

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior Mississippi National River and Recreation Area

111 Kellogg Blvd. E., Ste 105 Saint Paul, MN 55101-1256

651-290-4160 phone 651-290-3214 fax

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE May 31, 2006 For more information: Ami Thompson, Park Ranger 651-290-3030 ext. 304

Rangers Along the River: Better than video games!

That's what kids are telling us – our river programs are more fun than video games. Free and family-friendly, activities provide a living connection to the past as rangers and National Park Service partners tell the stories of the Minneapolis Riverfront and the Mississippi River. National Park Rangers from the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) will be on the Stone Arch Bridge every Sunday in June from 9:30-4:30. Look for the National Park Service hat to find the ranger and learn more about the surrounding remnants of mills, bridges and islands. At Minnehaha Falls every Sunday in July, follow in the footsteps of 19th century tourists when National Park Service Rangers provide casual tours of the park, on the hour between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Junior Rangers, and those who would like to become Junior Rangers, are invited to attend these programs. Anyone, any age, can become a Junior Ranger – just interact with a National Park Service Ranger at one of these locations and complete the activity sheet. The MNNRA Junior Ranger program is unique; not just a one-time badge-earning opportunity, this program offers continuous opportunities to learn about the Mississippi River and this national park. Junior Rangers are invited to special programs throughout the year to fulfill the Junior Ranger Pledge to explore, learn about, and protect the Mississippi River. As one new Junior Ranger recently exclaimed, "This is better than sitting at home playing video games!" For complete details or more Mississippi River activities, go to

www.mississippipassport.org or visit the Mississippi River Visitor Center in the lobby of the Science Museum of Minnesota in downtown St. Paul. 651.293.0200. (Photos are available.)

The Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA) is the unit of the National Park System that represents America's greatest river, and weaves together the heartland's natural and cultural heritage and economic vitality. One of 390 units in the National Park System, the MNRRA 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 and local governments to care for the river's nationally significant resources found here, which include the Mississippi's only gorge and waterfall.

-NPS-