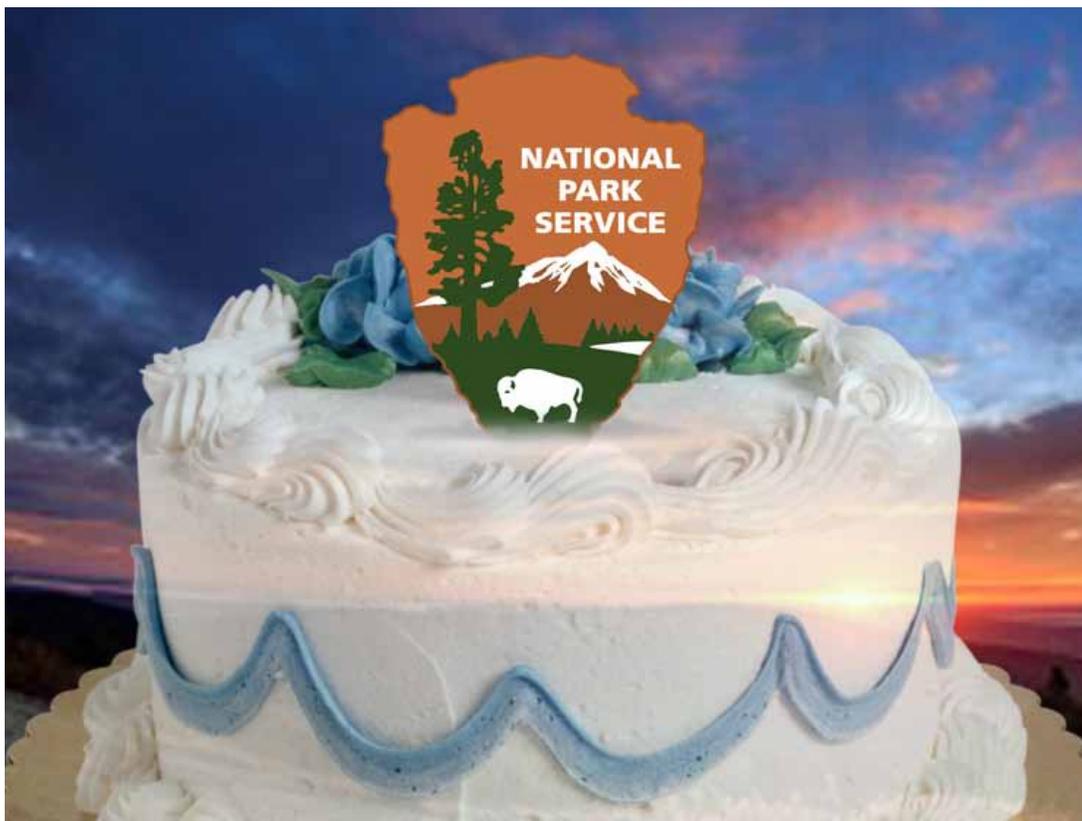


An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

National Park Service Celebrates Its Centennial



- KidsPost Reprint: “National Park Service marks 100 years of preserving natural treasures”
- Student Activity: Where Would You Find ...?
- KidsPost Reprint: “What it’s like to be a national park ranger”
- Student Activity: Telling All Americans’ Stories
- Guest Commentary: “We must recommit to national parks, America’s cathedrals”
- Student Activity: Enjoy America’s National Parks

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed legislation creating the National Park Service, to oversee the nation's 35 (at the time) national parks. In 100 years this has grown to NPS sites in every state, D.C. and five U.S. territories.



Park rangers in easily identifiable uniforms, rustic stone and rough-hewn timber buildings from the CCC-era, and signage at park entrances welcome visitors to these sites.



With the centennial celebrations comes a redesign of the NPS logo. The arrowhead remains the prominent image. According to a NPS historian, the arrowhead was formally authorized on July 20, 1951. "Although never explained by its designers, the logo's symbols — the arrowhead, sequoia tree, and mountainscape — are assumed to represent the nation's natural and historic legacy and the NPS role in preserving them. The inclusion of the bison is intended to connect the NPS with the Department of the Interior."



The new simplified design outlines the arrowhead. The image is shared by the National Park Service and its non-profit arm, the National Park Foundation.



Although 100 years old and with a facelift, the National Park Service's commitment to preservation remains as does the federal agency's need for the American people to visit and provide support.

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

KIDSPOST

National Park Service marks 100 years of preserving natural treasures

Yellowstone was the first federally protected natural area; now there are sites in each state



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

The Grand Prismatic Spring is among the amazing sights within Yellowstone National Park, the nation's first national park.

Ready to blow out some candles? The National Park Service is celebrating its 100th birthday this summer!

Special events are planned from coast to coast and overseas. There's sure to be something near you. That's because the park system oversees more than 400 sites, including battlefields, monuments, historical parks, lakeshores and seashores,

scenic rivers — even the White House!

Fifty-nine of those sites are actual national parks, including the granddaddy of them all: Yellowstone. People have been coming to this natural wonder of gushing geysers and wild animals for more than 11,000 years, and it's where the story of the National Park Service begins.

Natural treasures

Yellowstone, located mostly in Wyoming, became our first national park — and some say the world's first — in 1872. The idea was to protect such natural treasures from development so future generations — that means you! — could enjoy them, too.

Other parks, most notably California's Yosemite (pronounced

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program



The stamp of Assateague Island National Seashore, which is in Maryland and Virginia, is part of a panel marking the 100th birthday of the National Park Service.

yo-SEM-it-ee), were added over the years.

President Theodore Roosevelt was one of the park system's biggest boosters. During his time in the White House (1901-1909), he added five parks, 18 national monuments, 51 bird sanctuaries, four game refuges and more than a million acres of national forest to the list of federally protected places.

With growth came a problem, though: A variety of government offices managed those sites.

Some people thought it would be

better if one agency oversaw all of them. And so, on August 25, 1916, the National Park Service was created and made responsible for protecting the 35 national parks and monuments that existed as well as all future ones.

A park in every state

Today there are Park Service sites in every state, the District of Columbia and five U.S. territories, including Puerto Rico. The total area under protection, 84.4 million acres, is almost three times the size of Pennsylvania.

The popularity of these sites is clear. Last year, they set a record with more than 307 million visitors. That represents about 95 percent of the entire U.S. population!

You can count yourself among them if you visited the Mall in the District, Prince William Forest Park in Virginia or the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Monument on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Two other local sites — Kenilworth Park & Aquatic Gardens in Northeast Washington and Assateague Island National Seashore in Virginia and Maryland — are featured on a sheet of 16 stamps the U.S. Postal Service is issuing in June to celebrate the Park Service. (The Kenilworth photo was taken by Cindy Dyer of Alexandria. How cool!)

If you love spectacular nature, fascinating history or fun outdoor recreation, our national park system has something for you. Waterfalls and caves, bears and bison, native cliff dwellings and presidential homes are just some of the attractions waiting to welcome you this summer. Check it all out in the Tell Me More box.

Happy birthday, National Park Service. Now, where's the cake?

— **Marylou Tousignant**, May 17, 2016

Tell Me More

Always check with a parent or other adult before going online.

- Don't miss out on the party. Find out what's going on near you at nps.gov/subjects/centennial/index.htm.
- Download the Centennial Junior Ranger Activity Book at nps.gov/kids/features/2016/JrRangerCentennialBooklet.cfm.
- Attention, all fourth-graders: Become a parks ambassador. Learn how at nps.gov/kids/features/2015/everyKid.cfm. Current third-graders can sign up starting September 1.

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

Where Would You Find ...?

Twenty-seven states and five U.S. territories have U.S. National Parks. California, with nine, has the most national parks that are administered by the National Park Service. They all have special features, ecosystems and species.

Match the description with the national park that is named in the right column.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ___ 1. The largest national park? | a. Death Valley (Calif., Nev.) |
| ___ 2. The tallest mountain on the Atlantic Coast | b. Everglades (Florida) |
| ___ 3. The southernmost national park | c. Grand Bend (Texas) |
| ___ 4. The northernmost national park | d. Redwood (Calif.) |
| ___ 5. The smallest national park | e. American Samoa |
| ___ 6. The world's longest cave system
(not to be confused with caves that stretch
for miles in Carlsbad Caverns, NM) | f. Denali (Alaska) |
| ___ 7. The deepest lake in the U.S. | g. Grand Canyon (Arizona) |
| ___ 8. The hottest, lowest and driest place
in the U.S. | h. Hot Springs (Arkansas) |
| ___ 9. The wettest area in the continental U.S. | i. Lassen Volcanic (Calif.) |
| ___ 10. The tallest mountain in North America | j. Acadia (Maine) |
| ___ 11. The tallest mountain in the contiguous
states | k. Bryce Canyon (Utah) |
| ___ 12. The largest tropical wilderness in the U.S. | l. Yellowstone (Wyoming, Montana, Idaho) |
| ___ 13. The tallest sand dunes in North America | m. Mammoth Cave (Kentucky) |
| ___ 14. Tall, sandstone hoodoos | n. Great Sand Dunes (Colorado) |
| ___ 15. North America's tallest waterfall | o. Wrangell-St. Elias (Alaska) |
| ___ 16. The park named for a prominent
bend in the Rio Grande? | p. Olympic (Wash.) |
| ___ 17. Home to greatest number of endangered
species within a national park | q. Haleakala (Hawaii) |
| ___ 18. Park that is 227 miles long, carved by
the Colorado River | r. Gates of the Arctic (Alaska) |
| ___ 19. Thousands of grizzly bears catching
spawning salmon | s. Sequoia (Calif.) |
| ___ 20. Examples of all types of volcanoes,
including the largest plug dome volcano
in the world | t. Katmai (Alaska) |
| ___ 21. The largest glacier in the contiguous U.S.
and one of the snowiest places in the world | u. Crater Lake (Oregon) |
| ___ 22. The tallest trees on earth | v. Yosemite (Calif.) |
| ___ 23. An old park with waterfalls, hot springs,
boiling mud pots and erupting geysers
and four mountain ranges crossing
three state borders | w. Mount Rainier (Wash.) |

Bonus

1. Name the highest peak in the contiguous states.
2. Name the highest peak on the East Coast.

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

KIDSPOST

What it's like to be a national park ranger

The first time I hiked to the bottom of Grand Canyon National Park, I knew I wanted to work there.

Now, as a park ranger for the National Park Service, I share the science, history and beauty of this natural wonder with thousands of visitors from around the world.

National parks are like outdoor museums. They preserve some of America's most beautiful and historic places. Park rangers protect the parks' animals, plants, land, buildings, artifacts and people. We have a variety of jobs, depending on where we work and what we studied during college.

Interpretive park rangers (including me) teach people about what makes each national park special and what we can all do to take care of it. We lead hikes, teach school field trips, work at visitor centers and help people stay safe during their visit. Many interpretive park rangers studied science, natural resources or history in college.

Protection rangers make sure visitors follow the rules while exploring the parks. They complete special law enforcement training to do their jobs. They may also rescue stranded or sick visitors, provide medical care, fight wildfires and work at large events such as the presidential inauguration in Washington.

Rangers who work in smaller parks might do many of these jobs at once.



MICHAEL QUINN/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Park ranger Ann Posegate, who works at Grand Canyon National Park, talks to Junior Rangers at the park.

One of my favorite parts of my job is showing children their first view of the Grand Canyon during school field trips. After walking on a trail through the forest, we arrive at the rim of a huge canyon about 10 miles

across and one mile deep. Children are often amazed at the canyon's size and colors. Sometimes, they think it looks like a painting.

I also love working outdoors in many types of weather. I carry a

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

radio, first-aid kit, water, snacks and sunscreen in my backpack wherever I go. The Grand Canyon is my office!

Park rangers wear a uniform. The flat hat protects us from the hot sun, and hiking boots allow us to walk rocky trails. The National Park Service symbol on the sleeve of our uniform shirt helps visitors recognize us so they can ask for assistance.

Being a park ranger requires a lot of energy. I walk several miles and talk with hundreds of people each day. Nearly 5 million people visit Grand Canyon National Park every year; interpretive park rangers must enjoy working with people and speaking in front of groups.

Rangers must also be prepared for any situation. Recently, I broke up a traffic jam caused by a huge male elk standing in the road. Elk can become dangerous when they get scared, so I asked visitors to park their cars and take pictures from a distance.

Believe it or not, I also help protect people from squirrels. It is illegal to feed or approach wild animals in national parks. But sometimes, visitors try to feed rock squirrels and end up getting bitten.



MICHAEL QUINN/NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

An elk in Grand Canyon National Park.

Park ranger jobs are very competitive, so it is important to go to college. Many park rangers start as volunteers or seasonal employees and work their way up to permanent jobs. We often work at many parks during our careers.

The best way to get a job with the National Park Service is to intern or volunteer in national parks during or

after college. The Pathways program helps students find temporary positions so they can try different jobs.

The National Park Service isn't just for park rangers. It hires carpenters, janitors, scientists, mechanics, writers and other professionals, too.

– Ann Posegate, July 3, 2013

Advice about becoming a park ranger

Ann Posegate offers a timeline of opportunities for kids interested in a career with the National Park Service.

Today: Become a WebRanger at www.webrangers.us.

Elementary school: Visit local, state and national parks. Become a Junior Ranger while visiting national parks. Join a Girl Scout or Boy Scout troop. Go to summer camp. Spend time outdoors.

Middle school: Learn at museums, zoos and aquariums. Play a team sport. (Rangers work in teams to take care of the parks.)

High school: Volunteer at a city or state park. Work as a counselor for a summer camp, or get a job working with people. Exercise outdoors; try activities such as hiking, biking and skiing. Join a Youth Conservation Corps program at a nearby national park, forest or wildlife refuge enforcement.

College: Get a bachelor's degree in environmental studies, natural resources, science, history or law enforcement. Apply for summer internships in national parks.

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

Telling All Americans' Stories

“Because no matter who you are, no matter where you live, our parks, our monuments, our lands, our waters — these places are your birthright as Americans.”

— President Barack Obama



THE WASHINGTON POST

The National Park Service has grouped parks, historic trails, monuments and heritage areas that relate Americans' diverse stories. These sites identify where festivals, encampments, and demonstrations will take place as well as introduce guest speakers and essays.

- Select and review one of the “heritage” groups (list to the right).
- In what ways is the National Park Service a storyteller of America's past?
- Describe three ways the National Park Service is a keeper of America's cultural memory.

OUR HERITAGE

African American Heritage

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tellingallamericansstories/africanamericanheritage.htm>

American Latino Heritage

<https://www.nps.gov/heritageinitiatives/latino/>

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage

<https://www.nps.gov/AAPI/>

European Heritage Featured Places

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tellingallamericansstories/europeanheritageplaces.htm>

Indigenous Peoples Heritage

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tellingallamericansstories/indigenouheritage.htm>

Discover our Shared Heritage Travel Itineraries

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/heritagetravel/discover-our-shared-heritage.htm>

Migration and Immigration

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/tellingallamericansstories/migrationimmigration.htm>

Places Reflecting America's Diverse Cultures

https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/cultural_diversity/list_of_sites.html#european

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program

OPINIONS

We must recommit to national parks, America's cathedrals

BY JONATHAN B. JARVIS

• Originally Published August 24, 2016

In 1914, Stephen Mather, a wealthy director of a borax mining company in California, observed the deteriorating conditions of some of America's national parks and wrote a letter of protest to Interior Secretary Franklin Lane. Lane responded: "Dear Steve, if you don't like the way the parks are being run, come on down to Washington and run them yourself." Such challenges have launched many political careers in Washington, including my own. I started in the National Park Service during the nation's bicentennial in 1976, and a similar call brought me to Washington in 2009 to lead the agency through its centennial this year.



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Mount Rainier in Washington state is an active volcano, ascending to 14,410 feet above sea level.

One hundred years ago Thursday, on Aug. 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed the act creating the National Park Service — with Mather as its first director. The Organic Act states that the fundamental purpose of the NPS “is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

For the past century, the National Park Service has been providing for the enjoyment of our most beautiful, treasured and historic places, put into our stewardship by Congress

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Bison grazing in Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone bison represent the best example for preservation of wild plains bison in North America.

and both Democratic and Republican presidents. A large number of NPS employees join the service for life, because this work is more than a career; it is a mission. That mission is unlike that of any other federal agency: We serve as keepers of the nation's cultural memory.

The 413 units of the national park system are a collective expression of who we are as a people, and in the words of historian John Hope Franklin, "the public looks upon national parks almost as a metaphor for America itself." The parks deliver messages to current and future generations about the foundational experiences that have made the United States a symbol of democracy's greatest achievements for the rest of the world. The Obama administration has worked to ensure that the parks tell the story of the United States' cultural history. Among the 22 sites that President Obama has added to the national park system are places that will ensure that the memories of Martin Luther King Jr., Harriet Tubman, Col. Charles Young and the Buffalo Soldiers, and César Chávez endure.

One of our newest sites, the Stonewall National Monument in New York, will memorialize the struggles that the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community has faced over the years, along with one of its major victories.

But the National Park Service's enabling legislation requires that these places and ideas are not just preserved but enjoyed. This leads me to believe that we are the only federal agency with a mandate to ensure that the American people have some fun.

In 1956, when planning for our 50th anniversary, the National Park Service invited World War II veterans to come and see what they had fought for. In partnership with the growing automobile industry, the service invited them to "See the USA in your Chevrolet." Veterans came out in droves with their children in the back seats of their station wagons, and from those experiences grew a groundswell of support for conservation and historic preservation. Those children today are the baby boomers, now with millennial children and grandchildren.

An Integrated Curriculum For The Washington Post Newspaper In Education Program



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Washington, D.C., is among the ten most visited memorials and monuments in the U.S. It echoes Jefferson's own designs for Monticello and the University of Virginia Rotunda.

For our 100th anniversary, in partnership with the National Park Foundation, we invited everyone to “Find Your Park,” to foster the creation of a new generation of park visitors, supporters and advocates reflecting the diversity of our nation. The result of this effort has been record-setting visitation and a surge of sharing on social media about extraordinary park experiences.

But this anniversary is much more than a celebration. It also calls for introspection and a forward-looking vision recommitting to the ideals and aspirations that bind us as a nation and to the institution tasked with their stewardship — the National Park Service.

Filmmaker Ken Burns said that national parks are the Declaration of Independence applied to the land. Regardless of ethnicity, social status or level of wealth, Americans appreciate the beauty of grand landscapes. Our national parks provide the opportunity for all to experience that beauty as equals.

It is pretty hard to not feel a wash of pride for our country when you stand at the rim of the Grand Canyon National Park, in the alpine glow of Grand Teton National Park, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial or on the bloodstained fields of Gettysburg National Military Park. These are our American cathedrals, and they belong to you. Come and enjoy them and refresh your memory of what it means to be an American.



Enjoy America's National Parks

1. Government has a role to play in preserving natural resources. The legislative branch passed two acts that have had a distinct impact in fulfilling this responsibility. Summarize the Antiquities Act (1906) and the Organic Act (1916).
In what ways do these acts bring the executive branch into the action?
2. In his guest commentary, "We must recommit to national parks, America's cathedrals," Jonathan B. Jarvis, the current director of the National Park Service, quotes historian John Hope Franklin. "[T]he public looks upon national parks almost as a metaphor for America itself," Franklin stated.
 - a. What is a metaphor?
 - b. Explain Franklin's idea
3. When visitors go to Europe, they often include great cathedrals on their itineraries. In London they must go to Westminster Cathedral. In Spain they must visit the Mesquita, Cordoba's mosque-cathedral. In Paris, they enter Notre Dame on the Ile de la Cite. Explain what Jonathan B. Jarvis means about America's cathedrals in this statement:

It is pretty hard to not feel a wash of pride for our country when you stand at the rim of the Grand Canyon National Park, in the alpine glow of Grand Teton National Park, on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial or on the bloodstained fields of Gettysburg National Military Park. These are our American cathedrals, and they belong to you. Come and enjoy them and refresh your memory of what it means to be an American.

4. Great Smoky Mountains, located in North Carolina and Tennessee, is the most-visited U.S. national park. In 2015 it had 10,712,674 visitors. It still retains an enchanted quality, a place where emerald moss carpets boulders and a dreamy, "smoky" mist recalls the region's Cherokee name, Shaconagay, which means "land of the blue smoke."
 - a. What descriptive elements re-enforce the adjective "enchanted"?
 - b. Locate the Great Smoky Mountains park on a map. How does the infrastructure assist in making it accessible to visitors?
 - c. Read more about Great Smoky Mountain National Park. Why do you think so many visitors are attracted to it?
5. Two recent protected areas were created by President Obama: Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.
 - a. What do they have in common?
 - b. What conditions or features make them stand out from each other?