

CONGRESSIONAL FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL NEWSLETTER



July 2016

Summer Events

There are only a few weeks left of work in Washington and then the summer recess begins! July and August are busy months for the National Park Service. During these months we see the height of our visitation, and to top it off, this year includes our centennial. We realize that you may not be monitoring your email in August but we encourage you to check back for the August newsletter that will highlight many of the main centennial events happening on Founder's Day on August 25. We expect the newsletter to come out in late July to give you a little time to plan.

Conventions

In the meantime, this July our thoughts may be drifting to the start of recess but not before we look to the presidential nominating conventions. This year, the Republican National Convention will be held in Cleveland, Ohio from July 18-21, 2016, and the Democratic National Convention will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from July 25-28, 2016. Both areas offer incredible opportunities to visit some stellar national park sites so we put together a couple of ideas for you to check out if you are in the area. See pages 4 – 5 for more details.

Get Ready for the Outdoors

NPS Ranger and Centennial Staff Ambassador Kate Kuykendall of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area stars in the fun, animated series "Ask A Ranger." A collaboration between HitRECORD and Find Your Park, these films give tips on the 10 essentials, wild animals, and what to do if you get lost in a park.



Click on the pictures above to learn about:
[Wild Animals](#),
[10 Essentials for the Outdoors](#),
and [Getting Lost](#).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2016

This July we celebrate **Independence Day**. Check your local park for events or visit www.FindYourPark.com and search through the nationwide schedule. The [Find Your Park calendar](#) is continually being updated so keep checking back as new events are added every week.

JULY 2 – JULY 17

WILDFLOWER FESTIVAL

CEDAR BREAKS NATIONAL MONUMENT

UTAH

COME VIEW THE SPECTACULAR WILDFLOWERS ON A GUIDED HIKE.

WWW.NPS.GOV/CEBR

JULY 17

DAWN OF THE BATS

CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK

NEW MEXICO

EARLY MORNING BAT RETURN EVENT WITH SPECIAL TOURS AND VARIED EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

WWW.NPS.GOV/CAVE

JULY 16 - 24

LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK

NATIONWIDE

LATINO CONSERVATION WEEK IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS, CHURCHES, LOCAL, STATE AND NATIONAL PARKS, AND AGENCIES TO PLAN EVENTS FOR THE LATINO COMMUNITY TO HAVE FUN, LEARN, AND ADVOCATE FOR THE GREAT OUTDOORS.

WWW.LATINOCONSERVATIONWEEK.COM

JULY 17 - 23

CELEBRATING GREAT PEOPLE AND GREAT PLACES

GREAT BASIN NATIONAL PARK

NEVADA

GREAT BASIN AND THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY HOST SPECIAL INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS AND CAVING EVENTS.

WWW.NPS.GOV/GRBA

JULY 22

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK BIOBLITZ

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

MAINE

OVER THE COURSE OF 24 HOURS BIOLOGISTS AND CITIZEN SCIENTISTS WILL CONDUCT A RAPID ASSESSMENT OF BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS, DOCUMENTING SPECIES OCCURRENCE, PROVIDING ESTIMATES OF SPECIES RICHNESS, AND IDENTIFYING RARE AND UNIQUE SPECIES.

WWW.NPS.GOV/ACAD

JULY 23

CANOE THE MONOCACY

MARYLAND

FREDERICK COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION IS OFFERING THIS FIRST-OF-ITS-KIND CANOE/KAYAK TRIP ON THE MONOCACY RIVER WITH A RIVER GUIDE AND RANGER. THIS FLOAT TRIP IS UNIQUELY DESIGNED TO DISCUSS STRATEGIC PARTS OF THE BATTLE FROM A COMPLETELY NEW PERSPECTIVE.

WWW.APM.ACTIVECOMMUNITIES.COM/FREDERICKCNTYPARKSANDREC

JULY 30

NATIONAL BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL: FAMILY DAY / CULTURE FEST

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
GEORGIA

VISIT THE HISTORIC SWEET AUBURN DISTRICT TO LEARN ABOUT AND PARTICIPATE IN ART AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

[HTTP://NBAF.ORG/FAMILY-DAYCULTURE-FEST/](http://NBAF.ORG/FAMILY-DAYCULTURE-FEST/)

FIND YOUR PARK

FINDYOURPARK.COM

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.

American Solar Challenge *1,900 Miles, 7 States, 9 National Parks*

By Imani Love, NPS Midwest Regional Office Intern through the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Initiative

To showcase science innovation and celebrate the centennial, the National Park Service has partnered with the Innovators Educational Foundation to host the 2016 American Solar Challenge. Solar-powered cars, designed and built by collegiate teams from over 25 universities, will compete in a 1,900-mile rally to nine national parks in seven Midwestern states. The competition commences Saturday, July 30, at Cuyahoga Valley National Park and finishes Saturday, August 6, at Wind Cave National Park.



Since its inception in 1916, the National Park Service has been a world leader in conserving natural and cultural resources. The American Solar Challenge is an opportunity to engage the public in conversation about environmental stewardship, green technology, and climate change. Traveling exhibits and hands-on activities will foster dialogue for children and adults about the causes and effects of climate change. Visitors will gain knowledge and tools to create positive change in their home, work, and school environments to reduce their carbon footprints. The American Solar Challenge serves as more than the showcasing of environmental engineering; it will assist in the transition for community members and future generations to make sustainable practices a permanent way of living.

For more information visit: <http://americansolarchallenge.org>. The challenge will go through the following parks (in order): Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Brecksville, OH; Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, Dayton, OH; George Rogers Clark National Historical Park, Vincennes, IN; Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, St. Louis, MO; Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Republic, MO; Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, Topeka, KS; Homestead National Monument of America, Beatrice, NE; Scotts Bluff, National Monument, Gering, NE; and Wind Cave National Park, Hot Springs, SD.

*Imani Love is a recent graduate of Spelman College receiving a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science. She is working with the National Park Service through the **Historically Black College & University Initiative (HBCUI)** sponsored by the Greening Youth Foundation in Atlanta, GA. For more information about the program visit: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/youthprograms/hbcui.htm>*

What to do during the Republican National Convention

Cleveland, Ohio: July 18 - 21

Two stellar national park sites are a must see during your visit to Cleveland: Cuyahoga Valley National Park and the James A. Garfield National Historic Site.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park

Though a short distance from the urban areas of Cleveland and Akron, the [Cuyahoga Valley National Park](#) seems worlds away. It is the nation's [11th most visited](#) National Park (out of 59) with nearly 2.3 million visits last year, offering a whole new view of the crooked river that is known for catalyzing the Clean Water Act.

- **July 17—7 p.m.**, the night before the Republican National Convention kicks off, the Cleveland Orchestra will perform a patriotic-themed concert at its summer home [Blossom Music Center](#), which is within the boundaries of the national park. The NPS and the Conservancy for the park will be providing activities on the grounds, including a pre-concert dinner for park supporters. More information can be found at <https://www.conservancyforcvnp.org/cleveland-orchestra>.
- The Ohio & Erie Canal [Towpath Trail](#) follows the route of the historic canal, which connected the natural resources of the United States interior with its markets on the eastern seaboard. Twenty miles of the trail occur in the park, but it extends north into Cleveland and south into Akron and beyond as part of the Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway.
- [Brandywine Falls](#) is a 65-foot waterfall that is the most popular single destination of the park. The falls once powered a thriving village, later industry, and eventually an artist's colony.

James A. Garfield National Historic Site

In 1880, James Garfield used his front porch as a platform to greet thousands of well-wishers during his presidential campaign. Today, the porch serves as a gateway to the story of the Garfield family. More information can be found at www.nps.gov/jaga.

- **July 16 & 17—11 a.m.-4 p.m. *Civil War Encampment—Fee Free Days! A National Park Service Centennial Event***
Enjoy a weekend Civil War encampment on the grounds of President Garfield's home. Learn more about camp life, the experience of battle, and future President James A. Garfield's experiences fighting for the Union. Includes family-friendly activities focused on the Civil War. Special activities Saturday night, July 16. All activities and programs are free of charge.
- **July 18—7:30 p.m. *Special Outdoor Showing of PBS American Experience documentary 'Murder of a President,' featuring director Rob Rapley***
PBS broadcast the American Experience documentary *Murder of a President* to great acclaim in February 2016. The film chronicles James A. Garfield's rise to the presidency and tragic assassination. RNC attendees and the general public are invited to come enjoy an evening showing of the film outside on the lawn of President and Mrs. Garfield's home.
- **July 20—5 p.m.-9 p.m. *Evening Tours of the Garfield Home***
James A. Garfield NHS will stay open late this evening for the public to visit and take the guided tour of the Garfield home. The home is uniquely beautiful at night, so come walk the grounds and go through the last house the Garfields lived in before leaving Mentor, Ohio for the White House in 1881. Regular guided tour fee applies (\$7.00 per person ages 16 and over; 15 and under are free).

What to do during the Democratic National Convention

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: July 25 - 28

Philadelphia is the seat of independence and there are numerous sites close to the convention that are easy to get to and fun to visit. Independence National Historical Park is one of over 400 places within the National Park System and is often referred to as the birthplace of our nation. Millions visit the park each year to see the [Liberty Bell](#), an international symbol of freedom, and [Independence Hall](#), a World Heritage Site where



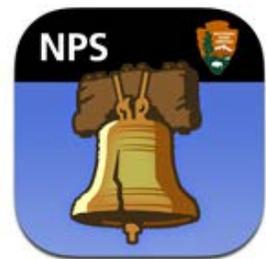
both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were created. The park interprets events and the lives of the diverse population during the years when Philadelphia was the capital of the United States from 1790 to 1800. It is the site of the nation's first executive mansion in which Presidents George Washington and John Adams lived and where nine enslaved people served the first president. Spanning over 50 acres, the park has over 20 buildings open to the public.

Be sure to check out [Independence National Historical Park's webpage](#) or [mobile app](#) for full details.

Independence Mobile App



The NPS
Independence
Mobile App



Search "NPS
Independence" in the App
Store or on Google Play.

NPS photo

Explore Independence National Historical Park - home of Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, and the Benjamin Franklin Museum - with this official National Park Service app. Use it to discover the sites and people of the American Revolution, and the founding of the nation. The app is now available for iOS and Android devices. The app is **FREE**.

Composing in the Wilderness

Composition and the National Parks Field Course

By Michaela Caldwell, Intern, Alaska Regional Office

The beauty of America's national parks has been a source of artistic inspiration for a century or more but that inspiration is frequently associated with photography and painting (think Ansel Adams or Thomas Moran).

Through the National Park Service's Artist-in-Residence program, parks around the country have benefitted from work done during an artist's stay in a park. In Alaska, park managers have grown that program to include classical composers partaking in the "Composing in the Wilderness" field camp (<https://www.nps.gov/dena/learn/historyculture/composition.htm>) and to celebrate the NPS Centennial, there will be a series of concerts focused on the service's inspiring conservation mission.

Each summer in [Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve](#), a small group of classical composers gathers in a historic mining camp near the Yukon River to take inspiration from the 2.5 million acre preserve. They intertwine this material with earlier visits to [Denali National Park](#) and elsewhere to hone their compositions. The result has been a growing body of work inspired by national parks. During the NPS centennial year, these and other compositions will be shared around the country.



2012 participant James Hodson (Melbourne, Australia) taking some inspiration from Denali National Park.

One of the composers most closely associated with the Alaska activities has been Stephen Lias, a composer and professor in Stephen F. Austin State University in Texas. "It has been a surprise and delight to me that so many others have joined in this pursuit - either by creating their own wilderness-inspired music, or through performance or concert attendance."

The season opens on July 25 in Fairbanks, Alaska, as part of the Fairbanks Summer Arts Festival with a series of chamber music performances by Wild Shore New Music <http://www.wildshore.org/events>. After additional Alaska performances, the group heads south to New York City's [Federal Hall](#) for a performance on August 23, and then to [Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts](#) in Virginia for a show on the NPS centennial Founder's Day, August 25.



Composers spend a few days at Coal Creek in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. A historic gold dredge is among the historic buildings in the area.

In the fall, Alaska will have two full symphony orchestra performances highlighting the centennial. On October 2, the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra is scheduled to perform a centennial-themed concert including Denali and Gates of the Arctic pieces by Lias. The musical performance will be accompanied by choreographed images of the national parks <http://www.fairbanksymphony.org/current-season>. On November 12, the Anchorage Symphony Orchestra's program "Symphonic Vistas" will feature the Grand Canyon Suite, Lias' "Glacier Bay" and other works.

America's National Parks Valued at \$92 Billion

Study by Professors from Colorado State University and Harvard Kennedy School

Recently, the National Park Foundation (NPF) announced the first-ever study providing a comprehensive economic valuation of America's national parks and the programming provided by the National Park Service (NPS). The study, conducted by Professor John Loomis and Research Associate Michelle Haefele, both at Colorado State University, and Professor Linda Bilmes of the Harvard Kennedy School, determined the total economic value (TEV) of national parks and the National Park Service's programs to be \$92 billion.



Sunset at Oregon Caves National Monument & Preserve, Oregon.

The study, a reporting of total economic value, clearly demonstrates the public's shared perception of the incredible benefits of national parks and programs, whether they personally visit parks or not. In fact, 95% of the American public said that protecting national parks for future generations was important and 80% would pay higher federal taxes to ensure the protection and preservation of the National Park System.

The methods used in this total economic value study are fully consistent with other valuation efforts within the federal government to analyze proposed regulations, evaluate environmental compliance alternatives, quantify losses of natural resources from oil spills, and other purposes. This study was peer-reviewed and will be submitted for publication in academic journals.

Different from the National Park Service [Visitor Spending Effects](#) model that describes the benefits that accrue to surrounding communities through sustained economic activity and jobs, this study estimates a value to national parks and National Park Service programs such as the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the National Natural Landmarks Program.

This study is part of a larger study of the value of the National Parks led by Bilmes and Loomis that is looking at the value of ecosystem management, intellectual property creation, education and other aspects of value. See other studies in the series:

[Carbon Sequestration in the U.S. National Parks: A Value Beyond Visitation—Summary](#)

[Carbon Sequestration in the U.S. National Parks: A Value Beyond Visitation](#)

[The Value of America's Greatest Idea: Framework for Total Economic Valuation of National Park Service Operations and Assets](#)

The full study can be read [here](#).

National Park Service Welcomes Dr. Sonia Sanchez as NPS Centennial Poet Laureate

As part of its centennial commemoration, the National Park Service announces its designation of award-winning author, poet, and lecturer Dr. Sonia Sanchez as the poet laureate of the NPS Centennial. Sanchez will bring her powerful blend of art and activism to share the message that, in addition to breathtaking landscapes, the national park system includes places of cultural heritage and the struggle for social justice and civil rights -- places of inspiration, dialogue, and healing.

Sanchez has said, "I write to keep in contact with our ancestors and to spread truth to people." As poet laureate, her words about the national park system will reach new audiences that are familiar with her truth. Sanchez was the Laura Carnell Professor of English and Women's Studies at Temple University, and is the recipient of both the Robert Frost Medal for distinguished lifetime service to American poetry and the Langston Hughes Poetry Award. One of the most important writers of the Black Arts Movement, Sanchez is the author of more than 20 books.

"The National Park Service Centennial offers an incredible opportunity to invite new audiences to connect with the natural and cultural icons that we care for, especially sites of social and civic challenge and progress," said Jonathan B. Jarvis, director of the National Park Service. "Dr. Sanchez inspires all of us with the power of her message of justice and empowerment, community, and the power of place.

We are honored that as Centennial Poet Laureate, she is helping us extend the Find Your Park invitation to people around the world who are inspired by her life and work."

The NPs recently welcomed Sanchez as poet laureate during a series of programs co-hosted by New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park and Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve during the Essence Festival in New Orleans.



Dr. Sonia Sanchez. Photo courtesy of Dr. Sonia Sanchez.

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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