



## 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 them through acts of charity for more than a century.

The National Park Foundation, chartered by Congress in 1967 as the official 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:

- Preserve and tell the stories of our history in the places that it actually happened—like Gettysburg, Martin Luther King, Jr’s home, Lincoln’s birthplace, Ellis Island, and Frederick Douglass’ house—so that the stories and values that shaped America are captured for future generations.
- Raise awareness of park philanthropy and partnership and help strengthen sources of support for parks by convening thought leaders in business, philanthropy, science, education, and the parks to participate in the National Park Foundation Leadership Summit Series.
- 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 and reflection for the entire country
- Connect youth, specifically inner city and disadvantaged kids, to our national parks through programs like First Bloom, Junior Rangers and Electronic Field Trips. It is a priority of the National Park Foundation that children are given the opportunity to experience the outdoors and become connected to and invested in their national parks.
- Fund conservation and habitat restoration efforts in our most fragile habitats including Everglades National Park and the Mississippi River and support the development and creation of urban parks including Gateway National Recreation Area in New York and the Georgetown Waterfront Park in Washington, DC.

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 for 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.

An independent nonprofit organization, the National Park Foundation remains wholly supported by private contributions and receives no federal appropriations.

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