

YOUR AMERICAN WEST

PARKS

The Story of Port Chicago

Women of the
National Park Service

EVENTS

National Park Week

Golden Spike 150th Anniversary

Junior Ranger Day

PRODUCTS

See America's National
Parks Collection

Love + Protect Your Parks Shirts



The 10th Cavalry reenactors at **Fort Larned National Historic Site** in Kansas. [See page 13 for more.](#) (courtesy of NPS).

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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.

Letter from the Chief Executive Officer



In this issue of *Your American West*, we honor communities whose experiences have too often been ignored or overlooked. To celebrate Women’s History Month, we highlight the lives of some of the incredible women who have served in the National Park Service (NPS). We commemorate African American History Month by featuring a story about the disaster at what is now **Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial**, which helped inspire the civil rights movement. As you read

these stories, please appreciate the ways these men and women have contributed to our nation’s history, which is preserved and shared in our national parks today.

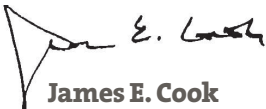
Our national parks are places where families enjoy once-in-a-lifetime trips to learn about our history, schools extend and enhance the classroom, and kids have “aha!” moments that last a lifetime. National parks protect our nation’s culture, wildlife, history, and natural beauty, and we need to protect them in return.

Unfortunately, I must share the profound effect the federal government shutdown had on our national parks and Western National Parks Association (WNPA). It is estimated that national parks lost roughly \$400,000 per day in vital income used to support programs and improvements to park infrastructure. Many parks sustained environmental damage that will take years to reverse, and in some cases the damage may be irreparable.

In just five weeks, WNPA lost an estimated \$900,000 in gross revenue due to the closure of our park stores during the shutdown. This loss directly affects the amount of aid we can provide to our partner parks this year and greatly hinders our ability to fulfill our mission. The money we provide funds important educational programs, initiatives, and scientific research in national parks.

Although the shutdown is over, national parks continue to need our support more than ever, and each one of us can help. Visit the parks and volunteer your time. Become a member of and give to associations like WNPA. It is our responsibility to ensure these remarkable and treasured lands are preserved for everyone, for all time.

With sincerest thanks for your support,


James E. Cook

Chief Executive Officer

HOW TO HELP
Your donations and purchases are needed more than ever. Thank you for your support.

Thank you to our
Kiva Room sponsor:



Thank you to our
Education Partner:





Outfoxing the Red Fox

By Nina Kolodij, pursuing a Master of Arts in science and environmental journalism at the University of Arizona

About 300,000 years ago, during the last big Ice Age, a small red creature traversed the deep snow of what is now the Rocky Mountains. Furry paws, a thick coat and a knack for survival helped the red fox thrive in the glacial environment.

The adaptable descendants of these first native foxes still live in the mountains of western North America. In fact, red foxes are among the most widely distributed land carnivores in the world, spanning most of the Northern Hemisphere, as well as parts of Australia and northern Africa.

But a group of red foxes in Nevada’s Great Basin National Park is particularly special. Preston Alden, a graduate student at the University of California, Davis, is discovering just how important these red foxes are: They belong to a distinct lineage native to western North America, but they may be disappearing faster than you can say “quick brown fox.” Before Alden conducted this Western National Parks Association-funded study, not much was known about these foxes.

Red foxes are divided into distinctive subspecies. Today, most of the foxes that live at low elevations in western North America are invasive subspecies that were released or escaped from fur farms and spread across the country like wildfire. Some of the few remaining native subspecies in North America live in the Sierra Nevada, Rocky Mountains, and Great Basin mountain ranges.

Because of their abundance, Alden said, “The non-native red foxes aren’t really that special, but those found at high elevation have a lot of adaptations that make them unique.” They sport a dark red or even silver/black coat, which helps them blend into their surroundings. Snowshoe-like paws prevent them from sinking into deep snow, and extra fur keeps them warm in cold, snowy habitats. These adaptations make Great Basin National Park, with its high peaks and long winters, prime territory for cold-loving native red foxes.

Alden had a strong hunch that the park’s red foxes weren’t your average fur farm escapees, so he set out to figure out where the foxes came from.

He wasn’t disappointed.

Alden spent three summers scouring the high reaches of the park for DNA samples of hair and scat. He collected 11 usable samples. “Sometimes that would be on old dirt roads, sometimes trails, and then when I would get up into habitat that I knew was good montane red fox habitat from previous work that I did with the Sierra Nevada red fox, I would spread out and search places like alpine meadows and around lakes above 9,000 feet,” he said.

Alden then analyzed two types of DNA in each sample. The mitochondria, which are the powerhouse of the cell, contain their own tiny piece of DNA. Mitochondrial DNA gives a good snapshot of a fox’s

Research Matters

Many people look forward to the warm weather spring brings, but red foxes prefer the long winters in the high mountain peaks of **Great Basin National Park** in Nevada. These foxes are part of a distinct lineage of native red foxes who roamed North America over three hundred thousand years ago. Unfortunately, because of human expansion and climate change, their numbers are dwindling. Preston Alden, a graduate student at University of California, Davis, conducted research at Great Basin NP that is vital to the management and conservation of this rare and elusive animal.

Read on for a summary of this research project. This article was originally published [online](#).

photo courtesy of NPS

family tree because it is inherited only from the mother’s side and mutates at a much slower rate than the DNA in the nucleus of the cell, or nuclear DNA. Because the mitochondrial DNA conserves its form from generation to generation, scientists can identify the ancestry of a fox for many generations.

Nuclear DNA, on the other hand, provides a much more recent picture, such as what other group of foxes is most closely related to those in Great Basin National Park. Both types of DNA were used to figure out whether natives or hybrids are living in the park.

After comparing the samples collected in the park to those from across western North America,

Alden concluded that the Great Basin residents were closely related to those first native foxes hundreds of thousands of years ago, not relatives of the invasive fur-farmed foxes. A follow-up study discovered at least 11 native red foxes living in Great Basin National Park.

That number might not seem like a lot, but any evidence of native red foxes is important. Like many organisms facing habitat loss because of climate change and human expansion, their numbers are plummeting. Add the threat of non-native red foxes, and you end up with one big mess. Alden’s research is vital for the management and conservation of a charismatic but rare animal.

Since 1938 WNPA has funded scientific research to help advance the management, preservation, and interpretation of our national parks. WNPA has partnered with the University of Arizona School of Journalism to provide engaging stories about the research projects completed with the aid of WNPA funding. Your American West will feature one of these stories in each of the next few issues. Discover more of the historical, social, and environmental research projects WNPA has funded in recent years on our [website](#).

People & Happenings

Tucson Festival of Books

Another year, another successful Tucson Festival of Books (TFOB)! Featuring more than 450 authors and attracting an estimated 135,000 attendees, TFOB is the one of the largest book festivals in the country. This was our ninth year participating in the festival. Joined by representatives from 15 of our partner parks, we welcomed visitors of all ages to The National Park Experience Pavilion with fun, educational activities and the chance to talk with NPS park rangers. The Junior Ranger Jamboree activity introduced hundreds of kids to our national parks, and dozens of fourth graders received vouchers for a free annual park pass as part of the US Department of the Interior's [Every Kid in a Park](#) program!

The National Parks Store and **Hubbell Trading Post** pop-up shops featured unique books, crafts, clothing, and gifts for purchase. Visitors also enjoyed lively talks by Hubbell's trader, Edison Eskeets, about the history and design of Navajo rugs. WNP-featured authors participated in panel discussions about a range of intriguing topics, from how water shaped America to the history of Grand Canyon to the search for a sunken 17th-century pirate ship.



Students Tackle Climate Change in WNP's 2nd Annual Essay Contest

In partnership with the Metropolitan Education Commission, we invited southern Arizona students in grades 9–12 to help give a voice to WNP's mission by composing a compelling essay on the effects of climate change in our national parks. Students were asked to consider how the NPS is working to combat the negative effects of climate change and how they and others can assist in these efforts. NPS employees, including staff members of the Climate Change Response Program in Fort Collins, Colorado, served as judges for the contest.

Portia Cooper (9th grade) received first place, Autumn Fatovich (12th grade) received second place, and Katlyn Bable (12th grade) received third place. The three winners were invited onstage at the festival to read their essays and receive their awards from Nathaniel Brodie, WNP-featured author of *Steel on Stone: Living and Working in the Grand Canyon*.



Tucson Festival of Books is a celebration of books and literacy.



Left to right: Author Nathaniel Brodie, WNP Chief Executive Officer James E. Cook, 1st place winner Portia Cooper, 2nd place winner Autumn Fatovich, and 3rd place winner Katlyn Bable.

“National parks are particularly hard hit by climate change because they are often located in ecologically sensitive areas. But the devastation of national parks signals the widespread destruction that climate change will bring. National parks may be among the first ecosystems to be damaged, but they will not be the last,” wrote Portia in her essay. “Each of us must act. . . No one can opt out of this crisis. We all share one biosphere—Planet Earth.”

To read the three winning essays, [click here](#).

Women of the National Park Service

March was Women's History Month, a time to celebrate the vital role of women in American history and recognize the many contributions women have made—and continue to make—to our nation. Women have played a vital role in the NPS since its establishment in 1916, despite the many challenges they faced and the barriers they had to overcome. In celebration of Women's History Month, we asked some incredible women to share their stories of working for the NPS.

Karen Wade

A former WNP board member, Karen worked for the NPS for 40 years, starting as a seasonal radio dispatcher at Mesa Verde National Park. Karen served as the superintendent of five parks over the course of her four decades of service, and she retired from her position as the regional director of the Intermountain region in 2003. During her time with the NPS, increasingly more



women were being hired for positions traditionally restricted to men. Although the first woman ranger—or “rangerette” as they were once known—was hired in 1918, it wasn't until the late 1960s that all positions in the NPS were opened to women. “Barriers have fallen

steadily in management, maintenance, and protection,” says Karen. Now a grandmother, Karen has traveled to 13 national parks with her granddaughter, who is a Junior Ranger. “Of course, I would be proud if she carried on the family tradition and worked in parks,” says Karen. “But most importantly, I hope she always wants to be in parks as much as possible and care for them in some capacity, because they are good for her and she can be good for them.”



Sheri Forbes

Sheri began working for the NPS in 1982 as a seasonal employee and became a permanent employee in 1994. During her 37 years of service, Sheri has served as a chief of interpretation at park, regional, and national levels, and she currently

serves as the chief of interpretation and education for the Pacific West region of the NPS. She has worked at many national parks throughout the West, including

Glacier National Park and Mount Rainier National Park. Sheri was inspired to join the NPS when she was 13 years old after seeing an interpretive talk about bears in Yellowstone National Park. “What I enjoy most about working for the NPS has evolved over the years,” says Sheri. “When I was a field interpreter, I loved being in the mountains, learning and sharing meanings of park resources with visitors and students. These days I really enjoy working with colleagues and partners from around the NPS on common goals.”



Meghan Kish
Working for the NPS for over 14 years, Meghan has served as a superintendent at three national parks. She currently serves as the superintendent of the **Southern Arizona Office**. Growing up near Joshua Tree National Park, Meghan was inspired to

pursue a career in conservation after seeing the negative effect urban development had on the desert environment. In her time working for the NPS, Meghan has seen more women fill leadership roles. “I remember walking into a room of superintendents early on in my career and seeing only three women,” says Meghan. “Now, many of my colleagues are talented women.” Meghan encourages young women to pursue careers in the NPS. “There are tough days, but overall, the people you get to interact with are talented and devoted,” says Meghan. “You get to be a part of protecting amazing places, educating the next generation, and feeling like your work is worthwhile.”

Kathy Faz
Kathy, who was awarded WNPA’s Edward B. Danson Award last year, has worked for the NPS for 10 years and has served as the chief of interpretation and visitor services at **Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve** since 2013. After graduating from college, Kathy was interested in finding public service positions where she could make a difference in communities. She found such a position within the park

service and dedicated her efforts to amplify the stories and voices of communities who didn’t have the platform or resources to tell their stories. “I became intrigued with how and why we tell certain stories or why we focus on one voice versus another,” says Kathy. “That’s why I decided to pursue a career in the National Park Service.” Over the years, Kathy has noticed a more diverse workforce at all levels but particularly in decision-making positions. “Not only am I proud to be a woman in the park service, but I’m also proud to be a Latina in the park service,” says Kathy. “It’s important for the park service as an agency to reflect what the American public looks like, to expand the stories we tell at national sites, and to provide multiple perspectives of a story or history.” Kathy’s advice to young girls who are interested in pursuing a career in the NPS is to believe in oneself and not let anyone get in the way of their dream. “You can do anything you set your mind to,” says Kathy.



Sandy Snell-Dobert
Sandy has worked for the NPS for 35 years and has been the chief of interpretation, education, and technology at **Curecanti National Recreation Area** and **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park** for the last ten years. Throughout her career, Sandy has worked as an interpretive ranger at some of the most popular

“It’s important for the park service as an agency to reflect what the American public looks like, to expand the stories we tell at national sites, and to provide multiple perspectives of a story or history.”

parks in the NPS, including Zion National Park and Yellowstone National Park. Growing up, Sandy loved the outdoors and was drawn to the mission of the NPS. She decided when she was 13 years old that she wanted to be a park ranger. “I saw only white males when I was young, yet I wanted to be a park ranger, to wear that hat. Had I seen



women in the hat, I would have been less reticent to ask how to be one,” says Sandy. “It’s important for the NPS to reflect America and our visitor base. Women provide role models, just as others do, for our children to see another career option.” When asked what she would tell little girls interested in working for the park service, Sandy said they should just go for it. “Be brave, be curious,” says Sandy. “And don’t let anyone tell you that you can’t do what you dream to do.”

Dorothy FireCloud
Dorothy has worked for the NPS since 2006, when she became the first Native American superintendent of Devils Tower National Monument. In 2012 she became the superintendent of **Montezuma Castle National Monument** and **Tuzigoot National Monument**, where she still serves today. “The mission of the National Park Service is very similar to teachings of Native American people in regard to the preservation of the lands for future generations,” says



Dorothy. “All of the NPS sites are on former lands of the various tribal nations throughout the United States and therefore have that story to tell. Working at Devils Tower was a true honor, as it is significant to my people (I am a member of the Sicangu Lakota Nation in South Dakota) as a spiritual place and was a gathering place during the summer solstice for ceremonial purposes.” Dorothy believes diversity in the NPS is crucial. “In addition to ethnic and gender diversity, we need diversity of

“As park rangers, one of our greatest responsibilities is to educate the public that visits our sites. That education needs to include all the history and stories of the United States.”

thought,” says Dorothy. “As park rangers, one of our greatest responsibilities is to educate the public that visits our sites. That education needs to include all the history and stories of the United States. The stories of the Native Americans, the settlers, and the people who were the leaders through all the changes, many of whom are women. Women have played an integral part in the development of this country.”



Susanne McDonald
Susanne has worked for the NPS for over 20 years, and she has been the superintendent of **Lyndon B Johnson National Historical Park** since 2017. What Susanne enjoys most about working for the NPS is the people. “I have met so

many wonderful people over the years and have developed friendships that will last a lifetime,” says Susanne. “Though we are spread throughout the country, we’ve become each other’s family and would do anything for one another.” Over the course of more than two decades of service, Susanne has seen women filling more leadership positions. “Diversity of staff brings diversity of thought, opinion, and skill set,” says Susanne, “which helps to continually grow and push an organization to be the best it can possibly be.” Susanne’s advice to young girls who want to work for the NPS is to explore the opportunities the NPS has to offer. “No matter what you want out of life,” says Susanne, “be willing to take risks to make it happen!”

In the Parks



The Story of Port Chicago

President Gerald R. Ford declared February African American History Month in 1976, saying it would serve as a time dedicated to honoring the “too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans.” In February the NPS joins other federal cultural institutions in hosting events, lectures, webinars, and more to pay special tribute to the generations of African Americans who have struggled, endured, and overcome adversity, while also acknowledging the obstacles African Americans continue to face today.

Many of our partner parks preserve and protect sites that are significant to American history, including sites that are especially significant to the history of African Americans in the United States. One of these parks is Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial, near Concord, California.

Constructed in 1942 following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Port Chicago Naval Magazine became the largest ammunition transshipment facility on the West Coast, and it was crucial to the success of the

US war effort in the Pacific Theater during World War II. On July 17, 1944, a massive explosion at Port Chicago Naval Magazine lit up the night sky. More than 1,500 tons of munitions at the magazine detonated, instantly killing 320 men and injuring approximately 400 more. The blast registered 3.4 on the Richter scale and was felt more than 450 miles away. It was the deadliest US stateside disaster of World War II, and its aftermath illuminated the segregation and racial inequality in the US military.

Nearly two-thirds of the victims of the explosion were African American sailors and personnel serving in newly established, racially segregated work units. They were assigned the dangerous work of loading ammunition onto ships, for which they had received little or no training. Less than a month after the disaster, the sailors were ordered to resume work, even though they still hadn't received proper training. More than 250 sailors refused, protesting unsafe working conditions and racial discrimination. The sailors were jailed for insubordination, and 50 men were charged with and convicted of mutiny in the largest naval trial of its kind in US history. Their convictions sparked outrage from the public. Future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) fought to overturn their charges.

Although their convictions stood, the sailors' protest and the subsequent public outcry brought attention to racial inequality in the nation's armed forces and prompted historic steps toward racial integration in the US navy in 1946. Two years later President Harry Truman ordered all armed forces to desegregate.



The explosion at Port Chicago Naval Magazine caused widespread destruction (courtesy of NPS).

Today the Port Chicago Naval Magazine tragedy is recognized as a pioneering event in the racial integration of our armed forces, and the sailors' protests helped inspire the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s. Port Chicago Naval Magazine N Mem serves as a reminder of the injustices suffered by African Americans in the armed forces.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the tragedy, Port Chicago Naval Magazine N Mem has partnered with the Treasure Island Museum in San Francisco to present an exhibit titled, “The Port Chicago Story: Lighting the Fuse to Civil Rights,” which will be on display through July 7, 2019.

New & Notable Releases

See America's National Parks Collection

The National Park System includes more than four hundred units covering over 84 million acres across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. WNP's exclusive See America's National Parks collection celebrates the diverse nature, culture, and history of our national parks with a custom-designed graphic of America's national mammal, the bison. Check out the collection at store.wnpa.org.



Love + Protect Your Parks Shirts

During the federal government shutdown, the national parks lost an estimated \$400,000 per day in vital income used to fund educational programs and improvements to park infrastructure. Although the shutdown has ended, national parks still need our support more than ever, and each one of us can help. National parks protect our nation's culture, wildlife, history, and natural beauty, and we need to protect them in return. Show your love for national parks with our super-soft, custom-designed shirts. Get one today at store.wnpa.org.

Focus On



Celeste Dixon has been an NPS interpretive park ranger at **Fort Larned National Historic Site** for 11 years. After graduating from the University of Texas at Austin with a degree in history, she joined the NPS by applying for a seasonal position at Zion National Park. She has worked at several national parks, including Chickamauga & Chattanooga National Military Park, where Celeste says she learned what a wonderful, multifaceted job a park ranger has. "The thing I most enjoy about working for the park service is meeting people from all over the world and sharing our country's history with them," wrote Celeste. "From being a base of operations for General Hancock's 1867 central plains expedition, to a staging ground for the Medicine Lodge Treaty, to headquarters for an Indian Agency, Fort Larned was in the middle of many events [related to] the American Indians in this part of the country. . . . We share the history of these events and put them in perspective of overall US history." Thank you, Celeste, for helping to share the fascinating history of Fort Larned NHS with park visitors!



An aerial view and barracks at Fort Larned NHS (courtesy of NPS).

Did you know?

1. Fort Larned NHS is located in central Kansas near the city of Larned.
2. It was declared a national historic site on August 31, 1964.
3. Fort Larned was built in 1860 to protect travelers, traders, and mail wagons along the Santa Fe Trail. It is now one of the nation's best-preserved military forts from the Indian Wars period.
4. The fort was named for Col. Benjamin F. Larned, US Army Paymaster General from 1854 to 1862.
5. The 10th Cavalry, one of two African American cavalry regiments organized after the Civil War, was stationed at Fort Larned from 1867 to 1869.

Featured Events & Activities

National Park Week

Saturday, April 20–Saturday, April 28

All NPS sites

Come celebrate national parks! Visit your local national park’s website for fun activities and special events throughout the week.

Fee-Free Day, Saturday, April 20

Enjoy fee-free entrance to all NPS sites in honor of the first day of National Park Week!

National Junior Ranger Day, Saturday, April 20

A day to celebrate kids in parks! The Junior Ranger program is a great way for kids to explore national parks and learn why national parks matter and how they can help protect them. No matter what age you are, come explore, learn about, and protect your national parks by becoming an official Junior Ranger! Check your local national park’s website for Junior Ranger Day events.

ParkRx Day, Sunday, April 28

Celebrate nature and all of the health benefits it can provide! The Park Rx movement encourages individuals and communities to use public lands to improve their health and wellness. Get outside, go for a hike, have a picnic, and celebrate the beauty of the outdoors. Visit a national park near you to participate in special Park Rx Day events!

Pitcher Plants and Pines

Saturday, April 20, 9:30 AM–11:30 AM

Big Thicket National Preserve
6044 FM 420
Kountze, TX 77625

Birds, wildflowers, and carnivorous plants, oh my! Join a ranger to explore the Sundew Trail, one of the best areas at **Big Thicket National Preserve** to see carnivorous plants, longleaf pines, wildflowers, and birds. This 1-mile walk will begin at the visitor center at 9:30 AM. After the walk, participants can make pitcher plant bug-catchers to take home as a souvenir. For more information, [click here](#).

Talking with Ta-Nehisi



Thursday, April 25,
6:30 PM–7:30 PM

Lee Arena, Washburn
University
1700 SW College Ave.
Topeka, KS 66621

Join the staff of **Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site**

and *New York Times* best-selling author Ta-Nehisi Coates to observe, celebrate, and commemorate the 65th anniversary of the historic *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision of 1954. Ta-Nehisi, a winner of the National Book Award, is a correspondent for *The Atlantic* and the author of *Between the World and Me*, *We Were Eight Years in Power*, and multiple issues of *Black Panther*. For more information, [click here](#).



Anza Fun Run

Sunday, April 28,
7 AM–12 PM

Tubac Presidio State
Historic Park
1 Burruel St.
Tubac, AZ 85646

Join us for a 4-mile run (or walk) along the beautiful **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail**, starting at Tubac Presidio State Historic Park and concluding at **Tumacácori National Historical Park**! Enjoy historical displays and activities along the way. The entry fee is \$20 and includes a t-shirt. For more information, call 520-377-5060.

Nature Journaling with Artist-in-Residence Walt Davis

Saturday, May 4, 12 PM

Guadalupe Mountains National Park
400 Pine Canyon
Salt Flat, TX 79847

Experience nature in a new way! Join artist-in-residence, author, and naturalist Walt Davis for an introduction to nature journaling. Davis will share stories from journal entries he wrote while exploring the Guadalupe Mountains and give tips on journaling for those who are interested. For more information, [click here](#).

150th Anniversary Celebration

Friday, May 10–Sunday, May 12

Golden Spike National Historical Park
6200 North 22300th West
Promontory Summit, UT 84307

Honor the sacrifices and accomplishments that led to a pivotal moment in the growth and development of the United States at **Golden Spike National Historical Park**, where the first transcontinental railroad was

completed. Learn about the fascinating history of this incredible site while enjoying live entertainment, historical reenactments, steam locomotive demonstrations, and more! For a full schedule of events, [click here](#).



Black Canyon Astronomy Festival

Wednesday, June 26–Saturday, June 29

Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park
South Rim Visitor Center
9800 Highway 347, Montrose, CO 81401

Celebrate the night sky! Join the staff of **Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park** for the 10th annual Black Canyon Astronomy Festival. Learn all about the stars with daytime and evening programs about the night sky. All programs are free with park admission. For more information, [click here](#).



Opposite page: Nina Subin. This page, clockwise from top left: Tim Gray/Adobe Stock.com; Courtesy NPS (2)

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

Arizona

- [Canyon de Chelly National Monument](#)
- [Casa Grande Ruins National Monument](#)
- [Chiricahua National Monument](#)
- [Coronado National Memorial](#)
- [Fort Bowie National Historic Site](#)
- [Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site](#)
- [Lake Mead National Recreation Area](#)
- [Montezuma Castle National Monument](#)
- [Navajo National Monument](#)
- [Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument](#)
- [Saguaro National Park](#)
- [Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument](#)
- [The National Parks Store](#)
- [Tonto National Monument](#)
- [Tumacácori National Historical Park](#)
- [Tuzigoot National Monument](#)
- [Walnut Canyon National Monument](#)
- [Wupatki National Monument](#)

California

- [Channel Islands National Park](#)
- [Eugene O’Neill National Historic Site](#)
- [John Muir National Historic Site](#)
- [Mojave National Preserve](#)
- [Pinnacles National Park](#)
- [Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial](#)
- [San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park](#)
- [Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area](#)
- [Whiskeytown National Recreation Area](#)

Colorado

- [Bent’s Old Fort National Historic Site](#)
- [Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park](#)
- [Curecanti National Recreation Area](#)
- [Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve](#)
- [Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site](#)

Kansas

- [Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site](#)
- [Fort Larned National Historic Site](#)
- [Fort Scott National Historic Site](#)
- [Nicodemus National Historic Site](#)

Montana & Wyoming

- [Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area](#)
- [Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument](#)

Nevada

- [Great Basin National Park](#)
- [Lake Mead National Recreation Area](#)

New Mexico

- [Aztec Ruins National Monument](#)
- [Bandelier National Monument](#)
- [Capulin Volcano National Monument](#)
- [Carlsbad Caverns National Park](#)
- [Chaco Culture National Historical Park](#)
- [El Malpais National Monument](#)
- [El Morro National Monument](#)
- [Fort Union National Monument](#)
- [Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument](#)
- [Pecos National Historical Park](#)
- [Petroglyph National Monument](#)
- [Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument](#)
- [White Sands National Monument](#)

Oklahoma

- [Chickasaw National Recreation Area](#)
- [Washita Battlefield National Historic Site](#)

Texas

- [Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument](#)
- [Big Thicket National Preserve](#)
- [Chamizal National Memorial](#)
- [Fort Davis National Historic Site](#)
- [Guadalupe Mountains National Park](#)
- [Lake Meredith National Recreation Area](#)
- [Lyndon B Johnson National Historical Park](#)
- [Padre Island National Seashore](#)
- [Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park](#)
- [San Antonio Missions National Historical Park](#)

Utah

- [Golden Spike National Historical Park](#)
- [Timpanogos Cave National Monument](#)

Trails

- [Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail](#)
- [Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail](#)
- [Santa Fe National Historic Trail](#)
- [Trail of Tears National Historic Trail](#)

Kids in Parks

To Saguaro National Park, with Love

This January, fourth and fifth graders at Innovation Academy in Tucson, Arizona, were looking forward to visiting **Saguaro National Park**. The students were learning about the desert and biodiversity in class, and they were excited to see the environment and wildlife firsthand.

When the government shut down on December 21, their field trip to the park was cancelled. Although many national parks, including Saguaro NP, remained open during the shutdown, park rangers were not present to ensure the safety of visitors or lead educational programs. Rangers from the park offered to visit the students at school instead, but just before they were scheduled to arrive, the students’ teacher, Nicole Tilicki, received news that they would not be able to come because of the shutdown. Recognizing an opportunity to teach her students an important lesson, Ms. Tilicki asked the



WNPA sent Ms. Tilicki’s fourth and fifth grade class water bottles (courtesy of Nicole Tilicki).

class to draw pictures of Saguaro NP and write how they felt about their field trip being cancelled.

“My hope was to teach the kids that we can’t control everything, but we can control ourselves,” Ms. Tilicki said. “I knew that teaching my students to be flexible, continue to appreciate the park rangers, and truly love their parks was the most important thing I could do.”

At WNPA we believe in the importance of connecting children to national parks in meaningful ways and inspiring new generations to protect these treasured lands. These are a few of the students’ drawings and letters.



Dear saguaro Natinal park
I hope this never happens. I want it to be a better world when I have kids, I wish I could help
Sincerely
Jade

Dear Park rangers
I am very sorry about the trash at the national Parks. I know how important it is to clean up the trash at the Parks.
Today we learned about diversity. Desert diversity is very important to the enviorment.
Sincerely,
Sarah



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