Celebrating the Centennial of the National Park Service

In 1916, United States Secretary of the Interior Franklin K. Lane received a letter of complaint about the national parks from his old California friend, Stephen T. Mather. Secretary Lane replied, “Dear Steve, if you don’t like the way the national parks are being run, come on down to Washington and run them yourself.”

Up to that time, there was no single agency responsible for the management of the 31 national park areas under the Department of the Interior. Mr. Mather did go to Washington, DC, to change that. His first two years were spent working the halls of Congress with his young assistant, Horace Albright, “keeping him out of jail.” Their work paid off on August 25, 1916, when Congress passed the legislation creating the National Park Service. Director Mather would serve another fourteen years before Albright took the reins as the second director of the National Park Service.

The term “national park” is attributed to artist and explorer George Catlin who in 1833 proposed in the New York Daily Commercial Advertiser that there be, “Preserved in their nature’s beauty!” It took almost forty years before the world’s first national park, Yellowstone, was established in 1872. Ironically, nowhere in Yellowstone’s legislation is the phrase “national park”. It was set aside as a “public park or pleasuring ground of the people.”

British Ambassador James Bryce said in 1912, “The national park is the best idea America ever had.” It was an idea so good that, today, 152 countries of the world have national parks.

The great thing about parks is they are timeless. Your national parks will continue for another 100 years. On this Centennial the national park system is made up of 409 units. Some are classified by the designation “National Park,” but there are also National Lakeshores, National Monuments, National Battlefields, National Scenic Trails, and more. All are here because of one phrase in that 1916 legislation: “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.”

Your children’s children will see these treasures.

During your visit to Joshua Tree, you will experience one of these units. It was that legislation’s wording that allowed Joshua Tree to be set aside in 1936. The unique geology, flora, fauna, and history of Joshua Tree make this place like nowhere else in the world.

by Chief Ranger Jeff Olhys

Joshua Tree has many special events planned for the Centennial year! See the listing on p. 12 to join the celebration. Share your photos and stories of Joshua Tree on social media using the hashtag #FindYourPark.

Wildflowers Declare the Desert’s Diversity

Ah, spring! Winter rains can bring a spectacular bloom that adds to the year-round beauty of plant life at Joshua Tree National Park. Even in off years the show is dazzling… but why is one wildflower season so different from the next? Aliya Ingerson explains, and invites you to be a citizen scientist helping us keep track of what’s going on with our wildflowers. ... p. 8

Women’s History Month Retrospective

Take a look back at the accomplishments of women in the National Park Service’s first century. Discover the stories of a few prominent women from Joshua Tree’s own history, Historic Structures Specialist Allison Kennedy and Museum Specialist Melanie Spoo share pictures and tales from the park collections in this special Centennial feature. ... p. 10

Safety; Rules & Regulations ... p. 2
What to See and Do; Leave No Trace ... p. 3
Hiking Trails ... p. 4
Camping; Equestrian Use ... p. 5
Park Map; Essential Information ... p. 6
Weather; Visitor Center Hours ... p. 7
Geology; Joshua Trees ... p. 9
Water Conservation ... p. 11
Ranger Programs ... p. 12

Welcome to your park!

A hundred years ago, our National Park System consisted of a few classic crown jewel parks like Yosemite and Yellowstone, as well as a handful of monuments and historic sites scattered like stars across the country. What a difference a century makes!

In 2016, we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service. America’s National Park System stretches from Guam to Maine and from the southernmost Florida key to the Gates of the Arctic. National parks protect coral reefs, giant redwoods, night skies, and even the sounds of silence. They tell the stories of patriots entombed in battlefields, the ancient ancestors of modern day tribes, courageous explorers, and civil rights leaders. And they do it at seashores, on battlefields, in little historic school, and even in deserts.

These 409 park sites across the country preserve and protect America’s story. They give us a place where we can be inspired, where we can be challenged, and even a place where we can relax. This year, over two million people from around the world will come to Joshua Tree to connect with the story of the California desert and enjoy the hiking, climbing and beauty that one presidential proclamation made possible 79 years ago.

What will the next hundred years hold in store for America’s Best Idea? As your park superintendent, my job is to ensure that Joshua Tree continues to be welcoming and relevant to all people, while protecting, and restoring what I think is one of the most amazing places on the planet Earth. Please let me know how we are doing and what we can do better to help you enjoy your park.

Sincerely,

David Smith
Superintendent

#FINDYOURPARK
Safety: What You Need to Know

We want your trip to Joshua Tree to be safe and enjoyable. Ultimately, you are responsible for your own safety. This information will help you prepare.

**Drinking Water with You**

Water is available at only a few sites in the park. In the desert, you will need to carry plenty of water. Always carry extra water with you. Desert weather changes fast and the landscape offers little shelter.

**Staying hydrated & salt tanks**

We recommend drinking about a half gallon (2 l) of water per person, per day. You will need fluids if you are active, vigorous hiking, cycling, or climbing to cause you to lose water faster. Always carry extra water with you. Desert weather changes fast and the landscape offers little shelter.

**Prep for Changing Weather**

Prepare for temperature extremes by carrying layers. Early February may have some very chilly nights, while temperatures may reach 100°F (38°C) or more by the spring. Always carry extra water with you. Desert weather changes fast and the landscape offers little shelter.

**Pack it in, pack out.**

Be generous in applying sunscreen, and magnify offered. The desert sun is strong.

**No collecting park resources, including living or dead vegetation.

It is the mandate of the National Park Service to preserve all natural and cultural resources for future generations. Please leave everything in the park as it is for others to enjoy. Do not destroy, deface, dig, collect, or otherwise alter any park resources including plants or animals (whether they are dead or alive), rocks, fossils, or artifacts.

**Rock climbing**

The National Park Service does not inspect, maintain, or repair rock and other climbing equipment. Any user is responsible for their own safety and for guarding against the hazards of falling rocks and other climbing equipment.

**Motor vehicles and bicyclists must stay on roads.

The desert environment is more fragile than it may look. The sand and scree under your feet and bicycles and tires are taken off roads for only a few decades. Yanag and green slick desert plants, AHs, and LVs are prohibited in the park.

**Watch for tortoises**

The desert tortoise is a threatened species that does not die from being hit by cars. Don’t race, follow, or try to catch tortoises on the road a lot faster than a tortoise can run. They are not escape the heat. Avoid getting too close to the tortoise and keep it at a safe distance.

Firearms and weapons

Firearms may be possessed in accordance with California state and federal laws. However, they may not be discharged in the park. Firearms, bows, BBS, paintball guns, and sling shots are not allowed in the park.

**What to See and Do**

**Backcountry Roads**

Joshua Tree National Park features remote camping and vast expanses of undeveloped desert. Backcountry roads allow for exploring remote areas of the park, but preparedness is crucial. Errors in judgment can be deadly. Always ask for range information at all conditions before leaving. If going out.

For your own safety and the protection of natural resources, all wheeled vehicles (including bicycles) must remain on designated roads. Off-road driving and riding are prohibited.

**Geology tour road 18 NM (29 km)**

This route starts a mi (1.5 km) west of Jumbo Rocks. Pick up an interpretive guide from the brochure box at the start. A loop trail takes about two hours. The first few miles of the road are open to most vehicles, with four-wheel drive needed after marker 9.

**Queen Valley Road 17.5 NM (28 km)**

Usually passable to all vehicles, this network of dirt roads穿越 a valley of boulder piles and Joshua trees. The Queen Valley dirt roads are popular with cyclists and dog walkers.

**Coulson Flats Road 8 NM (13 km)**

This route is home to some of park’s largest Joshua trees, junipers, and pinyon pines. You can drive all the way to the summit of Barker Peak (5,080 ft, 1,548 m) for panoramic views from Palm Springs to the Moringa Basin. High clearance recommended.

**Bighorn Canyon Road 21 NM (34 km)**

This route leads to Barker Peak, the summit of the Bighorn Mountains. A dry, rocky road with very steep climbs. Do not attempt without suitable vehicle and tires. Hike trailhead near Barker Peak.

**Longridge Flats Road 10 NM (16 km)**

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Campgrounds usually fill on weekends at this time of year. Reservations for Joshua Creek and Black Rock Campgrounds are available from October through May. Go to www.recreation.gov or call 877-444-6777 up to six months in advance of your visit to make a reservation. If you can’t find a campsite, apply for a rafter for the park’s overflow camping handout.

Visitors staying overnight in the park must camp in a designated campground or backcountry area. Sleeping in your vehicle outside of a campground is prohibited, and there is no camping at roadside pullouts, trailheads, or along the side of the road.

Camping rules: A maximum of six people, three tents, and two cars may occupy an individual campsite; if there is space. Some sites only have enough parking for one vehicle. Check in and check out are at noon. Camp fees must be paid within one hour of selecting a campsite.

Quiet hours are from 10 p.m.-6 a.m. Generator use is permitted only from 7 a.m.-9 a.m., and 4 p.m.-7 p.m. There is a 30-day camping limit each year. Only 14 of these nights may take place from October - May. All tents, teepee, and camping trailers must be set up within 25 ft of the picnic table or fire grate at a site. Do not set up skis or snowboards in campgrounds.

Backcountry Camping
Joshua Tree National Park is vast, and the trail system is accessible by road. An overnight trip into the backcountry is a memorable experience that allows hikers and backpackers to experience solitude and immersion in wild nature. Adequate preparation is key to enjoying the desert safely.

Bring Water
Water sources in the desert are scarce and are reserved for wildlife. You must carry with you a supply of water whether hiking, cooking, or hygiene. The maximum capacity of at least two gallons (8 liters) of water per person per day of your trip. Minimum exertion during the heat of the day in order to prevent dehydration.

Register
To camp overnight in the backcountry, you must first register with a free permit at the backcountry office before your visit, and parking permit (p. 67). Leave your vehicle parked at one of the park’s backcountry bascamps, too. An unregistered vehicle or a vehicle left overnight somewhere other than at a backcountry board brings up safety concerns. It is also subject to citation and towing.

Setting Up Camp
Your backcountry camp must be located at least one mile (1.6 km) from the road, campground, and dry washes. Most overnight riding trails are already open, clearly marked, and ready to be enjoyed. Other trails are in various stages of development. Trail maps for the West entrance area and for the Black Rock Canyon area are available.

Stock is limited to horses and mules and is restricted to designated equestrian trails and corridors, open dirt roads, and shoulders of paved roads. Riders should travel single file to reduce damage to soil and vegetation. Stock animals are not permitted within 500 feet of any natural or constructed water source. Horses and other stock are not permitted on nature trails, in Woodrose Camp, in picnic areas, or visitor centers. A permit is required to camp with stock in the backcountry; call 760-926-9945.

The park has two equestrian campgrounds available only to visitors with horses. Reservations are required.

• Ryan Horse Camp, elevation 3,400 feet (1,035 m), is open October–May. Sites are $20 per night, first come, first serve. For reservations, call 760-926-9945.

For more information, please use the park websites at http://www.nps.gov/jotr/planyourvisit/horseback-riding.htm or ask a ranger about horse use.

Group Camping
Reservations for group camping. Sites can accommodate groups of 10-60 people and may be reserved up to a year in advance, online at recreation.gov or by phone at 877-444-6777.

Group camping is available at three locations in Joshua Tree National Park:

• Cottonwood Group, elevation 3,050 feet (929 m), is open October–May. Sites are $35-50 depending on site capacity. Teents only. RVs and habitable trailers prohibited.

• Indio Creek Group, elevation 3,200 feet (975 m), 7 sites, $35-50 depending on site capacity. Can accommodate RVs or trailers, maximum combined length 25 ft.

• Sheep Pass Group, elevation 4,500 feet (1,371 m), 6 sites, $35-50 depending on site capacity. Teents only. RVs and habitable trailers prohibited.

Equestrian Use
Horseback riding is a popular way to experience the park. The Backcountry and Wilderness Management Plan provides for more than 240 miles of equestrian trails and trail corridors that traverse open plains, canyon bottoms, and dry washes. Most overnight riding trails are already open, clearly marked, and ready to be enjoyed. Other trails are in various stages of development. Trail maps for the West entrance area and for the Black Rock Canyon area are available.

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Hiking
Carefully review the safety information and regulations on p. 2. There is no assurance of safety in a national park.

Leave information about your planned route and expected return time with a friend or family member before hiking. Check in with this person when you return. In an emergency, call 911 or 909-385-9951.

On any desert hike, remember the Ten Essentials:

• water
• food
• layers of clothing
• navigation (map & compass)
• sun protection
• first aid kit
• emergency shelter
While averages are shown here, any individual day may be much hotter, much colder, or much wetter than expected based on these long-term averages.
Wildflowers: A Declaration of Desert Diversity

More Mojave Desert plants have adapted to respond primarily to moisture that falls in the winter, though many plants only flower during summer or fall. These disparate and diverse blooming calendars are due in part to the park’s location—Joshua Tree National Park lies at the transition between the Mojave and Colorado deserts. In the eastern portion of the California Mojave Desert (including in Joshua Tree National Park), much of the annual rainfall arrives as summer monsoons, similar to the rainfall pattern of the Sonoran desert. The range of elevations within the park also has an intriguing effect: plants of the same species may go to seed in March at lower elevations, while higher up they may still be blooming into May. Conspicuously, plants found at higher elevations are likely to have an origin in the Mojave Desert, freezing cooler temperatures; the inverse is true for plants from the Colorado Desert.

Accordingly, there is no set time for flowers to bloom here, and no perfect way to predict it. So how do you plan your visit if you want to see wildflowers? Take a look at the spring season Wildfinder Reports posted at park visitor centers and on the park website at npfriends.org/JTNPwildfinder. In each report, park staff highlight the most spectacular wildflower viewing areas. Visitors can use these timelines to see almost all of the perfect spring wildflower walk.

If you miss the spring bloom, though, there’s no need to despair.

August and September are also great times to go in the desert to botanize,” points out La Doux. “Not only are there too many species that will only flower during the summer and fall months, it’s a great time to experience the insect and reptile diversity in the park.”

The diversity of plants in the park makes for a spectacular display, but identifying them can sometimes be daunting. To help, park rangers and botanists have partnered with Naturalist.com. Using this free app, wildflower viewers may upload a photo of a plant and ask for help identifying it. The app will ask the user to request an ID of the flower, or simply scroll through existing photos and match the plant in front of them.

This interactive tool allows park staff to provide plant identification for visitors, and allows visitors to point us to the most interesting blooming spots. Talk about symbiosis!

Joshua Tree’s Boulders

The boulders and rock formations of Joshua Tree National Park define the park’s character. The rocks catch the eye of climbers, photographers, hikers, and motorists.

Many visitors think the rocks look like layers of sandstone, but they are actually a kind of granite. They are unlike the rock commonly used for countertops. Granites are igneous in origin, meaning they formed when hot, molten fluids within the earth’s crust gradually cooled and solidified. Most granites in the park are a particular type called “monomictic.” Joshua Tree monomictic granites solidified beneath the surface of the Earth starting about 345 million years ago. The youngest rocks formed over 100 million years ago.

The liquid granite couldn’t force itself all the way up to the surface, so the granite cooled and formed huge, ball-shaped masses within the ancient rock. Over a long period of time, the great blocks of granite cooled and hardened.

The ancient rock, called granites (pronounced “nice”), began to erode. Over millions of years, the grains has completely vanished from the surface in most of the park. The grains, dust in color, does remain exposed on mountain tops. Younger and lighter-colored monomictic granites are seen in the valley bottoms.

WHAT’S WITH THE ALL THE STRANGE SHAPES? In many places in the park, the boulders appear as if some gigantic child plied them up. Some boulders have carved faces, are shaped like animals, or take other fanciful forms. Cracks in the rocks and water are the keys to the appearance of our rocks today.

Horizontal stresses from the collision of tectonic plates created sets of parallel, vertical fractures within the buried rock. Later, mountain building pushed the rocks upward to form sets of X-shaped cracks standing at angles in the granite. All the fractures were avenues for rainwater to seep downward through the rocks to stick and shape and round the originally angular blocks into the varied forms seen today in the park.

During the last Ice Age, the climate was cooler and wetter, rainwater was abundant. Much of the water circulating then no longer existed. No granites existed here then either. If water granites were not in a factor in the landscape we see today.

by Dar Sparring, Ph.D.

Fun Facts about the Joshua Tree

• At least 400 species of cacti, succulents, and other cacti-like plants are found in Joshua Tree National Park. Most Joshua trees are not found in every part of the park, but the Joshua Tree National Park is one of the few places in the world where the Joshua tree can be found. In addition to the Joshua Tree, there are also 17 other species of cacti found in Joshua Tree National Park.

• A Joshua tree may have spines, succulent leaves, but it is not a cactus. It is a member of the agave family.

• Climate change threatens Joshua trees. Low rainfall and changing temperatures can result in fewer young Joshua trees.

• The shape of a Joshua tree is fibrous and has no growth rings. That makes it hard to know how old it is. Some researchers think its lifespan is a few years.

• According to legend, Mormon pioneers considered the limbs of the Joshua tree to resemble the upturned arms of Joshua leading them to the promised land.

• The cover photo for the sign & 12 albums “The Joshua Tree” was not taken in Joshua Tree National Park, but closer to Devil’s Chair.

What Makes Joshua Tree National Park Significant?

Joshua Tree, of course, is the centerpiece and namesake of Joshua Tree National Park. Joshua Tree National Park lies along one of the most active tectonic plate boundaries, the San Andreas Fault. Geologic processes, including tectonic activity, have shaped and continue to play a major role in shaping the mountains, valleys, and canyons of the park.

While the Pacific Plate meets the North American Plate along the San Andreas Fault, Joshua Tree National Park offers unparalleled opportunities for research on plate tectonics, geology, and the adaptations of and to desert life, sustainability, and initiatives of climate change. The proximity of the park to urban regions of Southern California and Nevada enhances the value of the park for scientific research and education.

Bouldered Landscape

Large, modern/urban rock formations are world-renowned natural resources that provide unique opportunities for art, science, and education and partnerships for Joshua Tree National Park visitors.

Beautiful Scenery

Geologic, climatic, and ecological processes create iconic landscapes unique to desert and fundamental to the character of Joshua Tree National Park.
Women of the West

What do you imagine when you hear “The West” or “the American Frontier”? Is it wide-open spaces? A lone cowboy? John Wayne?

Thanks to decades of western books and movies, the American West has become a symbol of mythological significance—a place where “Go West, young man” was advice for those seeking to find fortune and prove their bravery and independence. In other words, “going West” would show that you were a man who could live up to American values.

So where were the women? There are a few female figures that appear in this narrative, like Annie Oakley of the Buffalo Bill’s Wild West show fame. At the time of westward expansion—the mid—1800s—there were those whose stories went untold. Women were usually dressed in dresses or skirts, and had smaller versions that “did not look like a ranger,” as they were separated by social norms from the white male employees on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. New NPS jobs were open only to men.

The National Park Service Centennial in 2016 and Women’s History Month in March, in this issue we highlight an example of a woman’s ranger uniform from the 1960s. It wasn’t until the late 1960s that a more uniform style was officially adopted.

Today, all park rangers wear the same uniform, which includes a khaki headband on the left sleeve. But for the first half-century of the National Park Service’s existence, women were not offered an official uniform for the—until their “uniforms” weren’t necessarily very uniform.

When the first female rangers started working in 1917 and 1918, there was little guidance about the uniform, for men or women. The men’s uniform, however, was easily standardized. The women’s was not.

Women working for the parks adapted their own uniforms using the materials on hand. Some looked like a modified military uniform. Most of the uniforms were difficult to wear in the field.

In the 1960s, increasing numbers of women in the NPS workforce for the badge to fashion designers to develop a standard uniform for women. The result was the “active lookout” style uniform. Women could substitute culottes or slacks made out of the same material as the skirt. Later versions were accented by the first official shoes.

In 1940, Gertrude Cooper became the first woman superintendent of the National Park Service. In 1990, Jane Yakovleva was appointed park superintendent at the north rim of the Grand Canyon. She became the twelfth woman superintendent in the NPS when she takes office on the leadership of Custer National Monument.

For many years, the NPS Women’s History Initiative is announced. Find more about how the national park system employs on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. NPS is an agency of the Department of the Interior.

Before 40% of the total NPS workforce. Joshua Tree National Park is among the parks that have been somewhat covered up by history. The Park Service has responded to this larger issue with a women’s history initiative called “Telling the Whole Story: Women and the Making of the United States,” launched in 2012. Joshua Tree National Park is also engaged with the fifteen federallyrecognized tribes with cultural affiliation to these lands. Ethnographic studies and additional newsletters will help to reflect the diversity of heritage encompassed by the park.

Historic Structures Specialist Allison Kennedy

Collection

Historic Structures Specialist Allison Kennedy

Tips for Saving Water

The National Park Service encourages you to do your part to conserve water while you visit Joshua Tree and the surrounding area. Here are a few simple things you can do to make a difference.

• When dining out, only order water if you plan to drink it.
• Shower or wash dishes during your stay as a guest.
• Take short showers (3 minutes) instead of lingering under the spigot.
• Scour, soap and rinse, then turn off the hot water.

For more information, visit www.nps.gov/yjho/education/water-conservation/index.htm

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El Niño in a Time of Historic Drought

When stories of El Niño rain making the headlines, you might begin to wonder if the California drought is over. After all, heavy rains that cause flooding, close highways, and impact our outdoor activities must counteract the effects of drought, right? Well, there is more to the story.

The record drought in California over the past four years has set state water systems back much further than a single good rainstorm could solve, with long-lasting consequences for both people and nature. El Niño seasons come and go with each decade. Drought is like a California El Niño has ever seen.

While it is good news that drought improvement is predicted for California, one season of above-average rain and snow is unlikely to remove four years of drought,” says Mike Halpert, deputy director of NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center. “It takes many years to recover from the drought and from the prior years of water use.

It is also important to remember that a lot of rain all at once is the kind of rain that El Niño can often produce—does not mean immediate replenishment of the aquifer. Hard-packed or water-saturated ground will cause falling rain to run off rather than soak into the parched soil. The resulting flash floods impact our human infrastructure, and their water will not necessarily make it back into the aquifer, as it travels quickly along the path of least resistance and away from the region.

Deforests, by definition, get scant rainfall. Desert residents and visitors must adjust their lifestyles to accept that rain is rare, and yet be prepared for when it does come, as every drop counts!

By Sarah Rose

By Sarah Rose

Joshua Tree National Park Association

Park Partner

Be a Part of the Adventure

The Joshua Tree National Park Association has been supporting preservation, scientific research and education at Joshua Tree National Park since 1962. As the park’s primary non-profit partner, we operate four visitor center bookstores that are often the first stop for visitors from around the world, offer a field institute with classes taught by experts in natural sciences, cultural history and the arts, and raise funds for the park through public events and our membership program. Join us and make the most of your Joshua Tree experience!

Connect with Nature

Whatever your passion, you’ll learn more about Joshua Tree National Park at our visitor center bookstores. Whether you’re looking for nature guides and hiking guides, birding, geo-ducking, stargazing, native plants, and local history are just a few of the topics included in our great selection of books. And don’t forget the kids: we have games, activity books, everyone’s favorite desert animals and Junior Ranger gear. Start your journey now at our online store, www.joshuatrees.org/store.

Explore the Great Outdoors

Pick up a trail guide in the bookstore, or sign up for a Desert Institute field class and make the park your classroom. If you don’t see exactly what you’re looking for, a custom program will ensure a perfect fit! Classes are not offered in the summer months, but take a schedule and plan ahead.

Become a Member

Join the Joshua Tree National Park Association and you’ll support park programs and projects while enjoying some great benefits. We are a committed group of supporters whose contributions each year help the park fulfill its educational, interpretive, and research plans. As a member you’ll have the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting youth programs, scientific research and the park’s historical collections, and you will assist in the preservation of our fragile desert environment for generations to come.

Your annual membership benefits include:

• 15% discount on merchandise at Joshua Tree National Park Association bookstores, with reciprocal bookstore discounts at many other National Parks
• Keys Views, our JTPA newsletter, and a monthly e-newsletter update on park events
• Invitations to special events
• $10 discount off every Desert Institute class

Please ask for a membership brochure at one of the Joshua Tree Visitor Centers or call 760-367-5535.

www.joshuatreer.org
Ranger Programs

Discover Joshua Tree with free guided walks, talks, and evening programs given by park rangers and volunteers. Learn how humans, wildlife, and vegetation have adapted to survive in the desert, and how geologic forces have shaped this arid land.

Programs start promptly at the times noted below, so arrive a few minutes early to allow time for parking. Children under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult.

Programs take place outdoors, but may be canceled or moved inside during inclement weather or if there is a danger of lightning. Please dress in layers to prepare for changing conditions. Wear closed-toe shoes to protect your feet. Carry plenty of water with you. For evening programs, bring extra warm layers and a flashlight.

Special for the Centennial!

Celebrate the 100th birthday of the National Park Service with us in 2016:

- **Centennial Hiking Challenge.** Pick up a booklet to track the miles you hike in the park in 2016. Earn stickers as you rack up the miles.
- **Every Kid in a Park.** Did you know 4th graders can get a free pass for access to all national park sites through the end of the school year? Find out how at www.everykidinapark.gov
- **Hike with the Superintendent.** Once a month, Supt. David Smith will lead a strenuous hike to a summit such as Monument Mountain, Eagle Peak, Queen Mountain, or Quail Mountain. Call 760-367-5522 or ask a ranger at a visitor center for details.
- **Grubstakes Day Parade.** This annual celebration takes place in the town of Yucca Valley on Memorial Day. May 30. Park Superintendent David Smith will be the parade’s Grand Marshal.

### Ranger Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Meeting Location</th>
<th>Duration, Distance</th>
<th>Sun.</th>
<th>Mon.</th>
<th>Tue.</th>
<th>Wed.</th>
<th>Thur.</th>
<th>Fri.</th>
<th>Sat.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Footsteps of the Past</strong> Feb. 1 - May 15</td>
<td>Barker Dam parking area</td>
<td>1.5 hours 1 mi (1.6 km)</td>
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<td>9:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Joshua Tree Rocks!</strong> Feb. 1 - May 15</td>
<td>Skull Rock parking area</td>
<td>1-1.5 hours 1 mi (1.6 km)</td>
<td>9:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Mustadon Peak Hike</strong> Feb. 1 - May 15</td>
<td>Cottonwood Springs parking lot</td>
<td>2 hours 3 mi (4.8 km)</td>
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<td>9:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cottonwood Canyon Walk</strong> Feb. 1 - May 15</td>
<td>Mile Marker 33, south of the Cottonwood Visitor Center, park in roadside pullouts</td>
<td>45 minutes 1 mi (1.6 km)</td>
<td>9:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cholla Garden Chat</strong> Feb. 1 - May 15</td>
<td>Cholla Cactus Garden</td>
<td>drop-in</td>
<td>9:00 am -</td>
<td>10:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>&quot;I Speak for the Trees&quot; Walk</strong> Feb. 1 - May 15</td>
<td>Cap Rock Nature Trail</td>
<td>45 minutes 0.4 mi (0.6 km)</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
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<td>9:30 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Patio Talk</strong> Feb. 1 - May 15</td>
<td>Oasis Visitor Center</td>
<td>15-30 min</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jr. Ranger Discovery Walk</strong> Feb. 1 - May 15</td>
<td>Joshua Tree Visitor Center</td>
<td>15-30 min</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cottonwood Campground Walk</strong> Feb. 1 - May 15</td>
<td>Cottonwood Visitor Center</td>
<td>15-30 min</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
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<td><strong>Desert Reflections</strong> Feb. 1 - May 15</td>
<td>Oasis Visitor Center</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Oasis Walk</strong> Feb. 1 - May 15</td>
<td>Oasis Visitor Center</td>
<td>1.15 hours 0.5 mi (0.8 km)</td>
<td>11:00 am</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Jr. Ranger Tour</strong> Feb. 1 - May 15</td>
<td>Keys Ranch Gate</td>
<td>1.5 hours 0.5 mi (0.8 km)</td>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
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<td><strong>Evening Program</strong></td>
<td>Jumbo Rocks Campground</td>
<td>45 min</td>
<td>Feb.-April 8:00 pm</td>
<td>Feb.-April 8:00 pm</td>
<td>May 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Feb.-April 8:00 pm</td>
<td>Feb.-April 8:00 pm</td>
<td>May 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Feb.-April 8:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Full Moon Hike</strong></td>
<td>Black Rock Canyon Nature Center</td>
<td>45 min</td>
<td>Feb.-April 8:00 pm</td>
<td>Feb.-April 8:00 pm</td>
<td>May 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Feb.-April 8:00 pm</td>
<td>Feb.-April 8:00 pm</td>
<td>May 9:00 pm</td>
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**Special Tips:**

- **Footsteps of the Past:** Visit Barker Dam to learn how humans have lived in harmony with the desert.
- **Joshua Tree Rocks!** Visit Skull Rock to examine the geology of the remarkable area.
- **Mustadon Peak Hike** Visit the early mining history of the park.
- **Cottonwood Canyon Walk** Visit the Cottonwood Canyon on a nature walk.
- **Cholla Garden Chat** Drop by for casual conversation with a ranger.
- **"I Speak for the Trees" Walk** Take a walk with a ranger and discover the park’s namesake.
- **Patio Talk** Ranger’s choice! Learn about one of many fascinating aspects of the park.
- **Jr. Ranger Discovery Walk** Especially for families with children! This short hike will help kids on their way to earning a Jr. Ranger badge.
- **Oasis Walk** Join a ranger for an interactive discussion about an issue facing the park.
- **Jr. Ranger Tour** Explore the history and ecology of a desert oasis.
- **Evening Program** Enjoy a guided evening program.
- **Full Moon Hike** See specific dates at right.