

NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION

# 25 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL PRIORITY PROJECTS

CURATED FOR THE TRAVEL AND TOURISM INDUSTRY

The Centennial Campaign  for America's National Parks

**Dear Friends,**

In 2016, the National Park Service will celebrate a major milestone—its **100 Year Anniversary!**

This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enhance the future of America’s cultural, historical, and natural treasures. The National Park Foundation has launched *The Centennial Campaign for America’s National Parks* to create a transformative impact in America’s 407 national parks. I am proud to support this landmark campaign and continue my family’s long-standing stewardship of the national parks.



National parks have been a lifelong passion of mine; from when I was a little girl in New England through my professional career in global tourism. My grandfather, Arthur Tauck Sr., founded the first tour company in America in 1925 and was an early pioneer who opened tourism to Great Smoky Mountains, Shenandoah, Acadia and more.

My father, Arthur Tauck Jr., was the first to link national parks in the American west by air travel, bringing travelers to the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Yosemite. My family learned the values of “enriching, educational travel experiences” and helping to open public access while—more importantly—joining local efforts to protect and preserve cultural heritage and fragile environments. In my 3<sup>rd</sup> generation, we coordinated with national parks for lateral discussions and major travel volunteerism efforts. As an American, it has been an honor to serve!

I am proud to personally financially pledge and support this Campaign. I join the National Park Foundation in its effort to reach friends in the growing travel and tourism industry. *The Centennial Campaign for America’s National Parks* will meet critical capital, conservation, preservation, programming, and technological priority needs across the National Park System. I have reviewed the National Park Service’s top priorities for the Centennial and have curated the enclosed list of **25 Centennial projects for the travel and tourism industry**. I invite you to find your passion and find your project through the Campaign.

Your financial contribution and your generosity are essential. Together, we will renew our commitment to our national parks for the next 100 years, energizing them, rejuvenating them, and defending them. I look forward to setting up a time to discuss these incredible opportunities to support our parks and the work of the National Park Foundation.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robin Tauck". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Robin Tauck

Co-owner & Past President Tauck Inc. | Founder, Tauck Ritzau Innovative Philanthropy

## THE TOURISM INDUSTRY: SUPPORTERS OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Our national parks and the tourism industry have been intertwined for 100 Years. Travelers from across the country and around the world love our parks! These natural and cultural areas are both magnets for tourism and powerful economic engines for local communities. The National Park System covers more than 84 million acres and is comprised of more than 400 sites across the country.

Today, travel and tourism is the number one industry in the world, generating \$7.6 trillion dollars, 10 percent of global GDP and 277 million jobs, exceeding financial services, automotive and other industries. Park units contribute to local and regional economies, and many are featured destinations for tour operators and for tourism service providers. According to National Park Service Director Jonathan Jarvis, every \$1 invested directly in our national parks yields a \$10 economic benefit for local communities, and every two Park Service jobs yield one job outside the park.



The travel and tourism industry also has an interest in protecting our parks as valuable resources and supporting a high level of excellence for the visitor experience, which attracts clients and customers and helps ensure a sustained financial yield over the long term. Finally, the travel and tourism industry can be an effective voice in speaking on important issues related to parks and in using its considerable influence for the benefit of parks and public lands.

The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation appreciate the long-standing partnership and support of the travel and tourism industry. The following statistics demonstrate our important relationship (2014 data):

- Over **292 million** recreation visits, a record-setting year.
- Visitors spent **\$15.7 billion** in local gateway regions (within 60 miles of a national park).
- Visitor expenditures supported **277,000** jobs, **\$10.3 billion** in labor income, and **\$29.7 billion** in economic output in the national economy.

### A Call to Action: The Tourism Industry

One of the goals of the National Park Service Centennial is to create life-long stewards of America's treasured places. The best way for people to become advocates and supporters is to see these places and fall in love with them. The travel and tourism industry is a key partner in making those memorable, once-in-a-lifetime park experiences possible, helping us engage all Americans and people around the world in preserving and protecting these special places for the next century and beyond.

# THE CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN FOR AMERICA'S NATIONAL PARKS

Our nation has changed dramatically since the birth of the National Park Service in 1916. Back then it was hard to imagine that its purview would reach beyond the “great western parks” and into urban centers, deep within oceans and across night skies—all captured within today’s burgeoning park system.

Today, the National Park Service protects and preserves our more than 400 national parks, conducts historical and scientific research, and educates the American public about our national history and natural wonders. This broad mission requires great resources. From the beginning of the National Park System a century ago, philanthropic investment has provided a “margin of excellence” for the agency to protect these cultural and historical treasures; tell the full and evolving story of a diverse America; and create the next generation of park stewards.



In 2016 we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service—a defining moment that offers an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate our accomplishments as we prepare for a new century of stewardship and engagement. In commemoration of this milestone, the National Park Foundation is launching *The Centennial Campaign for America’s National Parks* to create a transformative impact in the parks themselves.

## The Next 100 Years

The National Park Service Centennial offers us the opportunity to secure major support for projects in parks across the country. The Campaign will focus on seven signature projects, which represent bold, transformative initiatives, both at individual parks and across the entire National Park System. This multi-year campaign will also provide direct support to priority projects in three pivotal areas:

- **Protect** America’s Special Places by conserving natural habitats, open spaces and their wildlife; mitigating the effects of climate change; acquiring new lands within parks; and preserving and interpreting iconic objects that define historical moments.
- **Connect** Parks to People by increasing access to our sites; enriching the visitor experience; and using digital technologies to attract a new generation of youth.
- **Inspire** a New Generation of Park Stewards by growing our corps of volunteers and increasing our use of national parks as outdoor classrooms for students of all ages.

The Campaign is a terrific opportunity for us to reflect on our nation’s tradition of park tourism, and make a commitment to preserve the places that embody the American experience. Our national parks are truly cherished, and the National Park Foundation is working to capture that love of the national parks to secure their legacy for the next 100 years and beyond.

## **The Top 25: Your Passion. Your Project.**

The National Park Foundation, in concert with partners in the travel and tourism community, selected these as the top 25 Campaign priority projects of interest to other industry members. You can make a significant difference in America's national parks by supporting in-park projects like the ones found in this packet. The priority projects are an opportunity for partners like you to create a meaningful legacy in our national parks for the next century and ensure future generations will be able to experience and discover America's national parks, monuments, and historic places. These projects come in a range of prices to fit your budget, and many can be replicated in national parks in your own state.

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## SIGNATURE PROJECTS

The Campaign is far-reaching in its scope and impact. Every donor who cares about the future of our national parks will find a place in this campaign. Some will direct their support close to home; others will invest on a national scale. Every gift—and every project—matters.

At the same time, the National Park Foundation has identified several signature priorities that merit special attention. Each of these projects requires ambitious commitments from lead donors to effect meaningful and measurable change. We invite you to think big and give as you are able.

### **Where the Buffalo Roam, *Yellowstone National Park***

Yellowstone National Park—the first national park—is the only place in the United States where bison have lived continuously since prehistoric times. In the nineteenth century, over 50 million bison were killed by settlers, reducing their population to just a few hundred animals. Today, bison have been restored to a population ranging from 3,000 to 5,000. Unlike most other herds, these bison are allowed to roam relatively freely across Yellowstone’s 2.2 million acres and nearby areas. In the winter, mass bison migrations into adjacent lands in the states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming have, at times, upset state and local governments and many private landowners and cattle operators. The main concerns are a potential for competition with cattle for grass, public safety issues, and the fact that some Yellowstone bison are infected with brucellosis, a livestock disease that can be transmitted to wild bison and elk as well as cattle.



Additional tools are necessary to remove and relocate bison for conservation and cultural purposes. This bison quarantine project will build an operational quarantine program that is required to identify brucellosis-free bison. It will also develop plans for transferring clean bison to American Indian tribal lands for conservation, hunting, or food production.

### **Rehabilitate Constitution Gardens, *National Mall and Memorial Parks***

Every year, the National Mall hosts over 29 million visitors, who come to share the extraordinary view of the American experience in Washington, D.C., our nation’s capital. Among the monuments on the National Mall is Constitution Gardens, a rich green landscape with curving paths and a small pond containing an island memorial to the 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. Situated between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, Constitution Gardens was designed as an oasis from the emotional and bustling memorials. Today, however, several sites in the 38-acre garden are severely degraded from years of deferred maintenance and budget shortfalls.

Restoring the Lockkeeper’s House is a Centennial priority. It is the oldest structure on the National Mall, predating the Washington Monument. A critical piece of the park’s living history, the Lockkeeper’s House will be relocated, restored, and refurbished as a new exhibition space for the story of the development and construction of the National Mall.

## Mariposa Grove, Yosemite National Park

The Mariposa Grove, the largest of three groves within Yosemite National Park, contains approximately 500 mature giant sequoia trees. Giant sequoias are an iconic species, being among the rarest, oldest and largest living organisms in the world. Although the oldest giant sequoias may exceed 3,000 years in age, some living specimens are more than 4,600 years old. The big trees so inspired early visitors that in 1864, Congress passed landmark legislation to permanently preserve both the Mariposa Grove and Yosemite Valley. Over the last 150 years, development within the Grove has had a profound impact on its vitality; action is required to restore this natural wonder and ensure it thrives to be enjoyed by generations to come.

The Mariposa Grove Restoration Project fulfills a plan to increase the resiliency of the Grove while improving the overall experience for visitors. This project is comprehensive: the National Park Service will construct boardwalks in wetland areas, restore sequoia habitat and site hydrology critical to the Grove's long-term health, create new accessible trails within the Grove, and interpret the importance of the Grove for future generations of visitors.



## PROTECT AMERICA'S SPECIAL PLACES

Protecting our national parks lies at the heart of the shared mission of the National Park Service and the National Park Foundation. From the peaks of Glacier to the streets of Selma, from Ellis Island to Bryce Canyon, our national parks bridge our past to our future.

And many are under threat as global climate change, our nation's growing population, encroaching development, and the exploitation of natural resources take their toll. No one could have imagined these risks a century ago.



Today's challenges require new solutions, new management models, new expertise—and new partners.

The National Park Service has created a blueprint for change by rethinking and reenvisioning its approach to protecting America's special places. The agency is delivering on its promise to become more entrepreneurial, more collaborative, more efficient with its resources, and more responsive to the needs of the public.

Your support will help ensure that the National Park Service continues to restore landscapes and protect threatened habitats for wildlife.

### **Yellowstone Youth Campus, *Yellowstone National Park***

Yellowstone National Park has given young people the gift of high-quality environmental education programs for more than twenty-five years. These classes help preserve America's national park heritage by creating the next generation of park advocates and stewards. However, classes are currently held in an aging facility in Mammoth Hot Springs that has long been outgrown. It has major structural deficiencies that do not meet modern standards for safety, health, and accessibility. The building is very small, limiting group access to only 60 participants, and it is not designed to allow for lodging, classroom, kitchen, and dining flexibility. The solution is to either significantly upgrade the existing building, or design and build a new, green youth campus that conserves energy, is ecologically sensitive, protects park resources, and can achieve Gold LEED certification. Our goal is to create a place where more of today's youth can learn about the natural world in a building that is its own teaching tool.

## Restore Sculptor's Studio, Mount Rushmore National Memorial

Mount Rushmore was a project of colossal proportion, colossal ambition and colossal achievement. The man behind it, sculptor Gutzon Borglum, built an on-site studio in 1939 which still stands today and is open to the public as part of the park experience. The studio serves as an important interpretive center and is one of the last two remaining structures from the historic construction site. The Studio houses the artist's model of Mount Rushmore, worker tools, and various plaster models related to the carving. Over one million visitors a year tour the structure, view exhibits, and attend



interpretive programs within the studio. Unfortunately, such high visitation levels have left the facilities and historical artifacts in need of revitalization, repair, and protection. The National Park Service seeks to implement new security, health and safety measures to ensure the highest attention to visitors while they are experiencing the historic studio. This project will replace overstressed floor loads, lay new concrete footings for the structure, install a new roof, perform maintenance to deteriorated masonry, as well as update mechanical, plumbing and electrical systems.

## Ethnographic Work on Yakutat Tlingit Tribe, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve

Encompassing 3.3 million acres of rugged mountains, monumental glaciers, pristine rainforest, and spectacular fjords, Glacier Bay National Park offers a glimpse of what much of North America looked like as it emerged from the last Ice Age nearly 12,000 years ago. Glacier Bay is also home to two ancient Native American tribes of hunters, gatherers, and fishers: the Huna Tlingit and the Yakutat Tlingit (*Tlingit* means “people of the tides”). The National Park Service is charged with locating, mapping, and documenting Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs)—sites, structures, and objects—of particular importance to the Huna Tlingit and the Yakutat Tlingit. This project will mine existing archives on the tribes, examining records in the existing ethnographic database and conducting oral histories about the stories, legends, and songs that give the TCP sites their cultural significance. Information gained by the project will be transferred to Talking Maps, geographic-based educational tools being developed for use in local schools to help maintain traditional knowledge among youth of both tribes. It will also be shared with park visitors, enriching their understanding of the cultural significance of the land they are visiting.

## **New Visitor Accessibility Features at the Point, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**

Each year nearly one-half million people visit Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in Virginia, one of the most important Civil War sites in the National Park System. Harpers Ferry witnessed the arrival of the first successful American railroad, John Brown's attack on slavery, the largest surrender of Federal troops during the Civil War, and the education of former slaves in one of the earliest integrated schools in the United States. Today, the historical park boasts dramatic vistas, natural scenery, hiking trails, workshops, and research collections. The Point, the tip of the peninsula where the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers converge, is one of the most famous and memorable areas in the park. Yet a visit to the Point is difficult: loose gravel streetscape and deteriorating flagstone sidewalks across the 300-foot route, which lacks a formal pathway, present serious tripping, slipping, and falling conditions for visitors, especially children, the elderly, and people with disabilities. This project will result in a barrier-free route to the Point while preserving its cultural artifacts. All visitors, stirred by the many struggles for freedom here, will be able to take meaning from these surroundings.

## **Restore Bright Angel Trail, Grand Canyon National Park**

The Bright Angel Trail at Grand Canyon National Park is the park's premier 8.5-mile hiking trail used by 4 million visitors annually. It connects park visitors from the South Rim Village to a variety of inner-canyon locations, most notably Phantom Ranch along the Colorado River. The Bright Angel Trail System includes several spur trails, administrative access trails, day use areas, and campground access trails. Constructed in 1891 and acquired by the National Park Service in 1928, the Bright Angel Trail gives present day visitors a sense of its rich history from ancient pictograph panels and historic structures, and an appreciation of the trail's construction over some of the roughest terrain in North America. Though the trail system has been improved over the years, current conditions indicate that structural failure is occurring and will continue if not immediately addressed. This trail rehabilitation will improve tread, erosion, and vista spots along Bright Angel viewing areas, resulting in a more sustainable trail system for the next 100 years.



## **Restore Historic Mormon Row, *Grand Teton National Park***

Mormon homesteaders, who settled in Grand Teton National Park near the end of the 19th-century, clustered their farms to share labor and community, a stark contrast with the isolation typical of many western settlers. The Mormon Row Historic District constitutes one of the best representations of an early 20th-century western farming community. Known as “the most photographed buildings in Wyoming,” the homesteads’ iconic barns feature jagged rooflines that echo the Teton peak backdrop. Today, the historic district includes 44 structures. Years of deferred maintenance and exposure to the harsh climate of Jackson Hole have severely compromised these buildings’ structural integrity.



Immediate roof repairs are needed to secure and stabilize these treasures as part of a long-term plan to conserve the 1,100-acre district. Documentation and educational materials on the original construction methods is enhanced by cutting-edge preservation techniques and new interpretive programs, educating our youth in preservation techniques and providing new cultural resources information to park staff, visitors, and researchers.

## **Civil War Trail Boardwalk, *Monocacy National Battlefield***

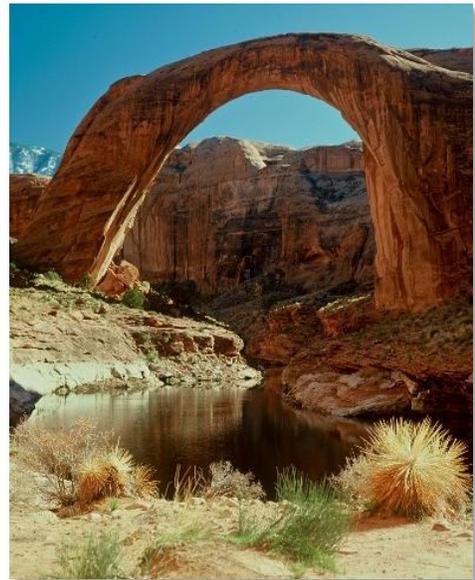
At Monocacy National Battlefield in Maryland, visitors can experience history in a treasured colonial landscape that has changed little since the 19th century. The Gambrill Mill boardwalk trail was constructed in 2003 as part of a one half mile loop trail—the park’s first trail. The trail, which attracts approximately 25,000 visitors annually, provides access to scenic overlooks and an access point to the Monocacy River. Currently, the boardwalk deck is only four feet wide and includes a ninety degree bend, which renders it incompatible with ADA standards. The deck is also subject to regular immersion in flood waters and has deteriorated over time; the deck boards and railings are warped in many areas, presenting tripping hazards and generally unsafe conditions. This project will rehabilitate approximately 900 linear feet of boardwalk leading to the park’s river access point to improve its accessibility and sustainability. This work will open up new opportunities for visitors to experience significant resources within the park while also increasing recreational access to the Monocacy River.

## **Reopen Middle and Upper Emerald Pools, *Zion National Park***

Zion National Park is Utah's oldest and favorite park, receiving 3,000,000 visitors annually. Emerald Pools Trail is one of the most popular day hikes in the park. Waterfalls, pools, and dazzling monoliths provide a unique environment along the Emerald Pools Trail System, tucked deep into canyons of sandstone and framed by natural sandstone arches and mountains with names such as Red Arch, Mount Majestic, Cathedral, and Lady. In 2010, rain caused a major landslide on the Middle Emerald Trail, which has remained closed since that time out of concern for visitor safety. This project will fix a 30 foot and a 20 foot section of washed out trail and reroute approximately one mile of path. This would give visitors a fantastic new loop hiking trail in Zion Canyon, access to stunning scenery, and the opportunity to better appreciate Zion National Park's natural and cultural resources. In addition to returning access to the Emerald Pools, the new trail will also relieve overcrowding on other trails in the park and allow interpretive programs in the area to resume for Zion's millions of visitors a year.

## **Trail to Rainbow Bridge, *Rainbow Bridge National Monument***

Utah's Rainbow Bridge is one of the largest natural bridges in the world! It is a symbol of strength, balance, and change that spans geologic time. Rainbow Bridge and the immediately surrounding landscape are considered sacred by American Indian tribes, and are vitally linked with their histories, cultural practices, ceremonial activities, and oral traditions. In 2013, a "500-year" flood on Bridge Creek washed out the only access trail from Lake Powell to Rainbow Bridge. This project will repair a key section of the trail to provide long-term access to the site, accommodate fluctuating lake levels associated with trail damage, and address high-volume flash flooding to maintain the safety of tribal members, visitors, and employees using the trail. As a result, future generations will be able to stand near and under this graceful rock formation and experience a powerful connection to nature.



## **Conservation Treatment of Rare Prehistoric and Historic Objects, *Mesa Verde National Park & Chaco Culture National Historical Park***

President Theodore Roosevelt established Mesa Verde National Park to "preserve the works of man," the first national park of its kind and a significant U.S. World Heritage Site, one of 23 in America. Lost civilizations from 2000 years ago flourished here and left behind a treasure trove of artifacts preserved by the dry desert climate. Major excavations conducted in the early years of Southwestern archaeology at Mesa Verde National Park and Chaco Culture National Historical Park recovered, among other objects, thousands of ceramic vessels created by the Ancestral Pueblo Indians. The glues originally used by archaeologists to reconstruct these vessels are no longer able to support the repairs, causing them to fall apart. This project will treat the most significant vessels with the highest risk as well as an estimated 100 ceramics from nationally significant sites at Bandelier National Monument (NM), Canyon de Chelly National Monument (AZ), and Casa Grande Ruins National Monuments (AZ) as time permits. The conservation treatment techniques, developed through previous prehistoric ceramic conservation projects, will efficiently remove the unstable adhesives and replace them with an adhesive that has been determined to remain chemically stable over time. The investment now will resolve the problem before the existing adhesives become more degraded, thus reducing the overall time and expense to bring the pots to a stable condition.

## **Rehabilitate Little Round Top, *Gettysburg National Military Park***

Gettysburg National Military Park preserves the hallowed ground of Gettysburg, the Civil War's bloodiest battle and the inspiration for President Abraham Lincoln's celebrated Gettysburg Address. No place in Gettysburg is more popular to visit than Little Round Top, the hill desperately defended by the 20th Maine Regiment on July 2, 1863, in one of the key moments that ultimately led to Union victory. Of the park's 1.8 million visitors each year, 82 percent go to Little Round Top. Though visitors love the experience, their large numbers are causing significant damage to the cultural and natural landscape. The existing infrastructure does not have the carrying capacity to accommodate visitors and protect cultural and natural resources. This project will rehabilitate part of the battle landscape and commemorative landscapes, eliminating safety concerns in the area and improving site drainage. Additionally, the surrounding monuments and markers will have their foundations stabilized when the landscape surface is rehabilitated.



## **Contemporary Battlefield Site Restoration and Archaeological Studies, *Minute Man National Historical Park***

Minuteman National Park outside of Boston protects farmlands and scenic vistas that signaled the American Revolution with the famed “Shot Heard Round the World.” The Parker’s Revenge site is a rocky hill on the border of Lexington and Lincoln within the boundary of Minute Man National Historical Park. This is the only major site related to the opening battle American Revolution on April 19, 1775. Vulnerable to encroaching real estate development and use, this historic battle site is in need of immediate protection. This project will use modern technology to peel back hidden layers of history—to uncover this battlefield and use the findings to tell the story to current and future generations. Activities will include mapping, geophysical surveys, metallic survey and excavation, as well as site restoration. The project will also develop and install educational exhibits and resources that bring the story of Parker’s Revenge to life for park visitors.

## **Protect and Stabilize Alcatraz Hospital Wing, *Golden Gate National Recreation Area***

Located in San Francisco Bay, Alcatraz is the number one visited National Park in California—delighting 1.4 million visitors from around the world. This former federal prison once held notorious criminals like Al Capone, Arthur R. “Doc” Baker, and James “Whitey” Bulger, is composed of three distinctive building wings: the Administration wing, the Cellhouse, and the Hospital Wing. The Hospital Wing’s building envelope is badly deteriorated from exposure and deferred maintenance, and its design is structurally deficient such that it requires a new concrete foundation and new reinforced and concrete shear walls to meet new designs for seismic strengthening. The stabilization of the Alcatraz Hospital wing is a high priority to add to the experience, the story, and the safety of Alcatraz Island’s visitors and for the continued preservation stewardship of the National Landmark District Main Prison building.



## **The New Gateway Experience, *Mississippi National River and Recreation Area***

The Mississippi River is one of the world's renowned rivers. The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area visitor center is located in downtown Saint Paul within the Science Museum of Minnesota. An evaluation of the 11-year old visitor center has concluded that the materials and exhibitions are out of date, not up to the level of other experiences at the museum, and reach only a fraction of nearly 800,000 annual visitors to the museum. As the only national park focused on the Mississippi River, the visitor center has an opportunity to connect visitors from around the world to America's most famous river. A 21st century visitor center, one reflecting the National Park Service's second century, will become the



gateway for these visitors and local residents to connect with this national park beyond their visit to the museum. New exhibits will encourage visitors to experience the river through ranger-led bike, paddle, and wildlife watching programs.

## **Install State-of-the-Art Exhibits, *Valley Forge National Historical Park***

Of all the places associated with the American War for Independence, perhaps none has come to symbolize perseverance and sacrifice more than Valley Forge. Valley Forge National Historical Park commemorates more than the collective sacrifices and dedication of the Revolutionary War generation, it pays homage to the ability of everyday Americans to pull together and overcome adversity during extraordinary times. Renovating and upgrading the visitor center's exhibit space will have a dramatic effect on the park's ability to meet the expectations of the 1.4 million annual visitors. This project will expand Valley Forge National Historical Park's visitor center to include more space for exhibits of its Revolutionary-era collections and for student activities, educational programs, and special events. New exhibits will provide visitors with a more complete orientation to the park's resources, history, and significance. This will enable visitors to experience a greater amount of the park's extensive collection, and enjoy more contemporary and interactive audio-visual venues within the main exhibit area.

## **Restore Spectacular Volcanic Landscape, *Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park***

The Keanakako'i area of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park offers a spectacular example of how life adapts to a dynamic volcanic landscape. Massive 50-year old cinder deposits emitted from the Pu'u Puai eruption produced a dramatic change to native forest. This area is home to both endemic rare plants and the endangered Nene Goose and has been designated a Special Ecological Area. Unfortunately, invasive weeds such as faya tree, Himalayan raspberry and kahili ginger are invading the area and threaten to replace native plants and wildlife. This project will use a combination of National Park Service work crews to bring the plant landscape to a level that can be maintained by park staff in the future. In addition to



removing invasive weeds, opportunities for the public to be involved in resource stewardship will be provided. Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park staff will lead visitors and volunteers from the local communities on weed control activities. These service field trips will provide opportunities for the public to actively engage in park stewardship, while learning about the special resources in the park.

## **Provide Sustainable Energy Independence, *Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park***

According to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory's 2010 energy assessment of Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park, "Hawai'i is perhaps the best location in the nation for photovoltaic energy, given the uniform solar resource and high electric rates." Since that report, the park has commissioned and activated four grid-tied solar arrays through agreements with the local power utility. This project will provide for most of the park's electricity demand through the construction of a 40,000 square foot, 100kW installation atop an existing building in the park. The array will produce a large portion of the park's average daily energy demand. The proposed system will be tied to the grid and provide energy credits during excess generation; park electricity will continue to be provided by the utility at night and during peak demand events. The park's energy demand is fairly uniform, as it does not employ HVAC and is largely operational only during daylight. Therefore, the proposed system will meet demand throughout most of the year.

## CONNECT PEOPLE TO PARKS

The National Park Service was established to preserve special places “for the enjoyment of future generations.” Never has that charge been so urgent.

The agency’s vision for its second century of service is explicitly tied to the youth of today—connecting our parks to the children, teens, and millennials who will be the leaders of tomorrow.

Modern Americans, especially young people and urban populations, are alarmingly disconnected from the natural world. A recent Kaiser Family Foundation study showed that kids are spending eight hours a day watching videos, playing games, and listening to music. A University of Michigan report revealed a decrease of 69 percent over the last decade in time spent in outdoor activities among children ages 6 to 17.

And Americans of all ages often know staggeringly little about the civic and historic underpinnings of our nation. When Newsweek asked 1,000 U.S. citizens to take America’s official citizenship test, 29 percent couldn’t name the vice president; 73 percent couldn’t correctly say why we fought the Cold War; 44 percent were unable to define the Bill of Rights. And 6 percent couldn’t even circle Independence Day on a calendar.

Our national parks are an essential part of the solution. The National Park Service is redoubling efforts to connect people to the outdoors—particularly young, urban, multicultural audiences—and introduce them to our shared history and iconic landscapes.

Doing so will ensure that a new generation, and those that follow, discover and embrace the people, places, and events that bring history to life, stretch our minds, and lift our spirits.

The use of digital technologies is potentially transformative as we bring the parks to people in new and novel ways. The goal is to make our uniquely American stories and experiences more relevant and accessible to those raised with computers, cell phones, and video games. Exciting use of new technology in classrooms and in parks can greatly enrich connections to our parks and our civic heritage.

Your philanthropy will have a direct impact, shaping a new generation of visitors, volunteers, advocates, explorers, park leaders, and philanthropists, and making our park resources digitally available 24-7.

**THESE  
PROJECTS  
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STATE.**

## Urban Green Teams, *Multiple Parks Nationwide*

Groundwork USA Green Teams are located in 24 cities nationwide. These teams provide high quality experiences, individual engagement and long-term conservation service employment year-round. The program is designed to incorporate leadership, educational, stewardship, and technical skills training. Groundwork USA partners with the National Park Service to revitalize neighborhoods, transform blighted urban areas into recreation assets, and provide stewardship and conservation service in national parks. This project will embed Green Team programs in local community-based environmental restoration organizations, offer active employment and job/life skills, and provide youth a continuum of experiences from their communities to national parks. Green Team members come from low-income communities, 87 percent are minority, and statistically, academic performance and graduation rates for participants increases significantly. Green Teams connect youth with national parks, build a new generation of environmental leaders among urban and minority youth, and guide them towards education and career paths they might not otherwise pursue.

## Roving Rangers USA, *Multiple Parks Nationwide*

The Roving Ranger is a mobile trailhead designed to serve as a visitor contact and information center both within our national parks and outside the park. The Roving Ranger project consists of purchasing a food-truck to convert and retro-fit into a mobile trailhead/visitor center. The truck will be retro-fitted utilizing local colleges and university students. The Roving Ranger will have interactive opportunities, a resource/electronic library, recreational equipment, projector, speakers and screen for video, and visitor information on surrounding parks. Roving



Rangers go out into communities and bridge the gap between non-traditional visitors of diverse backgrounds and national park sites that may be right in their backyard.

## INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION OF PARK STEWARDS

Much of what we know is learned outside of the classroom. America’s national parks offer powerful place-based learning experiences, where stories and events come alive and are made memorable.

We want every child and teen to have direct access to these extraordinary learning environments. At the same time, the National Park Service will create digital learning programs and on-the-go mobile applications to bring the parks into schools and homes.

This mix of opportunities—whether a guided exploration of Mammoth Cave National Park, a ranger talk about the formation of Crater Lake, or a virtual tour of Civil War artifacts—will appeal to students of all ages and backgrounds.

But planting seeds of inspiration cannot be an end. The National Park Service will nourish these newfound interests and establish outlets for lifelong service and volunteerism.

Plans include putting youth and returning veterans to work in our parks. This initiative will be anchored by the 21st Century Conservation Service Corps (21CSC), which recruits young men and women for jobs that further efforts to protect, restore, and enhance the great outdoors.

With your support, the National Park Foundation will also dedicate resources and use park assets to boost scientific and civic literacy, creating the citizen scientists and stewards of tomorrow.

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## **Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps Program, *Multiple Parks Nationwide***

This is a partnership with Conservation Legacy to support employment opportunities for Native American youth living on Tribal lands bordering national parks. This program connects Tribal youth to their cultural heritage and cultural values, while also performing important conservation and interpretative work in national parks and on their tribal lands. Through this program, Native American youth who are often economically disadvantaged are exposed to potential career opportunities in the National Park Service. The Ancestral Lands Conservation Corps program will operate conservation crews composed of 10 Native American youth led by two youth supervisors working on facilities maintenance and historic preservation and smaller interpretative teams composed of 2-4 Native American youth. The 250 youth on these crews and teams would operate for 8-10 weeks at one or more national park sites. Each program will include an on-going customized structured training and education component focused on cultural values, tribal history, native languages, and cultural heritage. They will also include vocational training and career preparation.



## **Working with National Youth Organizations to Connect Kids to Nature, *Multiple Parks Nationwide***

The National Park Service and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) signed an MOU in 2014 to work in partnership to provide educational, volunteer service and work opportunities for young people participating in BGCA clubs across the country. The BGCA serves more than 4 million young people at over 4,000 club facilities nationally. In 2014, the National Park Service developed pilot programs with educational, volunteer service, and recreational components that not only get BGCA members into national parks, but also teach these young people about the importance of natural resource conservation and how strong resource stewardship ethics can be applied in their own communities. The National Park Service and BGCA will expand the scope of this partnership to include programs that help develop strong citizenship values and academic excellence in the club members through National Park Service-based Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) and interpretative programs. These programs will target both urban and rural youth with an emphasis on connecting with young people living economically disadvantaged communities.

## **Astronomy Volunteer-in-Parks (VIP) Program, *Multiple Parks Nationwide***

National parks hold some of the last remaining harbors of darkness and provide an excellent opportunity for the public to experience this endangered resource. In an urban sky, only about 50 stars and planets can be counted from dusk till dawn. In Bryce Canyon National Park, as many as 7,500 stars are visible on a moonless night. Amateur astronomers and those with a fondness for stargazing can help us strengthen visitors' connection with the night sky. In 2007, the Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division of the NPS initiated the Astro VIP program. Approximately two dozen parks including Acadia, Badlands, Bryce Canyon, Capitol Reef, Death Valley, Glacier, Glen Canyon and Yellowstone, are now part of the program. Some of these parks have very limited staff so volunteers are sought to orchestrate most aspects of nighttime public programs. Other parks already have an ongoing astronomy program, but they need additional assistance and skill with telescope use. Astro VIPs orchestrate most aspects of nighttime public programs and provide additional assistance and skill with telescope use in national parks around the country between the months of March and October.



# INVESTING IN AMERICA'S BEST IDEA

## The Potential Impact Is Vast, And Enduring

Every dollar counts. This is a powerful investment in America's National Park System, its future, and the future of our cultural and historical resources. By supporting a critical park project, you will help to preserve, protect, and promote America's Best Idea—our national parks—in new ways that improve the present...and extend far into the future. Whether you, your foundation, or your company can give \$25,000 or \$250,000, every gift to the *Centennial Campaign for America's National Parks* helps make a difference. Pick a project or two from this list or contact us for dozens of other projects in your state or in your heart.

## Contact Us

For more information about the Foundation or the Centennial Campaign, contact Stefanie Mathew, Director of Corporate Partnerships, [smathew@nationalparks.org](mailto:smathew@nationalparks.org) or by phone at (202) 796-3122.

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## National Park Service

More than 24,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 407 national parks—84 million acres of majestic landscapes, solemn memorials, and historic sites where men and women made American history. The National Park Service preserves the natural and cultural resources of our nation and works with communities across the nation to steward local history and create close-to-home educational and recreational opportunities.

## National Park Foundation

The National Park Foundation, in partnership with the National Park Service, enriches America's national parks and programs through private support. Chartered by Congress in 1967, the Foundation grew out of a legacy that began nearly a century ago, when ordinary citizens took action to establish and protect our national parks. The National Park Foundation directly supports America's 407 national parks by pursuing three distinct, yet interdependent, areas of focus: PROTECTING America's national parks through critical conservation and preservation efforts; CONNECTING all Americans with their incomparable natural landscapes, vibrant culture, rich history and the transformative community work of the National Park Service, and INSPIRING lifelong engagement with the next generation of park stewards.



PROTECT  
CONNECT  
INSPIRE

The Centennial Campaign  
for America's National Parks

**National Park Foundation**

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