



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Teton  
National Park

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## Grand Teton National Park News Release

### **Grand Teton National Park Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Student Conservation Association**

In recognition of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Student Conservation Association (SCA), Grand Teton National Park will host a brief ceremony at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2007 in the Director's Room of the Craig Thomas Discovery and Visitor Center. Founded in 1957, SCA is one of the nation's leading conservation service organizations. SCA placed its first volunteer trail crews at Olympic and Grand Teton national parks. All SCA alumni throughout the greater Jackson Hole area are invited to join park staff for the 50th anniversary recognition at Moose, Wyoming on Tuesday.

SCA is a nationwide force of high school and college-age volunteers who are committed to protecting and preserving the environment. Through internships, conservation jobs and crew experiences, SCA members strive to meet environmental challenges while gaining hands-on field experience. Each year, they complete projects in every conservation discipline—from archaeology to zoology, and everything in between. SCA's mission statement vows, "To build the next generation of conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship of our environment and communities by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land."

Around the country, SCA students provide more than 1.6 million hours of conservation service each year in national parks, national forests, national refuges, and urban green spaces in all 50 states and several foreign countries. In the beginning, SCA volunteers focused on trail building, and although SCA still builds trails, their efforts have grown to include habitat restoration, invasive species eradication, sustainable community training, and many other critically needed services. Nearly 60% of SCA alumni go on to establish careers in the conservation field, inspired by their experiences in the outdoors.

As they celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, SCA recognizes nearly 50,000 alumni who have remained active stewards of natural resources across the nation. With a regional office in Seattle supporting conservation activities in Wyoming, SCA is building the next generation of conservation leaders and inspiring lifelong stewardship to the environment.

In Grand Teton National Park, SCA volunteers help in building trails, restoring habitat, patrolling wilderness areas and assisting visitors. Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott states, "We are pleased to celebrate this significant anniversary with the SCA officials and alumni. Because student volunteer service began in Grand Teton, it is especially fitting that one of the recognition events takes place in this park. We are honored to be a small part of this important nationwide commemoration."

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