



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National
Historical Park

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Independence National Historical Park

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Independence NHP Hosts U.S. World Heritage Fellow

Philadelphia – Independence National Historical Park is hosting its first ever U.S. World Heritage Fellow, Gonzalo Javier Rodriguez, from May 23 through July 7. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) administers the World Heritage List, which includes Independence Hall. Rodriguez, a Peruvian and archeologist, will complete his fellowship at the park where he hopes to gain a better understanding of a national park's management and how the park interprets and presents history to visitors. This research will allow Rodriguez and his colleagues to better manage and promote national heritage sites in Peru, such as Aspero or Caral (a World Heritage Site). Independence Hall is recognized as one of only 21 World Heritage Sites—18 of which are national parks—in the U.S.

According to a study by the National Parks Conservation Association, more than four dollars in tax revenue are generated for local economies by every dollar invested in national parks. As Philadelphia continues to see financial gains in tourism, thanks in part to Independence NHP, other site managers, including Rodriguez, are looking to the U.S. to help them achieve similar success. Rodriguez hopes to learn from our achievements as not only a national park and World Heritage site, but also a popular community and tourist area. In turn, he will teach staff at Independence NHP, through a series of in-house lectures, about the sites he works with in Peru. The NPS supports the fellowship through the Office of International Affairs, http://www.nps.gov/oia/new/New_Page/WH_Fellowship.htm.

A unit of the National Park Service, Independence National Historical Park was created by an Act of Congress on June 28, 1948. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, Independence NHP covers almost 54 acres in Philadelphia's Old City, and includes Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, Congress Hall, Franklin Court, and other historic buildings associated with the founding of the United States. The park is open from 9:00 am daily with the exception of Christmas day. A visit to Independence National Historical Park should start at the Independence Visitor Center, located at 6th and Market Streets. Here, visitors can pick up a park brochure, park map, and the free, timed tickets required for Independence Hall. For more information visit the park's website, <http://www.nps.gov/inde> or follow us at twitter.com/independencenhp.

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