YOUR AMERICAN WEST

PARKS
Volcanoes of the Southwest
Hike for Health

EVENTS
Moonlight Hike
Ridley Rendezvous

PRODUCTS
T-shirts for Summer
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Letter from the Executive Director

Summer is here again, and what a time to explore all the beautiful parks our country has to offer. As we are producing this issue of Your American West, volcanoes are much in the news and in our thoughts. When they erupt, as on Hawaii and in Guatemala, we are reminded of the force and power of nature. Volcanoes can be found in several Western National Parks Association (WNPA) parks, and they are fascinating to visit. In this issue we focus on these parks and the volcanoes that can be found there.

With 417 national park sites in the United States there’s always a new one to visit. Many parks experience a huge rush of visitors in the summer months, some to the point that overcrowding can be a concern. This summer, why not visit a park off the beaten path? Escape from the stresses of work, leave the school year firmly behind, and set out to find yourself in a national park—one you might not have heard of before. If you love Joshua Tree National Park, give Mojave National Preserve a try. If Mesa Verde National Park is high on your list, you’re sure to love Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument and Walnut Canyon National Monument. Instead of the Grand Canyon, pay a visit to Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. The hidden gems of the National Park Service (NPS) are every bit as beautiful and wonderful as the most publicized (and, come summer, most visited) national parks. You might not know that the work of WNPA helps ensure smaller parks like these receive funding and other forms of support that are crucial to their operation. WNPA’s support is vital for keeping these hidden gems open and ready for you to visit and enjoy. Thank you, as always, for your continued support of WNPA and our partner parks, small and large!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

James E. Cook
Executive Director

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Details

Western National Parks Association (WNPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit partner of the National Park Service, serving more than 70 national parks in the western United States.
The Home Office and The National Parks Store are located at 12880 N Vistoso Village Drive, Tucson, AZ 85755. Learn more by contacting info@wnpa.org or visiting www.wnpa.org.

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Meet Your Team

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All photographs courtesy of WNPA unless otherwise credited.

Cover image: Sunset Crater National Monument cinder cone, lava rock, and pine trees (courtesy of Jeffrey M. Franks).
Special Recognition & Community Partners

Special Recognition: Splendido at Rancho Vistoso

Splendido is an all-inclusive Life Plan Community in Tucson for adults 55 and better. Residents enjoy a wide variety of services and amenities to live their best lives near the foot of the gorgeous Santa Catalina Mountains. Thank you, Splendido, for your continued support of WNPA.

Meet Your Team

WNPA Home Office volunteer Sandi Joubert loves all national parks, but one in particular will always hold a special place in her heart: Yellowstone. Not only did she work there for seven years, but she and her husband, Paul, lived nearby in Bozeman, Montana, in an old schoolhouse they restored themselves and converted to a bed and breakfast. Sandi helped guests plan their time in Yellowstone, recommending what to see and do during their stay. Sandi said, “when they returned in the evening it was like seeing Yellowstone National Park for the first time through their eyes.” As a volunteer for WNPA, Sandi loves to spread that same love of parks to others. Sandi said volunteering “is a way to give back.” Thank you, Sandi. We couldn’t do what we do without our volunteers! WNPA values volunteers! If you’re interested in learning more about our volunteer opportunities, please contact Regional Program Manager Caroline Lochner at 520-789-7325 or caroline.lochner@wnpa.org.

Community Partners

Bon Voyage Travel
The Classic Cartridge Company
Concept 360
Holualoa Companies
Impact Photographics
The Mahoney Group
Pigment and Hue, Inc.
Splendido at Rancho Vistoso

New & Notable Releases

Round Logo T-shirts

Wear your park pride with these new round logo t-shirts! Designed by WNPA, these round logos encapsulate the essence of each park. New designs are being added all the time so you can have one for each park. You can find these shirts online and in their respective park stores:

- Carlsbad Caverns National Park
- Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument
- Saguaro National Park
- White Sands National Monument

Circle of Sonora T-shirt

We all know the circle of life, but how about the circle of Sonora? Thanks to this new tee, you’re covered. This eye-catching WNPA-exclusive design features seven of the Sonoran Desert national parks: Chiricahua National Monument, Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, Coronado National Memorial, Fort Bowie National Historic Site, Saguaro National Park, Tumacácori National Historical Park, and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. These shirts are available in select WNPA stores and online.

101 Questions About Volcanoes

Want to learn more about volcanoes? We have the book for you! This book contains a wealth of information and illustrations and features volcanic sites in the United States, most of which are preserved and interpreted by the National Park Service. Available online.

101 Questions About Volcanoes by WNPAA.
Featured Events & Activities

American Indian Cultural Arts Festival

Saturday, July 14, 10 AM–2 PM
Aztec Ruins National Monument
725 Ruins Rd.
Aztec, NM 87410

Meet regional American Indian artists, enjoy their demonstrations, and experience a showcase of traditional and modern American Indian arts and crafts. Weather permitting. This event is free to attend. For more information, click here or contact the visitor center at 505-334-6174.

Ridley Rendezvous

Saturday, July 14, 9 AM–1 PM
Padre Island National Seashore
20420 Park Road 22
Corpus Christi, TX 78418

Celebrate Kemp’s ridley sea turtles! 2018 marks 40 years of sea turtle preservation at Padre Island National Seashore, and this day is a celebration of all things sea turtle. Attend turtle talks, earn a special Junior Ranger badge, see a sea turtle release, and more. Stay tuned to the park’s Facebook page for more information.

Full Moon Hikes

Friday, July 27, 7–9:30 PM & Saturday, August 25, 6:30–9 PM
Saguaro National Park East
3693 S Old Spanish Trail
Tucson, AZ 85730

These hikes are 2.8 miles long and take two-and-a-half hours with approximately 200 feet of elevation gain. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 520-733-5153.

Hubbell Trading Post Navajo Rug and Jewelry Trunk Show

Saturday, September 22 & Sunday, September 23, 9:30 AM–4 PM each day
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
King Gillette Ranch
26876 Mulholland Hwy
Calabasas, CA 91302

Shop authentic Navajo rugs and jewelry straight from Hubbell Trading Post at Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site. Navajo trader and WNPA employee Edison Eskeets will give informative and entertaining talks about the history, symbolism, and artistry of Navajo rugs at 10 AM and 2 PM both days. For more information, please visit the Facebook event page.

For more events at national parks near you, check out their websites!

Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument
Aztec Ruins National Monument
Bandelier National Monument
Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site
Big Thicket National Preserve
Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site
Canyon de Chelly National Monument
Capulin Volcano National Monument
Carlsbad Caverns National Park
Casa Grande Ruins National Monument
Chaco Culture National Historical Park
Chamizal National Memorial
Channel Islands National Park
Chickasaw National Recreation Area
Chiricahua National Monument
Coronado National Memorial
Curecanti National Recreation Area
El Malpais National Monument
El Morro National Monument
Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site
Fort Bowie National Historic Site
Fort Davis National Historic Site
Fort Larned National Historic Site
Fort Scott National Historic Site
Fort Union National Monument
Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument
Golden Spike National Historic Site
Great Basin National Park
Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve
Guadalupe Mountains National Park
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site
John Muir National Historic Site
Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail
Lake Mead National Recreation Area
Lake Meredith National Recreation Area
Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail
Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument
Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park
Mojave National Preserve
Montezuma Castle National Monument
Navajo National Monument
Nicodemus National Historic Site
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
Padre Island National Seashore
Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park
Pecos National Historical Park
Petroglyph National Monument
Pinnacles National Park
Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Monument
Saguaro National Park
Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park
Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site
Santa Fe National Historic Trail
Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument
Timpanogos Cave National Monument
The National Parks Store
Tonto National Monument
Trail of Tears National Historic Trail
Tumacácori National Historical Park
Tuzigoot National Monument
Walnut Canyon National Monument
Washtucna Battlefield National Historic Site
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area
White Sands National Monument
Wupatki National Monument

Fee-Free Day

Saturday, September 22
All NPS sites
Enjoy fee-free entrance to all NPS sites for National Public Lands Day!
People & Happenings

Hike for Health at Five Arizona Parks

Looking for a hiking challenge? Five parks in southeast Arizona have heeded the call. Visitors to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Chiricahua National Monument, Fort Bowie National Historic Site, Coronado National Monument, and Tumacácori National Historical Park can take part in the “I Hike for Health” program for an exclusive reward. Each park has set a challenge to visitors: hike a predetermined number of miles at the park (distance varies by park), show a ranger photographic proof of your hikes, and receive an exclusive pin! Can you earn all five?

Ironwood Tree Experience

Ironwood Tree Experience, a nonprofit organization in Arizona, works with youth to teach them about the outdoors, how to form a respectful relationship with nature, and life and career skills to work toward a sustainable future. On April 22, Ironwood Tree Experience youth interns shared their three-month stewardship experiences while learning about Tucson’s history, culture, and ecology. Walking along the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, students participating in the Youth Ambassadors for Southwestern Cultures program gave carefully researched and prepared presentations about Las Lagunas de Anza, Old and New World food, Historic Hacienda de la Canoa Ranch, and the fashion of the San Xavier Mission. At the future site of Tomorrow’s Garden at Mission Garden, students presented their findings on rainwater harvesting, drought-tolerant plants, dryland farming, sustainable building materials, traditional technology, the benefits of a greenhouse, and the role of community action. At the conclusion of the presentations, each student was given a certificate and a stipend. The students expressed gratitude for their involvement with Ironwood Tree Experience, and one student said it was “an amazing opportunity.”
Connecting Youth and Parks

Leading up to the 2018 Tucson Festival of Books (TFOB), WNPA held an essay contest in partnership with the Metropolitan Education Commission. The essay contest invited Southern Arizona students in grades 9 through 12 to help give a voice to WNPA’s mission of supporting national parks by answering the questions “Why do people need parks? Why do parks need people?”. Isolde Edminster-Genet received first place, Alyssa Urrff received second place, and Maancy Saksena received third place. The three winners were invited on stage at TFOB to receive their prizes and meet WNPA-featured author Florence Williams, who wrote The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes Us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative. Maancy was inspired to enter the contest because “volunteering at Catalina State Park was definitely one of my favorite moments from my high school experience. Writing this essay helped me express my appreciation for nature and the parks. I hope that more people appreciate nature and spend more time in the parks in the future. That being said, promoting parks is a very important matter to me.” Well put!

To read the three winning essays, click here.

In the Parks

Alternative Spring Break

This year for spring break, graduating senior Andrea Herrera Madrigal, a communications major at Metropolitan State University of Denver, and a group of her friends wanted to do something a little different. Instead of partying they went on an “alternative spring break” to Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve in Colorado.

Here is what Andrea said about their trip:

“My experience with this alternative spring break was awesome because, before we went on this trip, we received books and a movie to learn a little bit about Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. It helped us understand and know more information about the park. When we were at Great Sand Dunes we met with [Park Store Manager] Kris Illenberger to learn about the business side of the national parks gift shops and how it works. We learned how most of the national parks gift shops are connected and how they keep them running. We also learned less than 50 percent of the individuals who go to national parks go to the gift shops and that is why the smaller gift shops depend on the larger ones because they don’t make nearly as much profit as the larger stores do.

We also got to learn what a park ranger does in their daily routine at Great Sand Dunes. The on-site geologist talked about how he studies the sands and collects data. The intern who was there spoke about how she was learning what it takes to be a park ranger. It was wonderful to hear the three different employees who work there talk about their positions and how they deal with the changes in climate and what impacts that has at the park. It was great to see when they spoke about their jobs; you could tell how much they loved doing their job.

Thank you for having us at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve. We had a wonderful time and it was great experience learning about the history of your park and the beauty behind it and what it takes to preserve this monument.

Courtesy of Andrea Herrera Madrigal.
Guest Contributor
National Junior Ranger Day
By Melanie Rawlins
Education specialist at Tumacácori National Historical Park

Tumacácori National Historical Park kicked off National Park Week in 2018 with a record-setting Junior Ranger Day. Between 10 AM and 1 PM, nearly 270 visitors walked through the front doors to play, create, learn, and protect. More than 20 different games and activities were available throughout the morning. Nature lovers “fished” for Gila topminnow in the garden fountain and rolled seedbombs to propagate native plants. History enthusiasts snapped family photos in period clothing and stamped their own leather jewelry. Mud played a starring role in the day, too, as junior engineers learned how to create wattle and daub buildings and practiced adobe masonry. Tohono O’odham pottery was pinched, rolled, sculpted, and even filled with water and balanced on kids’ heads for the popular ha’äraces. A miniature ranch sprouted in the picnic area, where visitors practiced roping, milking, branding, and churning cream into butter. The event’s star was Clarabella, a heritage Corriente cow whose name was chosen by Junior Ranger Day participants. When temperatures rose and stomachs growled, visitors ran through the monsoon tunnel or snacked on cool raspados (snow cones), fresh tortillas, mesquite pancakes, and popcorn. By the end of the day, 111 young people left the park as newly minted Junior Rangers. Look for them across southern Arizona, sporting their shiny new badges, bracelets strung with beads found in treasure boxes throughout the park, and limited-edition “I’m a Junior Ranger at Tumacácori” t-shirts.

The event was made possible by the enthusiasm and dedication of nearly 30 volunteers and staff, who spent the day sharing their joy of learning. The volunteers included a troop of Girl Scouts and a graduate of the Southern Arizona Youth Outdoor Summit from 2016. Funding was proudly provided by WNPA.
Volcanoes of the Southwest

Kīlauea volcano in Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park has been in the news lately thanks to its eruption. Volcanoes are fascinating geologic formations which remind us how beautiful—and how destructive—nature can be.

There are three main types of volcanoes: stratovolcanoes (also called composite volcanoes), shield volcanoes, and cinder cone volcanoes. You can see cinder cone volcanoes in four WNPA partner parks: Mojave National Preserve, Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument, Capulin Volcano National Monument, and Petroglyph National Monument. Though the volcanoes in these parks are not considered “active” and are in no danger of erupting, these geologic features are fascinating.

Dozens of small cinder cone volcanoes dot the skyline at Mojave National Preserve in California. These cinder cones were formed 7.6 million years ago and have not been active for more than ten thousand years. Cima Dome, a well-known landmark of Mojave National Preserve, is not a cinder cone, though its name seems to imply it. Instead it is the eroded remnants of what was once a craggy mountain. Together the cinder cones and Cima Dome have been designated Cima Dome & Volcanic Field National Natural Landmark, also called Cinder Cones National Natural Landmark. Visitors to Mojave National Preserve should certainly put this landmark on the to-see list.

Located in a large field of cinder cones in northern Arizona, Sunset Crater Volcano is one of the youngest volcanoes in the country. It is estimated to have last erupted around the year 1085. Other cinder cones in the field are thought to be nearly three million years old, making Sunset Crater Volcano a veritable baby. In the late 1920s a movie company planned to explode dynamite on Sunset Crater Volcano to create an avalanche for a motion picture. Thankfully public opposition to this plan prevented the explosions from taking place, and Sunset Crater National Monument (renamed Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument in 1990) was created by President Herbert Hoover in May 1930. Though hiking to the summit of Sunset Crater Volcano was prohibited in 1973 to protect the volcano, a one-mile loop trail around the base allows visitors to gaze in awe at this marvelous formation.

For those wishing to hike on—and in—a volcano, Capulin Volcano in New Mexico is the place to go. Though originally named Capulin Mountain, this volcano in northeastern New Mexico is, indeed, a cinder cone volcano. With a height of 8,182 feet above sea level and rising more than one thousand feet above the surrounding plains, Capulin Volcano is a dominating figure in the landscape. Hikers will enjoy a trail that circles the rim of the volcano and descends into the crater itself.

Southwest of Capulin Volcano lies Petroglyph National Monument, known for the wide array of petroglyphs, or rock carvings, it protects. Not many know it is also home to three cinder cone volcanoes called the Three Sisters. Unlike many other volcanoes formed by magma erupting through a central vent, the Three Sisters volcanoes are an example of a fissure eruption. Fissures occur when magma emerges through thin cracks in the Earth’s crust. The Three Sisters and the surrounding area are held sacred by the Pueblo Indians of the Rio Grande Valley, who believe it to be one of the last remaining sacred sites in the region.

These cinder cones of the Southwest provide important information about the formation of the landscape and how flora and fauna recovered after large eruptions in the past. Visit these parks to learn more.
National Park Patch Lady

After 20 years in politics, Sandra Ramos needed a break. Now the Austin-based photographer travels to national parks around the country and documents her travels on her blog, Facebook, and Instagram as National Park Patch Lady. As her nickname suggests, she loves collecting patches to represent the national parks she visits. When a fire in Chiricahua National Monument derailed her plans during a Southwest road trip, Sandra stopped by the WNPA Home Office to say hello to the creative team and chat about helping our national parks. Thank you for visiting, Sandra, and thanks again for the patches!

Social Media Corner

Follow WNPA on 

From left: Japheth (graphic designer), Kristina (communications specialist), National Park Patch Lady, and Joe (digital media specialist) (courtesy of National Park Patch Lady).
Membership Matters

When a WNPA member accidentally left his membership card behind at the park store in Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument, WNPA staff teamed up to get it back to him! Park Store Manager Ginny Mauceri and Sales Associate Carl Cooper leapt into action to return this wayward card. Thanks to their efforts and help from WNPA’s development coordinator, Angela Sanchez, and Field Operations Manager Mindi Gusman, the card was sent back to its owner. He sent the following email to share his gratitude.

Ms. Mauceri,

Thank you for the time you took to track us down and return the membership card. I regret we were in the middle of hearing how you accomplished that when we drove into the cliffs around Zion and lost the cell signal. If you ever have the time or inclination to tell us the rest of the story, I'd love to hear it.

For the record, my wife and I are taking our children on a three-week trip to various parks. So far we've seen the Gila Cliff Dwellings, the Painted Desert/Petrified Forest, hiked in Sunset Crater, The Grand Canyon, and in Zion, and are on our way to Dinosaur National Monument, a family reunion, and finally have several tours in Carlsbad Caverns on the way back home.

I tell you this to share that I've visited the Painted Desert, Grand Canyon, and Carlsbad as a 6th grader; now am taking my own children to see them 30 years later. This is my first extended vacation ever as an adult, and thanks to my wife we are driving cross country and camping in a pop-up trailer.

And I shared that to give some perspective to this: thank you for what you do in supporting the parks. This is a life changing experience for me, a huge bonding time with my children, and we are already planning another trip to see more parks. I've taught 6th and 7th grade science in Texas and get to see first-hand the ecosystems I've been teaching about. This would not be possible without the time and effort you, your staff, and too many volunteers to count [devote to] making it happen.

Thank you again,
Robert Lutjens

WNPA is proud to support parks, staff, volunteers, members, and visitors to ensure that national parks can be experienced and loved by all. Your support of WNPA helps provide crucial services in our partner parks. For more information about membership and charitable giving, visit www.wnpa.org or contact WNPA’s Philanthropy Department at 520-789-7404 or membership@wnpa.org.
Western National Parks Association is a nonprofit education partner of the National Park Service. We support parks across the West, developing products, services, and programs that enrich the visitor experience.

Your purchases support parks.