



HELP MAKE AMERICA'S BEST IDEA EVEN BETTER

September 26: A Day of Service and Celebration in Your National Parks

WASHINGTON, DC (September 2, 2009) – Join the [National Park Service](#) and the [National Park Foundation](#) in making America's Best Idea – the national parks – even better. On September 26, National Public Lands Day, the national parks will host visitors and volunteers for a special day of service and celebration. As part of the festivities, parks will offer a sneak preview of Ken Burns' new documentary *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* that premieres on PBS September 27. Additionally, entrance fees at all national parks throughout the nation will be waived for the day.

“The American people have created 391 national parks and entrusted their care to the National Park Service. With the help of volunteers and park partners, we are proud to preserve these places and to share their stories with more than 275 million visitors every year,” said Dan Wenk, Acting Director of the National Park Service. “We hope everyone will come out and join us on September 26 to celebrate the parks and our shared commitment to make America's Best Idea even better.”

“This will be a memorable day for Americans everywhere to volunteer and participate in the vitality and preservation of our national parks, and to be one of the first to get a glimpse at this historic film,” said Neil Mulholland, president and CEO of the National Park Foundation, a core partner and funder of *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. “This day and Ken Burns' film are powerful invitations to all Americans to reconnect to our national parks, to share their legacy, and to join us in helping fulfill their most critical needs.”

Locally, at the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, our Jacksonville area National Park, volunteers will gather at the Park's Theodore Roosevelt Area for a trail-clearing project, which starts at 10:00 a.m. Volunteers will work with park staff to clear the trails in the Spanish Pond and Theodore Roosevelt areas. Throughout the day, visitors are invited to watch a preview of Ken Burns' documentary, at the Timucuan Preserve Visitor Center, located at Fort Caroline National Memorial.

This year, WJCT, our local PBS affiliate, and the Timucuan Preserve received a grant from the National Park Foundation to create special documentaries featuring the six National Parks along coastal north Florida and southern Georgia. Along with the Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve, the other parks are Fort Caroline National Memorial, Cumberland Island National Seashore, Fort Frederica National Monument, Castillo de San Marcos National Monument and Fort Matanzas National Monument. These documentaries will be aired on WJCT beginning September 21, 2009.

The Theodore Roosevelt Area is located in Jacksonville, Florida about 14 miles northeast of downtown near Fort Caroline National Memorial. More information about the Theodore Roosevelt Area, including park and trail maps, is available at Fort Caroline, the websites below, or by calling 904.641.7155.

Visit the *National Parks of Florida's First Coast and the Golden Isles* website:

http://www.nps.gov/timu/photosmultimedia/americas_best_idea.htm

###