



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Mississippi National River  
and Recreation Area

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## News Release

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### National Park Week Celebrated in Saint Paul

Grand Canyon, Death Valley, and Mississippi River are just a few of the national parks you can explore (virtually) at the Mississippi River Visitor Center during National Park Week, starting Saturday, April 22. Park Rangers and volunteers of the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area will offer a variety of free programs that showcase America's national treasures. Become a Junior Ranger, get help planning your next national park visit, discover elder hostel opportunities, view national park films for hours on end, and more!

Visit [www.nps.gov/miss](http://www.nps.gov/miss) for the full schedule and details of programs. The Mississippi River Visitor Center is located at 120 West Kellogg Boulevard in St. Paul, at the Science Museum of Minnesota. There is no admission charge to the center, 651-293-0200.

#### Highlights of National Park Week at the Mississippi River Visitor Center include:

National Parks Film Fest, April 24-28 (Monday through Friday) Starts at 10:00 a.m. each day until closing time. Help choose the day's screenings of inspiring National Park films, and stay all day! (Food available in the Science Museum).

Plan Your Next National Park Visit, Saturday, April 22, 1:30 to 3:30. Let Ranger Ann give you insider tips and helpful hints for planning your summer and year round adventures to any of the 390 national park sites, including the one that runs through the Twin Cities: The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

National Park Travelers Roundtable, Sunday, April 23, 1:30 to 3:30. If you have stories to tell and tips to share about your favorite national parks with fellow National Park lovers, this is the time to stop by. Bring your photos, brochures, Passports books and other mementos to share with others and inspire future travelers.

National Parks Photo Quilt, April 22-30. Share a treasured memory of your own visit to a national park by bringing in photographs. We'll scan it, create your own caption and then post it on our "photo quilt".

Become a Junior Ranger Day/ *Llegar a ser un Guadabosque del Parque*. Saturday, April 29, 1:00 to 4:00. Kids of all ages are invited to experience the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area through a variety of activities, and become Junior Rangers of the national river right here in the Twin Cities. Ranger Brian will be on hand to swear in new Junior Ranger in Spanish in honor of *El Dia De Los Ninos*, a special day of programming at the Science Museum. Additional Spanish language activities will also be available.

Elder Hostels in National Parks, Sunday, April 30, 1:30. "2005 Volunteer of the Year" Jean will share her experiences in a variety of Elder Hostels presented in National Parks all over the country. Discover some possibilities to deepen your knowledge about some of the most beautiful places in America!

National Park Memorabilia Display, April 22-30. Let a special collection of mementos shared from National Park vacations inspire you to create your own National Park memories.

Trip Planning Assistance, Golden Age, Golden Access and National Park Passes, National Park trip planning assistance and information are always available at the Mississippi River Visitor Center. You can even pick up your National Park, Golden Age and Golden Access passes at the Center. Exhibits, films, games, souvenirs and park-related merchandise, and information about the Federal Recreation Pass program are also available. 651.293.0200.

The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, one of 390 units of the National Park System, extends 72 miles south from the cities of Dayton and Ramsey, through Minneapolis and St. Paul, ending just south of Hastings. The National Park Service works with partners to care for the river's nationally significant resources found here, which include the Mississippi's only gorge and waterfall.

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