

Background

The National Park Service is considering increasing the adult fee at the Castillo de San Marcos from \$6.00 to \$7.00 and we are seeking public input and support. The fee increase will enable us to continue to fund projects that benefit our visitors at the same levels we have in the past. As everyone knows, fixed costs continue to rise. Our fee has been at \$6 since January 1, 2005. Since that time the Consumer Price Index has increased 16%. We recently surveyed twelve local St. Augustine attractions. The average cost for a family of four to attend those attractions is more than \$34.00. The Castillo would still only be \$14.00 for a family of four, even with the one dollar increase. Children under 16 are admitted with no charge because we are prohibited by law from charging admission fees for children.

Where do Fee Revenues Go?

The Castillo retains 76% of our entrance fee revenue. Those funds are used for a variety of projects and services, including interpretive and living history programs, the ferry service to take visitors to Fort Matanzas, and a variety of historic preservation projects to preserve and maintain our primary resources. This fee increase will allow us to continue these services at current levels as we move toward the 450th anniversary of St. Augustine. A major project this revenue would fund is rehabilitation of the Castillo restrooms. Our restrooms have exceeded their useful life. Because of system failures we are forced to close our restrooms and substitute portable toilets during peak visitation periods several times each year. This unacceptable visitor experience in our City's primary visitor attraction must be corrected, especially as we anticipate higher visitation levels in the coming years.

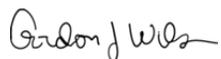
St. Augustine Turns 450 in 2015

Our Nation's oldest City is gearing up for a series of commemorations and activities over the next few years that will bring unprecedented numbers of visitors and media attention to our City. The National Park Service (NPS) will be leaving the fort parking lot open in the evenings to enhance visitor access to local businesses after the fort is closed. The City and the NPS are working to install additional lighting in the parking lot and increase police presence to ensure a higher level of visitor safety. The NPS plans to continue extending operating hours at the fort during peak visitation periods of the year to further accommodate area visitors.

Please provide your feedback by September 15, 2011 to:

Superintendent, Castillo de San Marcos National Monument, 1 South Castillo Drive, St. Augustine, FL 32084 or email to gordon_wilson@nps.gov

Thank You!



Gordon J. Wilson

Superintendent