



## The National Park Foundation

“National Parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best...”

–Wallace Stegner, American novelist and conservationist

In 1872, America did something unprecedented. It proclaimed Yellowstone the world’s first National Park—set aside unimpaired for the “betterment and enjoyment of the people.” It was private citizens who first conceived of the idea of protecting lands and important places as National Parks and who have been dedicated to growing and nurturing this system through acts of charity for more than a century.

The National Park Foundation, chartered by Congress in 1967 as the only national charitable partner of America’s National Parks, is responsible for advancing this legacy of National Park philanthropy.

The National Park Foundation raises essential funds for programs that meet the most critical needs of the National Park System and have great impact across the National Park Service. Through its work the National Park Foundation helps to:

- Connect youth, specifically inner city and disadvantaged kids, to our National Parks so that they can learn the history of our great country and feel proud of our shared heritage
- Preserve and tell the stories of our history in the places that it actually happened—like Gettysburg, the Martin Luther King Junior National Historic site, Ellis Island, and Frederick Douglass House—so that the stories and values that shaped America are captured for future generations
- Promote citizenship through projects like the re-lighting of the Washington Monument and the Flight 93 Campaign to complete a memorial park as a place of remembrance for the entire country

The work of the National Park Foundation is vital not only to the health of our Parks, but to the vitality of our Nation as a whole. Support of the National Park Foundation ensures that America’s National Parks remain vital and relevant for future generations and that all Americans have the opportunity to experience, benefit from and become actively engaged with these remarkable places.

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the National Park Foundation remains wholly supported by private contributions and receives no federal funds.

CONTACT: Anne Farrell Marek, the National Park Foundation, (202) 354-6480

---

***The National Park Foundation ensures that America’s National Parks remain vital and relevant for future generations and that all Americans have the opportunity to experience, benefit from and become actively engaged with these remarkable places.***