

Pride.

This is a story of our national parks.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Alaska Region



*strength, courage, diversity, **Pride***
Anchorage Pridefest 2012 (NPS Photo)

The Pride series of videos, produced by LGBT National Park Service -- Alaska Region employees with the support of the regional leadership, conveys pride, strength, courage, and diversity in the performance of our mission, especially when the personal costs are extremely high.

In 2012, Denali National Park Ranger Timothy Rains proposed an idea to celebrate the June observance of Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Pride Month. He had been inspired by the "It Gets Better" project video in which Department of the Interior employees support and reassure LGBT youth by providing stories of their own early struggles and encouragement to help demonstrate that life does indeed get better. Tim wanted to produce a video to share his experiences working for the National Park Service and how it helped him make peace with his identity, as well as provide an opportunity for fellow LGBT employees to share their stories. Tim described the response to his idea as "quick and supportive." He worked with the NPS Alaska Regional Office to bring the video series to fruition. For the first time in Alaska, "...they provided a way for those of us working in the remote areas of the state an opportunity to connect and create that strong sense of community through a shared goal..." In discussions with the Alaska Regional Office, "...they quickly realized this project was larger than the story I wanted to tell..." Tim said. Within just a couple of days of the project announcement, Tim received 13 volunteers from several parks across Alaska. Their narratives are positive, encouraging, and hopeful, yet some admit feelings of caution.

We invite you to experience Pride in Alaska - Visit our website at:

<http://1.usa.gov/1bEGYSW> to view all three videos

To learn more about diversity in the Alaska National Parks visit
www.nps.gov/akso/diversity

