

# The Guide

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



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



# FALL 2011



## Welcome to the Land of Giants

YOU EXPECT GIANT TREES and huge canyons—and you won't be disappointed. What may surprise you is that the whole of these parks is even greater than the sum of its most famous parts.

Rising from 1300' to 14,494' (the highest elevation in the lower 48 states), these parks protect a spectacular elevational range. This span from low to high means dramatic shifts from warm foothills to cool forests to the cold High Sierra. It means diverse plants and animals living in extremely varied conditions. It means steep roads and trails that climb mountains, and cold rivers that plunge down from their heights.

The caretakers of this landscape are also diverse. This is not one, but two national parks – Sequoia and Kings Canyon – managed by the National Park Service as one. A national monument, which is part of a national forest, borders the two parks. Researchers

with the U.S. Geological Survey conduct scientific studies related to park resources here. The Sequoia Natural History Association runs bookstores at visitor centers, then plows those funds into park education and research efforts. Another non-profit, the Sequoia Parks Foundation, supports important park projects.

All park partners, public and private, cooperate to meet a challenging mission—providing for public enjoyment while keeping the parks unimpaired for future generations. *You* are the most important partner! Experience these parks and learn all you can. Your cooperation is needed to help preserve these amazing places.



**AUTUMN ACTIVITY:** Wildlife spend this season getting ready for winter. For many animals, that includes eating acorns. These seeds of the oak trees provide nutrition that helps many creatures to survive the coming cold season. Bears scavenge acorns from the ground or climb oaks to harvest them. Acorn woodpeckers store them for later use in holes pecked in trees, buildings, and phone poles. What other animals do you see getting ready for winter?

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