

# **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

***2010-2011 National Park Foundation  
Park Stewards Program  
Made possible by Bank of America Foundation***

**Reply Due March 1, 2010**

*“Parks are classrooms and libraries for all Americans. They are the touchstones for our citizens who wish to preserve our history and culture and natural environment.”*

Dr. John Hope Franklin  
Discovery 2000 Conference, St. Louis, MO

The National Park Foundation is pleased to announce that we are accepting applications from National Park areas (defined as all sites administered by and/or affiliated with the National Park Service including, but not limited to, national scenic and historic trails, national heritage corridors/areas, etc) to participate in the 2010-2011 National Park Foundation's *Park Stewards Program*.

The *Park Stewards Program* provides opportunities for high school teachers to connect resources in a national park to their classrooms through a service learning/volunteer program. The program gives high school teachers and students the opportunity to explore the relevance of national parks to their lives, and encourages them to become civically engaged stewards of their national parks.

Service learning is experiential learning in which students apply academic knowledge and critical thinking skills (in addition to physical skills as appropriate) to address genuine needs of the park and help advance the parks' mission.

Each National Park unit that is interested in applying for the *Park Stewards* grant shall have pre-identified:

1. A high school teacher to partner with;
2. A topic or area of need to focus on for the service-learning project;
3. Expected outcomes for the service-learning project.

The teachers will spend the summer 2010 (or sabbatical) at the National Parks learning about the resource(s) and focusing on the development of the service-learning project with park staff. Grantees are encouraged to engage the youth voice in the development of the service-learning activity by testing the activity out on at least one group of students or youth visitors during the summer months and then refining the project as needed before the fall semester begins. The service-learning projects will be fully implemented by the

teacher's high school students in the school year 2010/2011. The service-learning project does not necessarily have to occur in the park, but it *does* have to advance the park's mission, and the high school students must experience the park first-hand during the project.

Through the *Park Stewards Program* it is expected that each team (park/teacher) will achieve the following goals:

1. Develop an understanding of service learning as it relates to the National Park's mission and goals.
2. Develop a service learning/volunteer model that can be used with high school aged students and replicated with other like groups.
3. Implement and test the service-learning activity with three school or youth groups in addition to the teachers' class.
4. Enhance teachers' ability to collaborate with informal educators (park staff and others).
5. Develop teachers' ability to use National Parks as labs for innovative and relevant classroom instruction.
6. Engage teachers as life-long National Park enthusiasts who care about National Parks and will share their enthusiasm with students throughout their careers.
7. Engage high school students with their national parks.

#### **Program Budget:**

National Parks can apply for \$5,000 to \$10,000 to cover costs for:

1. Teacher recruitment and ranger uniform for teacher
2. Technical equipment and supplies for the service-learning activity
3. Curriculum development and dissemination (supplies, printed materials, multi-media)
4. Transportation for service-learning activity(s)

In addition to, and separate from the above costs, each National Park grantee will be awarded \$4,000 to cover teacher stipend(s).

#### **Additional Opportunities:**

#1: Deepening relationships with student leaders

During each service-learning activity there may be one or two students who stand out as leaders. As a way to strengthen the connection with these students, we're going to accept applications from parks who would like to hire these students to work in some capacity during 2011. Grantees will be invited in fall 2010 to submit ideas and budgets for this additional opportunity.

**BACKGROUND:**

Our National Parks tell the story of America and the citizens who helped inspire and shape our country and its values. They memorialize great leaders like George Washington, Frederick Douglass, Thomas Edison, Clara Barton and Martin Luther King, Jr. Our National Parks animate the stories of a nation in conflict such as the battle of Gettysburg, the integration conflict at Little Rock Central HS and the signing of the Declaration of Independence. They stand in tribute to the conservationists who helped establish the world's first protected landscapes of Yosemite, Yellowstone, and the pueblo cultures of our first citizens. Our National Parks are special places where visitors of all ages can immerse themselves in our shared heritage and learn about the leaders who have helped shape, and continue to make America a great nation.

We know that today, more so than ever, many of today's youth are not aware of National Parks or the great stories of American heritage. One reason for this is that our children may never have been introduced to the assets within their National Park system. They may not be aware that National Parks exist, nor have been able to visit a National Park, even within vicinity of their home. Our National Parks cannot survive without citizen stewardship, and if today's youth don't feel connected to their National Parks, then our National Parks are in trouble.

To fulfill the goals of the 2016 Centennial and to help young people discover the inspiring leadership stories of America's heritage, the National Park Foundation and the National Park Service need to establish creative partnerships that reach out to young people, helping them make a connection with the parks and inspiring them to see themselves as part of the American leadership story.

During their assignment in the park (summer or sabbatical), the teams will be expected to develop a meaningful service learning/volunteer program that can be replicated with other groups. The teachers will work with the education staff at the park(s) to develop service learning/volunteer activities that are broad enough to be applicable to local, state, and national education standards. These activities will be informed by their in-park experiences and focused on engaging students in history, culture, nature and civic leadership. NPF and NPS would look to increase the reach of these leadership stories by disseminating the projects service-wide.

**BENEFITS:**

The *Park Stewards Program* will positively impact school children, teachers and national parks. Benefits to these stakeholders include:

*Benefits for School Children:*

- Helps them discover the diverse leadership story of our country;
- Creates role models for civic involvement;
- Introduces National Parks as exciting places filled with history to children who might not be aware of the treasures that lie in their own backyards;

- Encourages kids to go to National Parks to see and learn more about the places where important national events actually happened;
- Connects kids to parks in a meaningful way through their teachers, whom they trust and respect; and
- Develops future park stewards.

*Benefits for the National Parks:*

- Helps fulfill the goals of the 2016 Centennial to make the National Parks centers for learning and to reach diverse new audiences;
- Extends the reach of park assets through partnership with leading educators;
- Enhances the park visitor experience through the programming and visitor services;
- Builds a diverse network of teachers and students engaged with the parks;
- Generates interest in and support of the parks by all involved with the program; and
- Promotes the protection, conservation and stewardship of our National Parks.

*Benefits for Educators:*

- Creates new knowledge, opportunities, and skills by working with park staff and partners;
- Enhances curriculum in multiple content areas;
- Provides greater access to a wide array of teaching resources and tools;
- Begins a life-long personal connection with National Parks; and
- Provides dynamic ways in which to motivate and inspire students.

**PROJECT OUTCOMES FOR 2010/2011 PARK STEWARDS PROGRAM:**

As a result of this program, teachers will develop curriculum that:

1. Focuses on the rich stories and resources of the park;
2. Incorporates inquiry and placed-based learning as the predominant mode of instruction;
3. Aligns with state and/or national content standards;
4. Connects youth through service learning/volunteer opportunities; and
5. Can be replicated with other school and youth groups (of similar age).

## **APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS**

Regional Chiefs of Interpretation may require an advance copy of applications for review prior to submission to the National Park Foundation. Check with your region's Chief of Interpretation for more information.

**Applications must be received at the National Park Foundation by March 1, 2010.**

There are three options for application submission: online, email, and fax/hard copy. We prefer you use the online application:

[https://www.grantrequest.com/SID\\_328/Default.asp?CT=CT&SA=SNA&FID=35017](https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_328/Default.asp?CT=CT&SA=SNA&FID=35017)

Should you have trouble with the online application and need to send via email or fax/hard copy, please contact Carolyn Hill at:

Carolyn Hill, Program Manager  
National Park Foundation  
1201 Eye Street NW, Suite 550B  
Washington, DC 20005  
PH: 202-354-6471 / Fax: 202-371-2066  
Email: [chill@nationalparks.org](mailto:chill@nationalparks.org)

**2010 NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION  
PARK STEWARDS PROGRAM  
APPLICATION GUIDELINES**

**I. Application Process**

A brief application form is attached.

1. Review the Request for Proposals (RFP) paying particular attention to qualification and selection criteria, eligibility and requirements.
2. Check with Regional Chief of Interpretation to determine if your regional office requires an advance copy of applications for review prior to submission to the National Park Foundation.
3. Complete application form with requested contact information and all questions answered.
4. Submit letters of commitment from the Park Superintendent, Chief of Interpretation/Education,
5. Applications that have been reviewed and approved by the Chief of Interpretation must be submitted to NPF by March 1, 2010.

**II. Proposal Submission Instructions**

The National Park Foundation has moved to an online submission process for its grants and programs. Instructions on how to submit through the online process are below. Please use the "Proposal Template" to prepare your submission prior to accessing the online system.

**1. Read the RFP**

Please read this RFP carefully and then use the online process to submit.

**2. Start your submission**

Go to:

[https://www.grantrequest.com/SID\\_328/Default.asp?CT=CT&SA=SNA&FID=35017](https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_328/Default.asp?CT=CT&SA=SNA&FID=35017)

Use this link to start your submission. NOTE: If you choose to save it and finish it later, follow directions in Step 4.

**3. Create an account**

You will automatically be asked to create an account when you enter the system.

**NOTE:** If you have already created an account, log in using current username and password.

**4. To save and finish later**

After you have begun your submission you may choose to save and complete it at a later date. You can exit the submission at any time and access it later by going to [https://www.grantrequest.com/SID\\_328/Default.asp?CT=CT&SA=SNA&FID=35017](https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_328/Default.asp?CT=CT&SA=SNA&FID=35017) and entering your account information.

**5. Complete and submit your finished proposal**

Press "Submit" on the last page of the online system. You will receive an email confirming that your proposal has been submitted.

### III. Selection Process

The National Park Service and the National Park Foundation will lead a committee that will review all applications and recommend parks for selection. ***Parks will be notified of decisions by April 2, 2010.***

### IV. Qualification Criteria

1. The park has a successful and active curriculum-based education program.
2. The park has a designated lead staff person who has experience with the park's curriculum-based education program and working collaboratively with other disciplines in the park and with other organizations.
3. The project team includes educator or interpreter knowledgeable in the park resources, who will contribute content expertise in developing and reviewing the program.
4. The park has identified teacher partner, the focus of service-learning activity and expected project outcomes.

### V. Eligibility

All sites administered by/affiliated with the National Park Service are eligible to apply.

### VI. Requirements

Please review the following requirements for feasibility in your Park.

1. Submit letters of commitment from the park superintendent and chief of interpretation/education.
2. Pilot the program in summer 2010, refine as needed, implement with high school students in fall 2010 and continue through the grant period, spring 2011.
3. Participate in all assessments and evaluations.
4. Facilitate visits by the external evaluator.
5. Disseminate program (such as conference presentations, providing materials for website, peer training)

### VII. Project Timeline

Dec 1-Feb 28, 2010	Identify teacher partner and focus of activity
March 1, 2010	Applications due to the National Park Foundation
April 2, 2010	Parks will be notified of grant
June/July, 2010	Teachers will begin summer in Parks Activities tested and refined
Fall, 2010- Spring, 2011	Teachers implement Park Stewards Program with students

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Park Stewards Program  
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**Application  
Due No Later Than March 1, 2010**

National Park: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Superintendent/Program Manager: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (Street):  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City

State

ZIP-XXXX

Please respond to the following statements in terms of your project proposal. Please limit your response statements to no more than one page (500 words) per response:

**STATEMENTS:**

1. Park has a successful and active curriculum-based education program.
2. Park has a designated lead staff person who has experience with the park's curriculum-based education program and/or service-learning/volunteerism. Lead staff person has worked collaboratively with other disciplines in the park and with other organization.
3. Park has the resources and facilities to support the program.
4. Park has identified school/teacher partner. Explain reason for selection.
5. Outline the schedule for the teacher during their summer in the park.
6. Park has identified the focus of the service-learning activity and expected outcomes. Explain.
7. Your park is a good fit for this program because (explain).

## CHECK LIST

Prior to submitting your application use this list to ensure that you have completed all aspects of the grant requirements:

- ❑ I have checked with my regional partnership coordinator to determine if the application must be sent to the region for quality review prior to submittal to the National Park Foundation.
- ❑ I have read the qualification and selection criteria, and reviewed the grant requirements and am confident our park is prepared to effectively participate in the program.
- ❑ The application includes a letter of support from the Park Superintendent.
- ❑ The application includes a letter of support from the Park Chief of Interpretation.
- ❑ The contact person's name, complete address including street address, zip code, phone number, fax number and email address are included on the application.
- ❑ One hardcopy of the application was sent to the National Park Foundation, postmarked on or before May 15, 2009.
- ❑ A copy of the proposal emailed to Carolyn Hill, Grants and Strategic Engagement, on or before May 15, 2009 at [chill@nationalparks.org](mailto:chill@nationalparks.org) or faxed to 202-371-2066.
- ❑ I have contacted Carolyn Hill at 202-354-6471 with any questions or concerns.