



# YOUR AMERICAN WEST

## PARKS

Volcanoes of the  
Southwest

Hike for Health

## EVENTS

Moonlight Hike

Ridley Rendezvous

## PRODUCTS

T-shirts for Summer





Lake Mead National Recreation Area (courtesy of SNEHIT's, Shutterstock).

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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 Hawai‘i 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,

**James E. Cook**  
Executive Director

**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](mailto:info@wnpa.org) or visiting [www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org).

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



# Special Recognition & Community Partners

## 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

## 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](mailto:caroline.lochner@wnpa.org).



Courtesy of Sandi Joubert.

# 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](#)

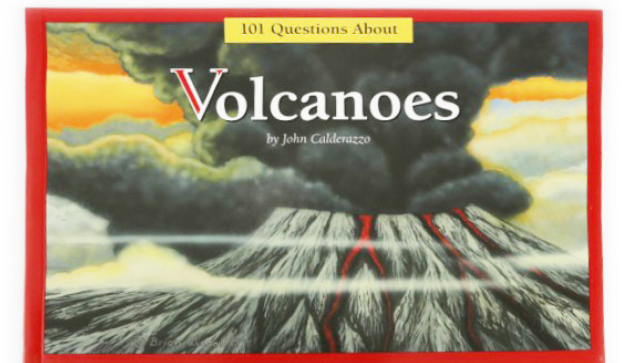


## Circle of Sonora T-shirt

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](#).



# 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.

## Fee-Free Day

**Saturday, September 22**  
All NPS sites

Enjoy fee-free entrance to all NPS sites for National Public Lands Day!

## 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](#)
- [Washita Battlefield National Historic Site](#)
- [Whiskeytown National Recreation Area](#)
- [White Sands National Monument](#)
- [Wupatki National Monument](#)



# People & Happenings



Each park has a unique pin for hikers.

## 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.”

Youth interns of Ironwood Tree Experience (courtesy of Ironwood Tree Experience).







Left to right: WNPA Executive Director James E. Cook; 3rd place winner Maancy Saksena; 1st place winner Isolde Edminster-Genet; 2nd place winner Alyssa Urff; and author Florence Williams.

## 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 Urff 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.







More than one hundred children became Junior Rangers at Tumacácori National Historical Park. All event images courtesy of Patrick Christman, park volunteer.

## 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’a* races. 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.

## Guest Contributor Linking Southwestern Heritage Through Archaeology

By Rebecca Renteria

Program manager of Linking Southwestern  
Heritage Through Archaeology

Linking Southwestern Heritage Through Archaeology (LSHTA) offers Tucson high school students the opportunity for hands-on archaeological experiences in the field, in University of Arizona laboratories, and at national park units. LSHTA is a partnership between the National Park Service, University of Arizona, and the Environmental Education Exchange, and is funded by WNPA and by the National Park Service’s Washington Office of Cultural Resources Stewardship and Sciences Program.

This program uses archaeology as a bridge to connect youth to their personal histories. Throughout the duration of the program, we visit **Saguaro National**

Park, Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, Tumacácori National Historical Park, Montezuma Castle National Monument, Tuzigoot National Monument, Wupatki National Monument, and Grand Canyon National Park. At each of these places we learn about the cultural and natural histories of the sites in addition to linking those histories to our personal heritages today. We also partake in preservation work during our visits.

Additionally our students learn about the archaeological methods being used today at the laboratories of tree-ring research, accelerator mass spectrometry, bioarchaeology, zooarchaeology, and Southwest ceramics, as well as at the Arizona State Museum’s Conservation Lab, all housed at the University of Arizona. Our goal is for our students to learn about academic and career opportunities in which they feel empowered to use their heritage knowledge bases in various fields.

To learn more about LSHTA, [click here](#).

An LSHTA student partakes in conservation work on Casa Grande Ruins National Monument’s Compound A (courtesy of Rebecca Renteria).





## 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 WNP 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.

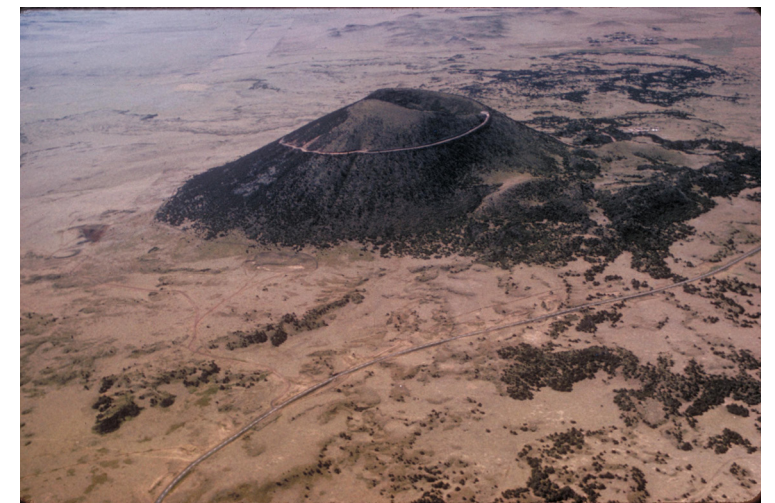
Located in a large field of cinder cones in northern Arizona, Sunset Crater Volcano is one of the youngest volcanoes in the country. It is estimated to have last erupted around the year 1085. Other cinder cones in the field are thought to be nearly three million years old, making Sunset Crater Volcano 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.



*Clockwise from above: Mojave National Preserve (courtesy of NPS Photo); Petroglyph National Monument; Capulin Volcano National Monument (courtesy of NPS Photo); Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument (courtesy of Frank Bach/shutterstock.com).*





## 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 WNP 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!



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



# Social Media Corner

Follow WNP on [f](#) [i](#) [t](#)



Wupatki National Monument, Walnut Canyon National Monument, and Sunset Crater National Monument | [@junior\\_ranger\\_bry](#)



White Sands National Monument | [@parkventurous](#)



Carlsbad Caverns National Park | [@hikewithjennifer](#)



# Membership Matters

When a WNP member accidentally left his membership card behind at the park store in **Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument**, WNP 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 WNP'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; I 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



*Carl and Ginny helped reunite a WNP member with his lost membership card.*

WNP 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 WNP helps provide crucial services in our partner parks. For more information about membership and charitable giving, visit [www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org) or contact WNP's Philanthropy Department at 520-789-7404 or [membership@wnpa.org](mailto: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.**

[www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org)

**Western**  
National Parks  
Association

