

Visitor Guide: Late Summer 2016

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



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?

Join these and other programs celebrating 100 years of national parks:

• **August 25 - Founders Day:** *The actual 100th birthday of the National Park Service! Special activities and programs, flashlight cave tours.*

• **August 26-28 - Era of the Red Trees:** *Renactment of a historic pageant once performed here, under the giant sequoias, in 1926. Join in!*

• **September 10 - Spirits and Stumps:** *A living-history event along the Big Stump Trail in Grant Grove. Free reservations required: 559-565-4307.*

• **December 17 - The Great Annual Bird Count / Centennial Bioblitz:** *This takes place at these parks and at other places all over the country. Find one near you. Beginners welcome!*

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

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