

National Park Service Education Council



Charter

The Education Council will serve as an interdisciplinary advisory forum, a leader in advocating the renewal of the education mission nationally and in the field, and will coordinate with national education partners within the service in order to build capacity, create additional opportunities for learning and expanded partnerships.

Purpose

The Council will advise and make recommendations to the Associate Director for Partnerships, Interpretation and Education, Volunteers, and Outdoor Recreation.

The Council will work in cooperation and consultation with the National Park System Advisory Board Education Committee.

The Council will formulate short and long term strategies to achieve the vision for education as articulated by the National Leadership Council

The Council will identify emerging issues and opportunities to unify and support the educational efforts of the agency

The Council will facilitate communication with the field, regions, directorate, the National Park System Advisory Board and the National Park Foundation, other foundations, cooperating associations and other partners

Representation

The Council will consist of 15 to 24 members representing the broad range of talent, expertise and experience found in the Service including:

Superintendents (representing small, medium and large parks)

Education and interpretation subject matter experts/practitioners (representing interpretive program development, asset mapping, program evaluation, community outreach, chiefs of

interpretation, education specialists and interpretive planning).

One member appointed from the National Park Foundation

One member appointed from the National Park System Advisory Board Education Committee

One ex officio member: the NPS Comptroller

One Regional Director, one Deputy Regional Director, one Associate Director and one representative from the NIAC will serve as liaisons to the Council

Responsibilities of Members

To regularly attend meetings

To serve as a liaison between their parks, programs, organizations, regional directors, or regions and the Council, bringing input, issues and ideas to the Council, and taking information back to the regions for consideration.

Governance

The Associate Director will serve as co-chair.

The second co-chair will be elected by the Council membership.

The nomination and final selection of Council members:

Regional and Associate Directors will solicit self nominations and may also make nominations of their own. Each Regional and Associate Director will present the Associate Director for Partnerships, Interpretation and Education, Volunteers, and Outdoor Recreation with a slate of up to five nominees.

Final selection will be made by the Associate Director for Partnerships, Interpretation and Education, Volunteers, and Outdoor Recreation.

Terms

Initial members will serve 2 or 3 year staggered terms (terms determined by the co-chairs and the members) to ensure continuity.

Subsequent members will have 3 year terms.

Meetings

The Education Council will meet at least 2 times a year in person, once in the East and once in the West. Meetings will be facilitated and the facilitator will prepare notes of the meeting. To further communications, there will be conference calls every other month on the same day and the same time. It is expected that work will be done between Council meetings by working committees.

The President hopes to improve the educational value of park experiences by making sure all citizens are aware of opportunities to participate in conservation and restoration partnerships.

*Gale Norton,
Secretary of the Interior*
