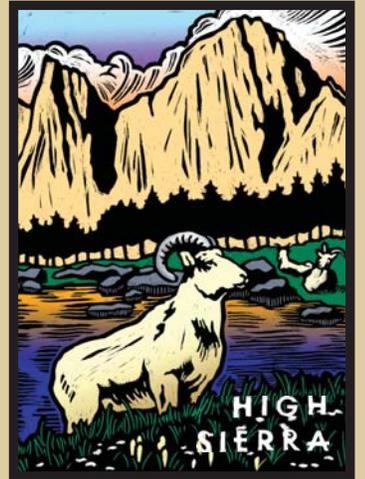




Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks & Sequoia National Forest/Giant Sequoia National Monument



One hundred years!

One hundred years. Not long in geologic time, but long enough to imprint the idea of national parks in the heart of America. 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 two parks remains clear. Look closely at the symbols of the park service: You'll see a sequoia tree on the national parks' arrowhead emblem

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 not only ensure the parks' longevity; they protect surrounding areas, as well.

Explore these parks with friends and family. Take trails, read exhibits, and join in ranger-led programs. Take care of this place, and 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 future celebrations may grow from your efforts?

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Join these and other free programs that celebrating 100 years of nature and people in national parks!

- **Ranger-led walks and talks:** Check at visitor centers and on bulletin boards for schedules.

- **Living history:** Enactments are offered several times in September, including *Ghosts of the Giants*, *Back in the Day*, and *Tales from the Past*. Free reservations are required for *A Journey through Big Stump* on September 10 in Grant Grove; call 559-565-4307.

- **Night sky and astronomy:** programs are offered several times in September, including *Full Moon on Moro Rock* on September 15.

See www.exploresequoiakingscanyon.com and www.nps.gov/seki/planyourvisit/calendar for details on all these and other programs.

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