

CONGRESSIONAL FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL NEWSLETTER



August 2016

On Exhibit: One Hundred Years of the National Park Service

Reprinted from *The National Archives* blog [Pieces of History](#). Written by Andrew Grafton, National Archives History Office.

Yellowstone. The Grand Canyon. Yosemite. For many Americans, the mere mention of these sites conjures up images of grandeur and magnificence.

As the conservator of the United States' most storied and important landmarks, the National Park Service (NPS) is charged with the preservation and operation of over 400 areas covering more than 84 million acres in 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Marianas Islands, and the Virgin Islands.

This summer, the National Archives will be commemorating the 100th anniversary of the National Parks Service by displaying the document that founded the NPS, the Organic Act of 1916.

H.R. 15522, An Act to Establish a National Park Service, as the legislation is officially known, "created in the Department of the Interior a service to be called the National Park Service . . . [NPS] shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations . . . to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects . . . for future generations."

Though the first national park had been established with Yellowstone on March 1, 1872, it and subsequently designated national parks were only loosely managed under the Department of the Interior.

By establishing a National Park Service, the Federal Government ensured the efficient and responsible conservation of national landmarks for future generations.

The passage of the Organic Act was the result of a collaborative effort between businessmen, government officials, and private citizens, who together had advocated for the establishment of a National Park Service for decades.



Castle Geyser Cove, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, 1942, by Ansel Adams. (National Archives Identifier 519992)

This August we invite you to our **100th BIRTHDAY PARTY!** There are literally hundreds of special events happening this month throughout the country with **free admission** to all 412 national parks from August 25 through August 28. To get you started, we've gathered a sampling of special programs taking place and listed them here. But hundreds of other August events across the country can be found at:

FindYourPark.com and EncuentraTuParque.com.

Engaging Diverse Audiences and the Next Generation

- **7/30 – 8/6 [American Solar Challenge](#) (OH, IN, MO, KS, NE, SD):** College competition racing solar-powered vehicles on a route through nine national parks from Ohio to South Dakota.
- **8/2 – 8/4 [Yosemite Youth Summit](#) (CA):** Gathering of 100 youth program participants for stewardship projects, share their experiences and open dialogue on National Park Service youth engagement.
- **8/4 – 8/18 [Music in the American Wild](#) (multiple locations):** Premiere classical music performances by university students from the Eastman School of Music in seven national parks - San Juan Island, North Cascades, Mount Rainier, Shenandoah, Great Smoky Mountains, Mammoth Cave, and Olympic.
- **8/25 [Sing Across America](#) (multiple locations):** Performances by youth and children's choirs for the centennial, including event at Yellowstone National Park.
- **8/25 [Naturalization Ceremonies](#) (multiple locations):** National Park Service and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will hold naturalization ceremonies in seven national parks: Biscayne National Park, National Mall and Memorial Parks, Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail, Grand Canyon National Park, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, and Women's Rights National Historical Park.

Bringing Parks to the People

- **NPS Centennial Celebrations at MLB & AAA Baseball Games**
 - **8/7 [Public Lands Night at the Albuquerque Isotopes](#) (NM)** Celebration of New Mexico public lands with the local AAA team.
 - **8/18 [NPS Centennial Night at Cincinnati Reds](#) (OH)**
 - **8/25 [Washington Nationals Baseball](#) (DC):** Washington Nationals honor National Park Service Centennial.
 - **8/25 [National Park Night at the Diamond](#) (VA):** Richmond Flying Squirrels AA baseball honors the National Park Service centennial with Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site.
 - **8/25 [Norfolk Tides](#) (VA):** Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service.
 - **8/27 [National Park Service Night at St. Louis Cardinals](#) (MO)**
 - **8/27 [Vintage Baseball](#) (KS):** The Wichita Bull Stockings and the Topeka Westerns play 1870s style baseball with vintage uniforms and vintage rules at Fort Scott National Historic Site.
 - **8/28 [Lynchburg Hillcats](#) (VA):** NPS Centennial Celebration
- **8/22 [Find Your Park Exchange Event](#) (NY):** Festival and lighting event bringing Edison National Historical Park to New York City.
- **8/25 [Find Your Park on Fremont Street Las Vegas](#) (NV):** Find Your Park videos and digital displays will play throughout the evening on 1500'x90' digital display as part of the Fremont Street Experience, in partnership with Lake Mead National Recreation Area.

Making History

- **8/13 ["Ho'oku'ikahi" Hawaiian Cultural Festival \(HI\)](#)**: Celebrate the National Park Service 100th and the 225th anniversary of the completion of the temple with Hawaiian arts and crafts at Pu'ukohola Heiau National Historic Site
- **8/13 [Rosie Rally \(CA\)](#)**: Second annual rally of hundreds of women honoring Rosie the Riveter at Rosie the Riveter World War II Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, CA.
- **8/16 – 8/20 [North American Ornithological Conference \(DC\)](#)**: National Park Service is a co-sponsor. 2016 marks the 100th anniversary of the Migratory Bird Treaty between US and Canada.
- **8/21 [Niagara Movement Pilgrimage \(WV\)](#)**: Retrace the footsteps of women and men of Niagara (now NAACP) at Storer College at Historically Black College and University in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park.
- **8/25 [Roosevelt Arch Re-dedication \(WY\)](#)**: Musical performances and ceremonial re-dedication event at Yellowstone National Park.
- **8/25 [Huna Tribal House Grand Opening \(AK\)](#)**: Park and tribal partners celebrate the opening of a traditional building with a festival at Glacier Bay National Park.
- **8/25 [Time Capsule at First Light \(NV\)](#)**: Time capsule burial and "First Light" for the Great Basin National Park Observatory. Special guest speaker and astronomy programs.

Celebrating Together

- **8/6 [Hoover's Hometown Days \(IA\)](#)**: Large community parade, fireworks, and festival at Herbert Hoover National Historic Site.
- **8/6 [Ice Age National Scenic Trail / John Muir Centennial Event \(WI\)](#)**: Festival with children's art exhibit, workshops, hikes and poetry recitation by Wisconsin State Poet Laureate.
- **8/20 [Parks in the Pines Birthday Bash \(AZ\)](#)**: National and State Parks of Arizona will host joint celebration and public fair in Flagstaff with the Arizona Office of Tourism.
- **8/20 [Mount Rushmore Find Your Park Festival \(SD\)](#)**: Festival spotlighting the national parks of South Dakota and the 75th anniversary of the completion of Mount Rushmore with entertainment, ranger programs and activities held in the Rapid City Main Street Square.
- **8/20 – 8/21 [Centennial Celebration Weekend & Day of Service \(OH\)](#)**: Cuyahoga National Park concert, outdoor activities and large-scale day of service event.
- **8/20 [Confluence Festival \(WV\)](#)**: Music festival including rock, bluegrass, folk music celebrating music heritage and national parks at **Harpers Ferry National Historical Park**.
- **8/24 [Founders Day Concert with West Point Military Academy Band \(NY\)](#)**: at Vanderbilt Mansion National Historic Site.
- **8/25 – 8/28 Grand Canyon National Park Founders Day Celebration (AZ)**: Park-wide celebration with food, special programs, [train exhibit](#), naturalization ceremony and [concert](#).
- **8/27 Centennial Family Festival on the National Mall (DC)**: The national park in the heart of the nation's capital will host a family fun day at Constitution Gardens in celebration of the National Park Service 100th anniversary.
- **8/29 [National Parks Day at the Minnesota State Fair \(MN\)](#)**: Mississippi National River and Recreation Area along with other Minnesota national parks will take over Carousel Park at the State Fair Grounds for special programming and activities.

Centennial Event of the Month

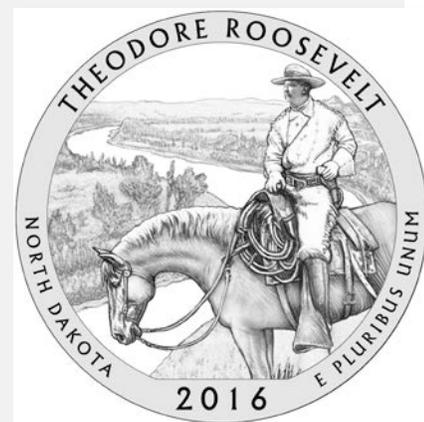
Each month this section highlights a park or program Centennial event. Centennial events can be small and intimate, such as a kids program in the local community, or grand, such as a concert or a naturalization ceremony. Either way, the options are endless with more events being added to the calendar every day. Check the Find Your Park website calendar or your local park calendar for events near you.

Theodore Roosevelt National Park Quarter Launch *Quarter Launch and Coin Exchange*

The release of the Theodore Roosevelt National Park quarter dollar coin—the 34th coin of the U.S. Mint America the Beautiful Quarters® Program—will take place at [Theodore Roosevelt National Park](#) on August 25, 2016, the 100th birthday of the National Park Service. This exciting event will take place at the park's Painted Canyon Visitor Center and Overlook at 10:00 a.m. MDT and is part of the National Park Service's Centennial celebration.

This event is free and open to the public. All children who attend will receive a brand new Theodore Roosevelt National Park quarter from the United States Mint. There will be a coin exchange immediately following the ceremony where coins can be obtained for face value (1-roll minimum / 10-roll maximum, cash only).

The design of the quarter depicts a young Theodore Roosevelt on horseback surveying the Badlands terrain near the Little Missouri River in North Dakota. It was in North Dakota that Theodore Roosevelt reflected on human impacts to the remote spaces of the American West. Roosevelt's experiences in North Dakota inspired his first ideas of conserving our country's lands, wildlife, natural resources, and scenic wonders.



".....Nothing could be more lonely and nothing more beautiful than the view at nightfall across the prairies to these huge hill masses, when the lengthening shadows had at last merged into one and the faint after-glow of the red sunset filled the west. The beauty and charm of the wilderness are his for the asking. For the eons of the wilderness lie close beside the beaten roads of the present travel...."

-Theodore Roosevelt



During his presidency (1901-1909), Roosevelt provided federal protection for more than 230 million acres of land. After Roosevelt's death in 1919, his conservation legacy prompted national interest in establishing a memorial to honor his work; North Dakota was the natural location. The park was first created as a wildlife refuge in 1946, then became Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park in 1947, and was finally re-designated as Theodore Roosevelt National Park on November 10, 1978.

Watch this YouTube video to learn more about the design: <https://goo.gl/hfZ0NC>

For more information visit: www.nps.gov/thro or www.usmint.gov/pressroom/?action=events

National Park Service Partners with Smithsonian *Exhibition Will Highlight Partnership Work in Parks*

The National Park Service (NPS) and the Smithsonian are celebrating the NPS centennial with the opening of a new photography exhibit, “100 Years of America’s National Park Service: Preserve, Enjoy, Inspire,” at the National Museum of Natural History on August 4, 2016.



One of the photos in the exhibit features a Junior Ranger joining the National Park Service’s Underwater Explorer Junior Ranger Program Coordinator Jessica Keller to explore the healthy corals of Little Africa, a pristine reef at Loggerhead Key in Dry Tortugas National Park, Florida in 2014. Photo by Brett Seymour, NPS Submerged Resources Center.

The exhibition includes more than 60 images from 53 national parks across the country, including national monuments, historic sites, battlefields, lakeshores, seashores, and others. The images were captured by 18 award-winning photographers, including Stan Jorstad and Carol M. Highsmith. National Museum of Natural History visitors will be able to view more than 60 park visitor-submitted photos displayed on a slideshow, 15 stunning nature panoramas, five National Park Service videos sharing how visitors explore parks year-round, as well as artifacts and specimens collected by Smithsonian researchers from park sites.

The 1,820-square-foot exhibition will also highlight how the Smithsonian has played a role in

the history of the National Park Service, including the establishment of Yellowstone National Park. Research conducted by the Smithsonian has supported the conservation of America’s heritage by the National Park Service.

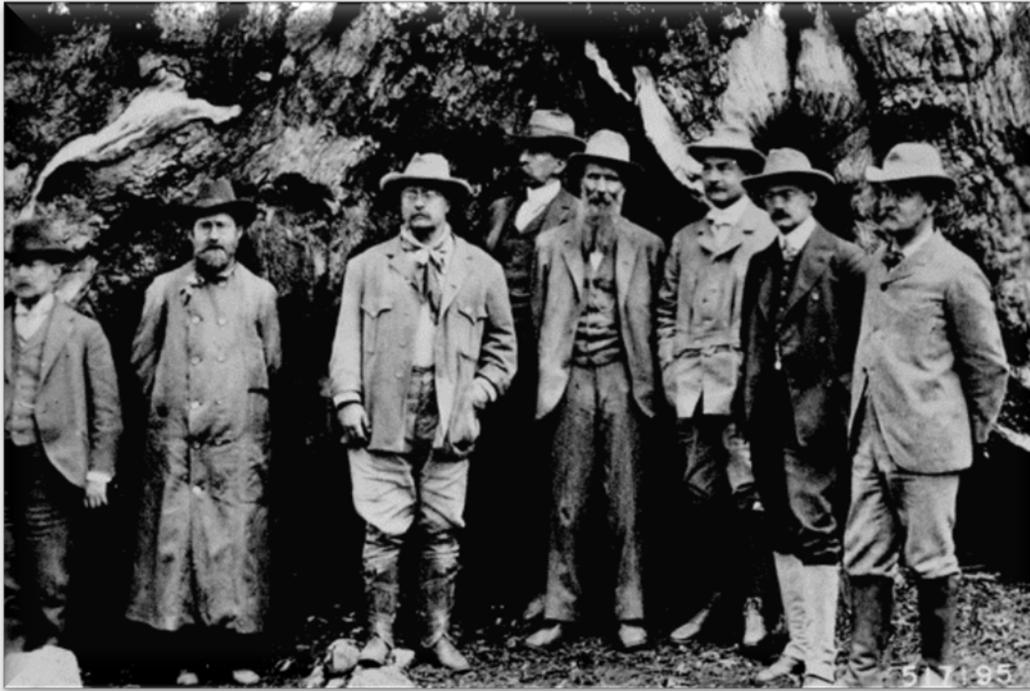
“As the National Park Service celebrates its 100th anniversary, we want to recognize the important work of partner organizations like the Smithsonian that have been engaged with national parks since their establishment, and that continue to help the NPS study and support these extraordinary places,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. “This exhibit brings that partnership to life for visitors to the National Museum of Natural History, and sets the stage for a second century of collaboration and engagement between these two iconic American institutions.”

“America’s national parks are a treasured asset, not only for the millions of visitors they host every year, but also for scholars who study the history of our species and planet,” said Kirk Johnson Sant, Director of the National Museum of Natural History. “The long-lasting partnership between the National Park Service and the Smithsonian has yielded insights into everything from the fossils found in petrified forests, the lives sacrificed on Civil War battlefields, to the flow of wildlife in urban areas.”

Organic continued from Page 1.

Pioneers such as conservationist John Muir and President Theodore Roosevelt, who brought the need to protect certain sites from human interference to public attention in the late 1800s, paved the way for the efforts that would come in the 20th century.

In particular, it was Muir's writing and lobbying in the 1870s and 1880s to educate the public on the intrinsically emotional and spiritual value of protected lands that helped shape the opinions of many important government figures. Muir's contributions led to his informal title as the "father of our National Parks."



John Muir (fourth from right) and President Teddy Roosevelt (center) with park officials during a visit to Yosemite in 1905. (National Archives Identifier 2132678)

In later years, Muir met with President Roosevelt to discuss ways in which the Federal Government could most effectively conserve its most treasured natural wonders. These meetings were influential in Roosevelt's own conservation efforts—while in office Roosevelt designated dozens of national landmarks, several of which were later converted into national parks.

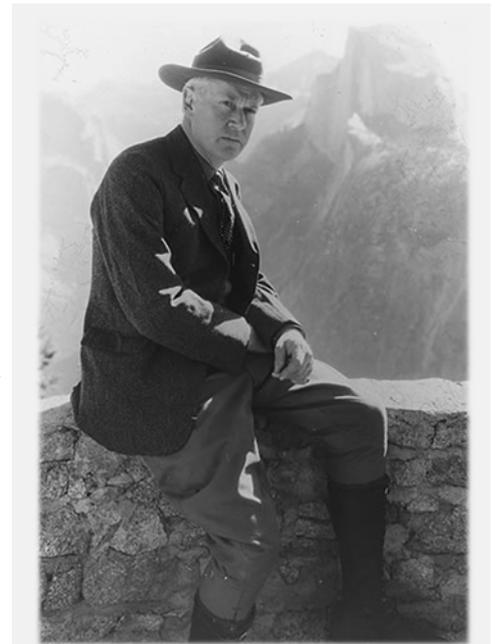
During the 1910s, as industrial and commercial developments continually threatened the preservation of the parks, the need for a central authority to protect park interests became clear. The patchwork system of park management that existed between the U.S. Army, the Department of the Interior, and civilian volunteers threatened the viability of the parks for future generations.

Stephen T. Mather, the eventual first Director of the National Park Service, played an instrumental role in drafting congressional support for a central administrative body to oversee protected Federal lands. Mather, a devoted conservationist, organized a public relations campaign that drew on the influence of business leaders, the National Geographic Society, periodical publications, Washington elites, and the public at large to push for the passage of legislation on this issue.

Mather's efforts worked. Though originally opposed by the adjoining Forestry Department for fear of competing revenue streams, sufficient lobbying by the bill's proponents eventually garnered enough support to pass both chambers of Congress and send the Organic Act to the desk of President Woodrow Wilson. President Wilson signed the bill on August 25, 1916, and the National Park Service was born.

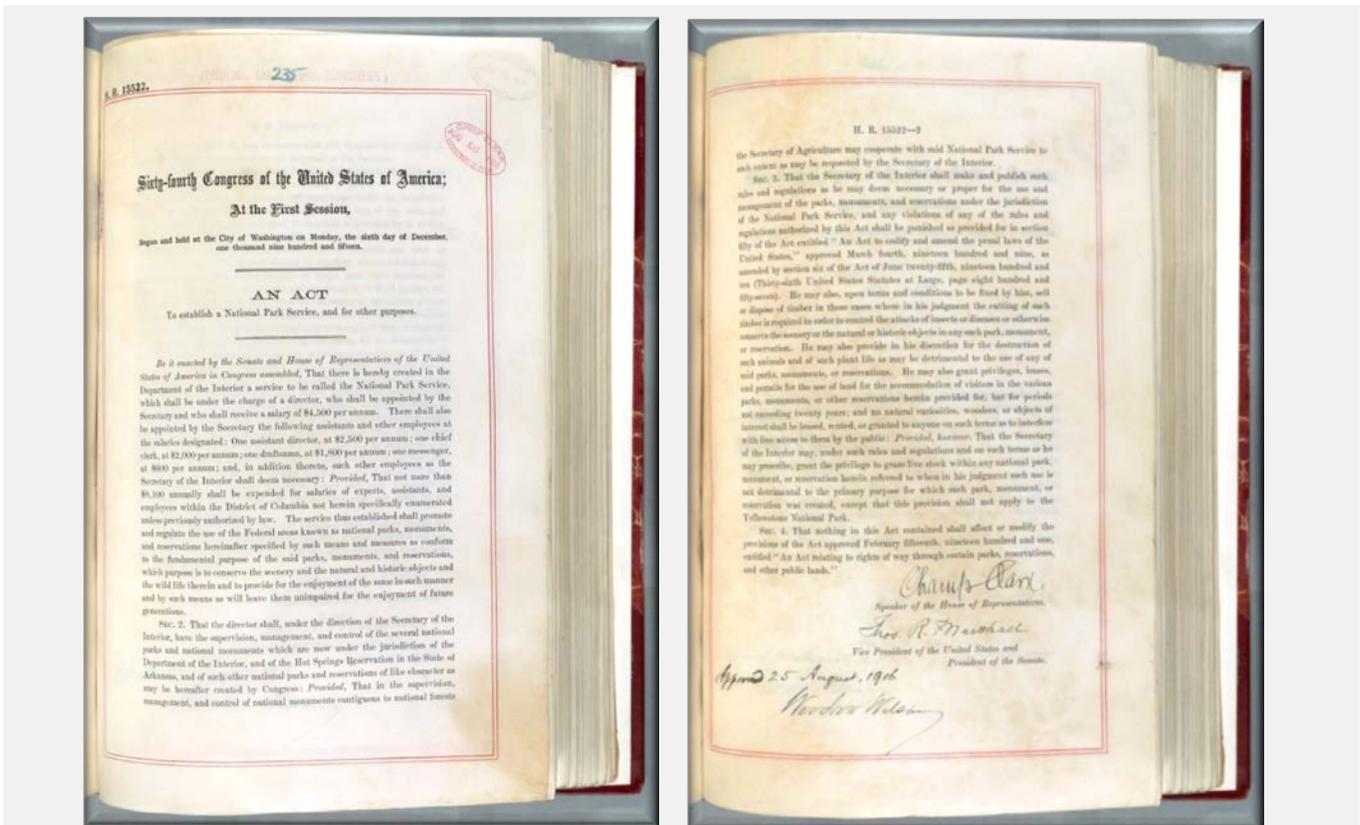
The Organic Act provided for the appointment of a full-time Director of the National Park Service as well as a support staff to manage the parks from Washington, D.C. These employees were to be paid out of a pool of funds appropriated by Congress. Additionally, the Parks Director was tasked with organizing the system of local officials and park rangers that operated each site.

Today the National Park Service employs over 20,000 full time, temporary, and seasonal workers as well as 246,000 volunteers across more than 400 park units. Each year, the National Park Service enables more than 307 million visitors to experience the beauty and wonder of America's protected landmarks.



Stephen T. Mather, first Director of the National Park Service, Glacier Point, Yosemite National Park, 1926. (NPS)

The National Archives will be displaying the Organic Act of 1916 in the [East Rotunda Gallery](#) from June 30 through August 31, 2016. Plan your visit and see the origins of the National Park Service for yourself!



An Act to Establish a National Park Service, 8/25/1916. (General Records of the U.S. Government, National Archives)

Huna Tribal House Grand Opening

Newly Constructed Tribal House Revives Culture and Tradition

By Michaela Caldwell, Intern, Alaska Regional Office

August 25th will be a big day for both the Huna Tlingit and the National Park Service as a traditional tribal house will open in Bartlett Cove, Alaska, in [Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve](#). Glacier Bay has been the home of the Huna Tlingit for countless years, and the tribal house will serve as a place to gather and pass on traditions to future generations.

The Huna Tlingit have a long history of craftsmanship so the NPS and the Hoonah Indian Association have worked hard to ensure the house will provide the necessary features to teach their ancestral skills. Upon completion, the Huna Tlingit will be able to host community workshops to share their knowledge of form line designing, tool making, weaving, and carving with younger members of the tribe.

The tribal house was intricately planned with the traditions of the Huna Tlingit in mind. Carvers have been working on creating four complexly carved and painted house posts, a spectacular interior screen, and an exterior house front panel out of red cedar from Prince of Wales Island, a wood commonly used by the Huna Tlingit. Each post will represent one of the Huna Tlingit original clans- T'akdeintaan, Wooshkeetaan, Chookaneidí, and Kaagwaantaan. Also included in the 2,500 square foot house will be a symbolic fire pit, a large gathering area, a traditional round cedar door, and an attached kitchen for preparing native food.



Rendition and front panel of the tribal house.

Village elders have named the tribal house Xunaa Shuká Hít to represent both their people and the purpose of the house. “Xunaa” refers to the Huna people, “Shuká” references ancestry and history, and “Hit” denotes house. The opening of the tribal house will not only strengthen the tribe’s sense of tradition and unity but also provide an opportunity for park visitors to understand and appreciate the Huna Tlingit culture. For more information visit: <https://www.nps.gov/glba/learn/historyculture/huna-tribal-house-grand-opening.htm>

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Who else is a Congressional Friend of the National Park Service Centennial? You can find a full list of Friends on the [NPS Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs](#) and the [NPS Centennial](#) websites. Know a colleague who may be interested? See our contact below:

Susan Farinelli
NPS Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs
susan_farinelli@nps.gov
202-208-7676
www.nps.gov/legal

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