Titles

- **2021:** Scared Fearless: An Unlikely Agent in the U.S. Secret Service - due out late Fall 2020 via Texas A&M University Press
- **2007:** "More Snow For Kids"
- **2006:** "More Snow: The South Texas Christmas Miracle"
- **2005:** "Snow: The South Texas Christmas Miracle"

Select Articles

- [Influential Women In Texas](#)
Corpus Christi Caller-Times - March 2020
- ["One of First Female Secret Service Agents To Speak"](#)
The Raquet (University of Wisconsin La Crosse)
- ["Her Secret: One Of First Five Female Secret Service Agents Says 'Do It Scared' "](#)
LaCrosse Tribune
- ["The Many Lives of Kathryn Childers"](#)
Texas Coastal Enthusiast
- ["Doing It Scared: Alliance Member & Pioneer U.S. Secret Service Agent Kathryn Childers"](#)
Connections (American Medical Association Alliance's quarterly magazine)
- ["Seizing Her Dreams"](#)
The Crescent of Gamma Phi Beta
- ["First Friday: Knocking Out Breast Cancer"](#)
Christus Spohn Quarterly http://www.kathrynchilders.com/news/Christus_Spohn_Quarterly_-_Spring_2007.pdf

Select Testimonials

"We are writing to express our gratitude and thank you for your wonderful presentation at our Women's Fund of Door County luncheon. We received so many positive comments about your speech, your sense of humor, and your candor about life. Your unique talent is truly the culmination of a lifetime of practicing what you preach – "Doing it Scared!"

– Diane Sarosiek, Executive Director, Women's Fund of Door County – Sturgeon, Wisconsin

"We had one of the largest turn-outs for a speaker and Kathryn captivated them until the end. Students loved her! She was dynamic, entertaining, funny and insightful. Thank you for sharing and inspiring our students to "sell their sizzle".

– Karolyn Bald, University of Wisconsin – LaCrosse, Wisconsin

"Through entertaining and inspiring examples, Kathryn showed us how we could significantly impact the fight against cancer even if we didn't have cancer. Most importantly, she helped us raise nearly \$60,000 for medical equipment and oncology services – the highest total ever in our event's history!"

– Kristi Jones, Director of Marketing, St. Joseph's Health System – Bryan, Texas, Surviving & Thriving Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon

"Kathryn's message brought a local, professional, and intriguing message for the Del Mar College Graduates. Her experiences as a Secret Service Agent and a local television personality kept the graduating class of 2014 on the edges of their seats, and the pride she demonstrated in our community was icing on the cake! I was proud."

– President Mark Escamilla, Del Mar College – Corpus Christi, Texas

"We were all blown away by professional speaker Kathryn Childers. She was entertaining, funny, knowledgeable, engaging ... I have run out of adjectives! I repeatedly heard the comment, "She was the best speaker we've had at our meetings!" And I agree – she was wonderful. My only regret is that we ran out of time so quickly. She graciously signed copies of her book, visited with everyone who wanted a word, and was thoroughly delightful. Her message of "do it scared" was right on target for our group."

– Sharon Halfmann, *Farm Credit Business & Professional Women's Association (and Loan Administrator of Central Texas Farm Credit, ACA)*