



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sequoia and Kings Canyon  
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## Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

**For Immediate Release:** June 13, 2011

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### **Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Awarded America's Best Idea Grant**

*Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, CA* – Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, in cooperation with the City of Visalia, is proud to receive an America's Best Idea grant (\$10,000) from the National Park Foundation. This grant supports the launch of the "Kids Ride to the Big Trees" project. The park and the city extend an invitation to various groups interested in participating in it. This new and innovative project provides opportunities for 1,000 kids-of-all-ages (with the focus on youth and underserved populations) to ride the Sequoia Shuttle to Sequoia National Park and explore the Giant Forest area through September 25, 2011. The Sequoia Shuttle is managed by the City of Visalia, which offered a group discount in order to accommodate as many riders as possible. Once inside the park, rangers welcome the groups, provide an orientation to the parks, and offer them the chance to see this amazing place. Organizations that work with underserved groups, especially youth, are invited to contact the City of Visalia Transit Office at 559-713-4100 and ask to participate in the America's Best Ideas Grant.

"Imagine the amazement in the eyes of someone who has never seen a giant sequoia tree before," said Superintendent Karen Taylor-Goodrich. She added, "People come from all over the world to see giant sequoias, but some people in surrounding communities have never seen them. Transportation is often the biggest barrier to a visit to the parks. With this project, we hope to help kids of all ages understand why we preserve and protect Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, as well as other national parks, and how they can help us do so in the future."

For more information about Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, including winter/spring shuttle service and ranger-led programs, please call 559-565-3341 or visit [www.nps.gov/seki](http://www.nps.gov/seki).

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## **ABOUT SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS**

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, which lie side-by-side in the southern Sierra Nevada Mountains in central California, serve as a prime example of nature's size, beauty, and diversity. With the world's largest trees (by volume), grand mountains, rugged foothills, deep canyons, vast caverns, and the highest point in the lower 48 states, it is a place that attracts 1.6 million visitors a year from across the U.S. and the world. Visitor activities vary by season and elevation.

## **ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION**

You are the owner of 84 million acres of the world's most treasured landscapes, ecosystems, and historic sites -- all protected in America's nearly 400 national parks. Chartered by Congress, the National Park Foundation is the official charity of America's national parks. The foundation works hand-in-hand with the National Park Service to connect you and all Americans to the parks, and to make sure that they are preserved for the generations who will follow.

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