



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION AT THOMAS EDISON NHP

The National Park Service turns 100 on August 25, 2016, and everyone can take part in the celebration!

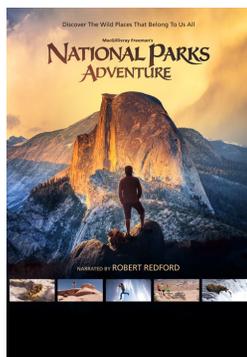


The Centennial will kick off a second century of stewardship of America's national parks as we engage communities through historic preservation programs, recreation, and conservation here at Edison and more than 400 National Parks, Historic Sites and Recreation Areas around the nation.

The history of Thomas Edison National Historical Park occupies over half of the Park Service's first century. Glenmont became a National Historic Site in 1955, the Laboratory, a National Monument, followed in 1956, and the two jointly became Edison National Historic Site in 1962. Over the succeeding decades Park Service staff welcomed a growing number of visitors, including thousands of schoolchildren who recall their school visits fondly and today bring their own children to the Park.

After the turn of the twenty-first century the Park Service took several years (2003-2009) to perform some much-needed restoration work that opened the upper floors of the main laboratory building to visitors and permitted them to enjoy more leisurely self-guided tours. Upon reopening in 2009, the Park was renamed Thomas Edison National Historical Park. Recent years have seen an increase in programs for the public and partnerships with municipal, business, and cultural organizations.

As the Park Service heads into a second century, Thomas Edison NHP seeks to attract new and even larger audiences who visit personally or from a distance through social media or virtual tours. Join us throughout the year for a variety of events and programs, many of them described in these pages. Visit our website for a full calendar of events.

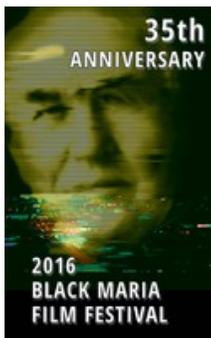
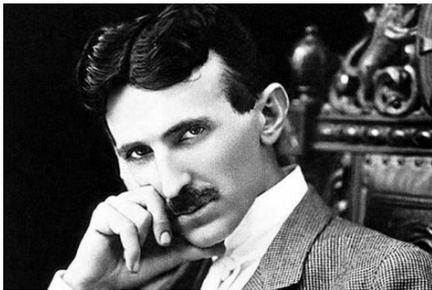


National Parks IMAX Film Debuts February 12

National Parks Adventure, narrated by Robert Redford, takes audiences on a thrilling adventure into the great outdoors and untamed wilderness. IMAX® 3D cinematography takes viewers soaring over canyons and hurtling up mountain peaks, including views of Yellowstone, Glacier, and Yosemite National Parks. Mountaineer Conrad Anker, photographer Max Lowe and artist Rachel Pohl hike, climb and explore their way across America's majestic parks. In this general area the film can be seen at Liberty Science Center in Jersey City, the American Museum of Natural History in Manhattan, The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, and The Maritime Aquarium in Norwalk Connecticut.

Happy Birthday, Nikola Tesla

On Sunday, **July 10, 2016**, Thomas Edison National Historical Park commemorates the 160th birthday of the visionary inventor Nikola Tesla. The day of special programs includes wax cylinder phonograph recording sessions with music supplied by New Jersey rockers "The Eternal Frontier" and "A Halo Called Fred," and a pair of public programs: "Tesla and Edison: Enemies or Friends?" and "Steampunk 101: What IS Steampunk?" Also, a selection of original Tesla-related historic documents will be on display.



Black Maria Film Festival Will Present Programs at Park

The Thomas Edison Media Arts Consortium sponsors a trio of film programs. The **Black Maria Film Festival**, in its 35th anniversary year, returned to West Orange on February 7 to celebrate Edison's birthday.

An invitation-only **Young Filmmakers Festival** presentation takes place on **May 21**. The **Global Insights Collection** will be

screened at the Park in the early evening of National Public Lands Day, **September 24**. Additional programs will take place during the year. Check our website.

Through our partnership with the Consortium, students from New Jersey City University have prepared a new orientation film that will premiere in our Visitor Center on **June 22**.



Streaming Edison

Have you seen *Thomas Edison's Secret Lab*? It's an animated series starring the greatest inventor of all time and a cast of characters who help kids have fun learning about science. The show's science curriculum is in keeping with national education standards. Adults have also found the show entertaining. The series streams on Netflix. Catch up with it!.

Invention Ambassadors to Speak at Edison

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and The Lemelson Foundation have joined forces to create the AAAS-Lemelson Invention Ambassadors Program designed to celebrate and highlight the importance of invention and inventors. On **June 13**, Invention Ambassadors will present "How Inventions Change the World," a program in which they will discuss their own inventions, the need to cultivate future inventors, and even solving problems through invention.



Saluting Our Partners:

Edison Innovation Foundation...



For two decades the Edison Innovation Foundation (EIF) has been a generous partner to Thomas Edison NHP, raising well over \$15,000,000 to support restoration work at the Edison Laboratory

that opened the upper floors of the main Laboratory building to the public and increased our exhibition space by 20,000 square feet. (The EIF also funded the installation of exhibit panels). The EIF funded the return of Building 11 and its reconstruction in the courtyard. More recently the EIF has underwritten extensive rehabilitation of the Glenmont Garage, refinishing interior walls and restoring historic Edison family gas- and battery-powered automobiles. The EIF has provided funds for the past 20 years to hire summer interns from nearby Seton Hall Preparatory School who assist in all Park operations. Several of these high school students have returned over the years as Park seasonal staff. The EIF supports outreach to education by sending its personnel to schools to further STEM (Science/Technology/Engineering/Math) education, and was instrumental in publishing the volume *Edison and the Rise of Innovation* (Sterling, 2013). EIF continually solicits corporate and international groups to visit the Park. The EIF web address is www.thomasedison.org.

...Friends of Thomas Edison NHP...

Since 1984 the Friends of Thomas Edison NHP has partnered with the National Park Service to preserve, promote, and protect the Edison Laboratory and Glenmont. Most recently, the Friends have raised funds to support summer programs for kids, to purchase plants for the oval flowerbed at Glenmont, and to acquire artifacts, such as a rare phonograph, which they then donated to the Park.

During this Centennial year the Friends are sponsoring fundraising and membership events. On Thursday, **May 19**, The Friends will host *Your Spring Tune Up*, a cocktail party at the Glenmont Garage to raise funds to restore the gas pump and electrical charger. Saturday, **October 1** will see the third Muckers' Ball, an evening of food, drink, and music that is also an invitation to join the Friends and support their valuable work. (See more on the Friends' Centennial Challenge grant on page 4.) Their web address is www.foedison.org.



...and Our Talented Gardeners



Agave pups

The **Garden Club of the Oranges** has been essential in bringing the Edison Greenhouse and Potting Shed back to life. Right now Club members are propagating the agave's babies, called "pups," from the original plants that have thrived since the Edisons day. They're proud to make these plants available to the public.

Just last year, the **Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County** received an award for excellence from the statewide Master Gardeners Association of New Jersey for their work restoring Glenmont flowerbeds since 2009.



Thomas Edison NHP Joins Google Cultural Institute



On February 11, 2016 a new online exhibit, featuring a virtual tour of the West Orange laboratory and the first floor of Glenmont, along with objects, documents and historic photographs from the Park's museum collections, was launched on Google Cultural Institute (GCI). The National Park Service (NPS) Museum Management Program has been working with GCI to make park collections more accessible. Thomas Edison NHP is one of several national parks included in the official opening of the National Park Service channel on the GCI website.

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell hosted an event at Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in Alabama to announce the partnership of NPS and Google to share the diverse history and culture of America with a global audience. Connecting with and creating the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates is a key goal of this year's NPS Centennial, celebrating the 100-year milestone of America's national parks. The unique partnership brings together in one place American stories and histories that inform and inspire – and that are too often inaccessible to the general public.

Jewell was joined by local fourth graders for a virtual reality flight simulation activity as part of the Every Kid in a Park initiative. The initiative is part of an Obama Administration's effort to connect young people to the parks. (On page 6 of this issue, see how fourth graders can get a free NPS pass for 2016.)

The Edison exhibit, Street View, features a series of 360-degree photographs produced by the Google team with specially-designed trolleys and backpack cameras. Stitched together, the images offer visitors fluid, virtual room-by-room access to the lab and Glenmont. Street View includes a gallery of high-resolution, annotated images of selected museum objects that will allow viewers to zoom in to hard-to-see details, like the signatures of Hollywood luminaries on Edison's Motion Picture Academy membership hanging in the Library.

GCI allows museums to create streamlined exhibits on specific themes or topics using objects in their collections. The park's first exhibit, also launched on February 11, focuses on the West Orange laboratory. In 2016 the Park will unveil two more exhibits relating to the NPS Centennial. One, on the camping trips of Thomas Edison and his friends Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, and John Burroughs, explores the history of early twentieth-century outdoor recreation. The other spotlights Theodore Edison's interest in national parks and conservation. Theodore, Thomas and Mina Edison's youngest son, became an inventor like his father, but he developed an early appreciation for wild, scenic places and he later became a vocal advocate for national parks, conservation and other environmental causes. The Park plans to add additional exhibits in the future. Access our exhibits at <http://google.com/culturalinstitute/collection/thomas-edison-national-historical-park>.



The Thomas A. Edison Papers Publishes Volume 8

The Papers of Thomas A. Edison: Volume 8: New Beginnings, January 1885-December 1887 was released by Johns Hopkins University Press on Edison's birthday. It covers the two years that saw the widower, fresh from the triumphs of his electrical lighting exploits, embarking on a new marriage and his move to Glenmont and a grand new West Orange laboratory. The Thomas A. Edison Papers is a project supported jointly by the National Park Service, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, the Smithsonian Institution, and the New Jersey Historical Commission. This eighth volume includes 358 documents, the most representative of the inventor's life and work and is illustrated with hundreds of Edison's drawings. Extensive annotations reflect the painstaking research of the staff of the Thomas A. Edison Papers.

On **August 11**, join Edison Papers Assistant Editor Alexandra Rimer for a program on Mina Edison, her children, and their life at Glenmont.



2016 Philadelphia Flower Show Salutes National Parks

Staff members of Thomas Edison NHP will present programs at this year’s Philadelphia Flower Show. Karen Sloat-Olsen will be at the Show on **March 7** and Brigid Jennings on **March 11**, both appearing at the “Find Your Park” pavilion. On **March 5** a Skype session will link the Park with the Flower Show. The 2016 Philadelphia Flower Show, at the Pennsylvania Convention Center March 4-13, is the world’s oldest and largest indoor flower show, attracting more than 260,000 people annually. This year’s theme is “Explore America.” The Philadelphia Horticultural Society and the National Park Service hope to bring together people who know and love the parks, and invite a new generation to join them.

In the Flower Show’s acres of trails, exhibits and attractions, guests will discover the range of horticulture in the national landscape, including the rainbow of wildflowers, desert blooms, coastal flora, verdant meadows, fragrant pinelands, and ancient redwoods. The Flower Show will also tell the diverse stories that forged the United States with exhibits inspired by the nation’s monuments and places where history happened. “Explore America” will spotlight Independence National Historical Park, Lincoln’s birthplace, Liberty Island, and other sites honoring our national heritage.

Visitors will explore the “Big Timber Lodge,” an interpretation of classic park architecture of wood and stone, enhanced by Native American art, sculpted animals, floral totems, and a dazzling waterfall. Spectacular imagery spanning the breadth of the park system will come to life on multiple overhead screens, as sounds of thundering bison and songbirds transport visitors into the wild.

Kids can join the Junior Ranger program with activities including Ranger talks and a scavenger hunt; rewards include Ranger badges and a new National Park Service trading card created especially for the Show.

Edison Partners Receive Centennial Challenge Funding

The Edison Innovation Foundation is part of a Centennial Partner Project to replace gravel paths on the Glenmont grounds with paths more accessible to visitors using wheelchairs. The Foundation will match a challenge grant for Fiscal Year 2016 that will lead to the installation of blacktop with chip seal



coating on gravel pathways at the estate.

In addition, the Friends of Thomas Edison NHP has raised \$10,000 for a challenge grant and hopes to receive matching funds in Fiscal Year 2017 to repair the line shafts in the Heavy Machine Shop. This will enable staff to operate the motors and the machine tools for visitors. Our thanks to both these partners for their ongoing, generous support.



**65th
Anniversary**

**West Orange
St. Patrick's Day
Parade
Sunday, March 13
Step-Off: 12:15**





Friday-Saturday, March 18-19

NJ Makers Day will be taking place at more than 200 schools, libraries, museums, makerspaces and more throughout New Jersey, including here at Edison and at the West Orange Public Library. In addition, Montclair-based HackNCraftNJ will showcase and demonstrate 3D printing, DIY electronics, robotics and other emerging technologies at the Montclair Public Library and at their own makerspace next door to the Library.



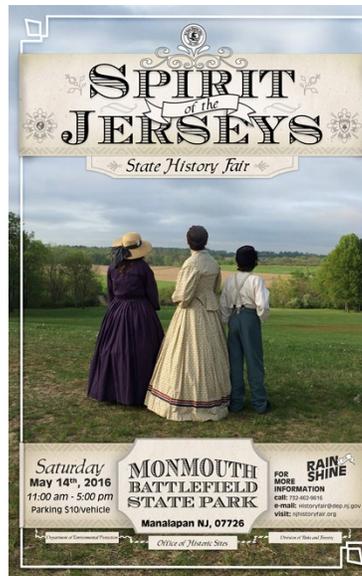
Edison Will Host Centennial Volunteer Ambassador in 2016

Thomas Edison NHP will share a Centennial Volunteer Ambassador with Morristown NHP during this Centennial year. Centennial Volunteer Ambassadors are a group of young adults, 70 strong, brought together through a partnership between the National Park Service (NPS) and the Student Conservation Association to lend their talents, energy, and enthusiasm to help strengthen the bonds between communities

and parks in support of the 100th anniversary of NPS. The Ambassadors, recent high school and college graduates, will spend one year in NPS sites across the county working to recruit, coordinate, and manage volunteers throughout the year. Ambassadors will serve with the Volunteers in Parks program at national parks throughout the country, with a focus on parks in urban areas.

Here at Edison, the intern will coordinate and host at least one national event and local annual events such as Fall Family Fun Day at Glenmont, school vacation day-of-service events, and in-service training for volunteers. The intern will establish contacts in the community to recruit new volunteers from underserved audiences, promote volunteer opportunities through social media reaching more distant New Jersey communities, and draw community members to the Park. The intern will develop a volunteer handbook and training program for both Parks to help recruit and retain volunteers, and organize at least one event that introduces Morristown NHP and Thomas Edison NHP volunteers to one another. The intern will expand the Junior Ranger program to include new activities that includes Edison, Morristown, and Paterson Great Falls National Historical Parks and will allow kids to earn a newly designed patch.

Edison at the NJ State History Fair



The Park will be represented at the 2016 NJ State History Fair, *Spirit of the Jerseys*, **May 14** at Monmouth Battlefield State Park.

There will be an inviting visual display of images of the West Orange lab and Glenmont, past and present. Fair visitors will be encouraged to discover the site where America's greatest inventor changed our world forever.

A hands-on activity will challenge kids to come up with an invention of their own using tinker toys.



Earth Hour 2016 at Edison

The World Wildlife Fund organized Earth Hour (March 19) as a grassroots movement uniting people in an effort to protect the planet. Earth Hour originated as a lights-off event in Sydney, Australia in 2007, and since then it has grown to engage

over 7000 cities worldwide; the one-hour event remains the key driver of the now larger movement. Everyone is encouraged to turn off lights on the evening of Saturday, March 19. Here at the Park, we'll be preparing for Earth Hour with a special event on Wednesday, **March 9** from 4 to 6 pm in association with the West Orange Environmental Commission.



2016 NEW JERSEY HISTORY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

This year's conference will take place **June 8-9** at Seton Hall University in South Orange. On June 8 the Park will host a Collections

Care Workshop during the day and the Conference Reception in the evening. A Llewellyn Park Landscape Bus Tour is also planned.

At the Conference itself, one panel will feature Leonard DeGraaf of Thomas Edison NHP and Jude Pfister and Sarah Minegar of Morristown NHP. "Scholarship, Education, and Tradition: The NPS at 100," will explore the role of NPS historical parks in transmitting history to the public and engaging new and younger audiences. Another panel, "Restoring and Adapting Cultural Landscapes," features Michelle Mihalkovitz of Edison, Amy Trimarco of the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Essex County, and Matthew Jacobs of the Stephen T. Mather High School discussing the role of partners in restoring the Glenmont landscape. The session "National Parks and the NPS Centennial" will be presented by Karen Sloat-Olsen of Edison and Vanessa Smiley of Morristown NHP. For more information on the conference, visit its website: <http://www.njpreservationconference.org>.



"Every Kid in a Park" Offers Free NPS Passes

Here's a special opportunity for fourth graders. If you are 10 years old or in fourth grade, you can participate in an online activity and receive a voucher for a **free 4th Grade Annual Pass**. Print out the voucher and take it with you and your family to a national park (including Edison), where you can serve as an ambassador and introduce your family to the National Park System. This program, called **Every Kid in a Park**, began September 1, 2015, and runs until August 30, 2016. National Parks across America are excited to share their heritage with young people. For more information, visit the **Every Kid In a Park website**.

The Art of Innovation

Thomas Edison NHP is not just a testament to science and technology, but also a contributor to the arts in America, as the birthplace of film and sound recording. Our long-standing association with the Black Maria Film Festival and with musicians who visit to make wax recordings, plus more recent partnerships with the Mono No Aware filmmaking workshop, ValleyArts Firehouse Gallery, and the Dream Rocket art exhibition, have made us eager to explore working relationships with more arts organizations in the area. Keep an eye on our website for news on upcoming programs and exhibitions in the fields of photography, art, music, film, and dance.



Take Advantage of Fee Free Days in 2016

On several days this year the National Park Service will offer free admission to everyone. Mark your calendar for these entrance fee-free dates in 2016:

April 16 through 24: National Park Week

August 25 through 28: National Park Service Birthday

September 24: National Public Lands Day

November 11: Veterans Day

Fee-free days make parks accessible to more people. National Parks are always economical (our fee is only \$10 per person over age 16). Also, any 4th grade student can get a free annual pass through the **Every Kid in a Park** program, and active duty military and citizens with a permanent disability can also get free passes. For more information about the variety of discounted passes available, please visit the *America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass webpage*. **Remember, Edison operates Wednesday through Sunday and may not be open on some fee-free days that are in effect throughout NPS.**

U.S. Mint Issues Centennial Commemorative Coins



Designs for commemorative coins honoring the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service (NPS) were unveiled last November during a ceremony at the Department of the Interior. NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis and National Park Foundation (NPF) President and CEO Will Shaforth joined Treasurer of the United States Rosie Rios for the unveiling. The coins, \$5 gold, \$1, and half dollar silver-clad, should be released in late March.

"Heads or tails, this Centennial commemorative coin helps to honor the National Park Service's first century of service to protect, preserve, and share some of our nation's greatest natural resources, culture, and history...and the proceeds will contribute to our second century of service to the American people," said Jarvis.

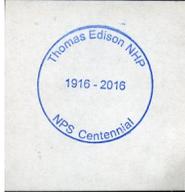
Pricing for the National Park Service Commemorative Coins will include surcharges--\$35 for each \$5 gold coin, \$10 for each \$1 silver coin, and \$5 for each half dollar clad coin--which are authorized to be paid to the NPF.

The U.S. Mint will announce the coins' release date and additional pricing information prior to their release in 2016. The commemorative coin is one of many ways to celebrate the 2016 centennial. Find out more at <http://findyourpark.com/>.

Sign up to receive information about the coin sales kick-off and view the coin designs at www.nationalparks.org/coins. The coins may be available at the Museum Shop here at the Park.

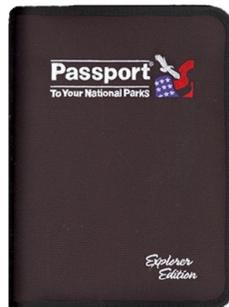
Centennial Cancellation Stamps Will Be Offered in 2016

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016, the popular *Passport To Your National Parks* program will offer special Centennial Passport cancellation stamps at national park sites throughout the country.



Developed by the National Park Service's long-time nonprofit educational partner, Eastern National, the special stamp will print a round cancellation graphic with the name of the individual park around the top of the circle and "NPS Centennial" around the bottom. A middle line will read, "1916 - 2016." The special stamps will be available throughout the year. A sample stamp is on the Passport program webpage: <http://easternnational.org/what-we-do/passport/>.

Since its inception in 1986, the Passport program has introduced millions of visitors to the national park system. The program consists of a Passport guidebook, an annual series of commemorative sticker-style stamps, a companion mobile app, and the famous ink cancellation stamps. Nearly all 410 national parks participate in the Passport program, as well as some national trails and scenic rivers and certain park and program offices. A list of participating parks and programs is available at <http://www.eparks.com/store/content/863/Passport-Cancellation-Locations/>.



Passport Book and Stamps.



History Happy Hour

This spring join Edison "insiders" for conversation (and more?) at pubs in our area. We're still working out details for the Edison pub talks, so stay in touch with us through our website and social media for updated information.



Edison Banners Coming to Main Street



Look for new banners flying from the historical lamp posts along Main Street. Illustrated with images of the Edisons, the laboratory, and Glenmont drawn from our historical and modern photos, the banners will offer another festive salute to the Park Service's one-hundredth anniversary.

Edison University



Edison University represents our goal of creating an open and enjoyable space for learners of all ages to explore Thomas Edison's role in the history of innovation, science, technology, popular culture, and business.

Over 10,000 students visit the Park each year and participate in one of three programs designed for them: "Idea to Product the Edison Way" explores the Edison lab and the invention process and ends with students creating their own invention. "Hollywood, New Jersey" covers the history of motion pictures and allows students to make films with iPads that they can then see on YouTube. "Who's the Victor?" invites students to make their own tin-foil recording and understand the business competition of Edison and his rivals.

Interpretive staff present daily programs, "Gems," named after one of Edison's phonographs, on any one of a rotating selection of topics.

Guest lecturers present afternoon or evening programs during the year on subjects they are researching.

Several special Gem programs are scheduled during this Centennial year. Check our calendar of events.



An Edison "Gem."

We can also accommodate small groups of business and special interest organizations for meetings and trainings, which can include an NPS-guided tour of the laboratory. The tour is about an hour in length but can be longer or shorter depending on a group's schedule. Topics cover a variety of themes, including team building, research and development, innovation or specific Edison technologies like sound recording or motion pictures. Meetings are available on Mondays or Tuesdays or evenings. Reservations are required. Visit the permit section of our website or contact our permit coordinator for more information.



Amateur Radio Enthusiasts at Edison Day



The American Radio Relay League (ARRL), which just celebrated its own Centennial, will join the Park Service in celebrating its 100th birthday. "National Parks on the Air" will run throughout 2016, with activity promoted and encouraged from each of the official NPS units.

The program will have two participation tracks, Chasers and Activators. Chasers will simply make contact with operators in as many NPS units as possible. Activators will activate as many units as possible.

The Tri-County Radio Association (club callsign W2LI) will be here on Edison Day operating on battery power. It's an excellent opportunity for amateur radio operators to gain public exposure and provide both adults and children with hands-on experience with science and technology. Stop by and visit on Edison Day, **June 4**.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Thomas Edison National Historical Park
211 Main Street
West Orange, NJ 07052



Thomas Edison National Historical Park was established to preserve and protect Thomas Alva Edison's West Orange Laboratory, home, and collections for the education and inspiration of people worldwide.

Thomas Edison National Historical Park
211 Main Street
West Orange, NJ 07052
Web site: www.nps.gov/edis
Email: edis_superintendent@nps.gov

Visitor Information
973-736-0550 x11
Fax: 973-243-7172

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Edison Day, June 4, 2016

On Edison Day this year the Park will once again partner with the town for the West Orange Street Fair. Inside the Park members of HackNCraft, the Tri-County Radio Association, and the American Chemical Society will make science and technology fun for the whole family. The arts will be represented by the Mono No Aware filmmaking workshop, the Dream Rocket art exhibition, and a wax cylinder recording session with the Centennial NPS Band from New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park. We will also welcome the filmmakers of *Secrets of Llewellyn Park*. Join us for all this and more. Mark your calendar.

Centennial Volunteer Challenge

Are you ready for a challenge? In celebration of the NPS Centennial year, volunteers who contribute 201.6 hours of service between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016 can earn a Centennial Volunteer Challenge Coin!



This custom-made, antique bronze coin, features a raised image of the NPS volunteer logo on one side and the 2016 NPS centennial logo on the reverse (shown here). In addition to the coin, recipients will receive a congratulatory letter from the Director of the National Park Service.



EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

Volunteers-In-Parks Coordinator Thomas Edison National Historical Park

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www.nps.gov/edis Click on
"Support the National Park Service"

The Lab Notebook is a quarterly publication of Thomas Edison National Historical Park.

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FIND YOUR PARK



Follow us on social media. Tell us what park you found.

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