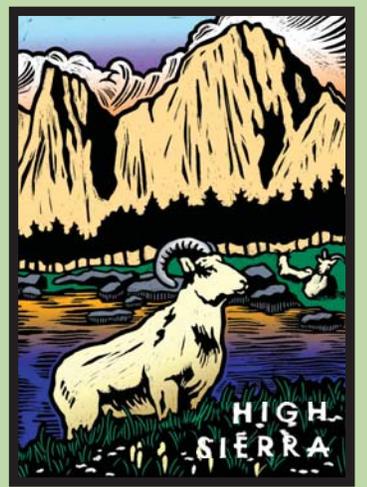
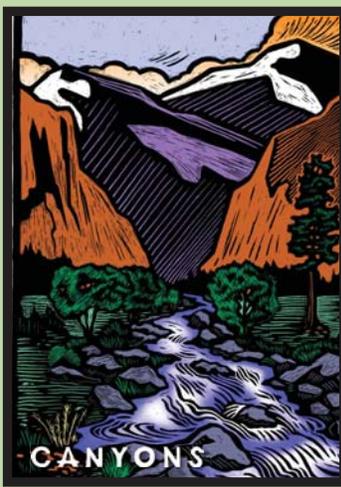


Visitor Guide: Late Spring 2016

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



A century of national parks

One hundred years. Not long in geologic time, but long enough to embed an idea in the heart of America — the national parks. And like our hearts, the park system can grow to include more stories, more people, more of our treasured landscapes.

Nature, history, sacred sites: Like many national parks, Sequoia and Kings Canyon have them all. Sequoia and the forerunner of Kings Canyon, the tiny General Grant National Park, were designated in 1890 — the second and third national parks in this country. Over time, with the creation of more parks, the country realized that it needed a professional agency to oversee their care, and in 1916 the National Park Service was born. Yet the early influence of these parks remains clear. Look closely at the symbols of the service: You'll see a sequoia tree on the arrowhead and sequoia cones on the

belts and hatbands of park rangers.

At the heart of the park system lies stewardship, the commitment to protect something not only for ourselves but for the future; the willingness to care for something above and beyond our own lives. You play a critical role in stewardship here! Your efforts to protect your parks not only ensure their longevity; they protect the surrounding areas and towns, as well.

Get yourself, your children, your friends out in these parks. Explore trails, read exhibits, and go on ranger-led programs. Take care of this place, then take that sense of ownership and stewardship home with you. Let it grow to include safeguarding other histories, people, and landscapes in your own community and in other parks.

Then give it another 100 years. Who knows what celebrations may stem from your efforts?

Return for more programs and activities that celebrate 100 years of national parks, including:

- **June 18 - The Legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers:** *Special walks and talks, and an encampment of historical re-enactors take us back to 1903.*
- **August 5-7 - Dark Sky Festival (annually):** *Astronauts, star-gazing and photography programs, night walks, telescopes, and more.*
- **August 25 - NPS Founders Day:** *The actual 100th birthday of the National Park Service! Special activities and programs, candlelight cave tours.*
- **August 26-28 - Ersa of the Red Trees:** *Renactment of a historic pageant once performed here, under the giant sequoias, in 1926. Join in!*

Other events take place outside the parks: See www.sequoiaparksconservancy.org and www.nps.gov/seki/learn/news for details.

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