

# CONGRESSIONAL FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CENTENNIAL NEWSLETTER



October 2015

## Congressional Friends Surpass 100 Members

The National Park Service is excited to announce the Congressional Friends of the National Park Service Centennial has surpassed 100 members! As of October 5, 2015, the group has 103 members. The group is politically and geographically diverse. It includes freshmen and elder statesmen. It has members who have large parks in their districts, and members who have no parks at all. What the Congressional Friends have in common is a deep regard for the natural and cultural treasures under the stewardship of the National Park Service and a desire to be part of the effort to cultivate the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. We want to thank everyone for their support, and we look forward to an exciting year ahead.

Already a Friend and looking for ways to get involved? The options really are limitless. A fun and easy way to get involved is to share the **Find Your Park** Centennial message with your constituents. Let them know how they can **Find their Park** by creating a **Find Your Park** story. This can either be a short video or photo/story of a member talking about their favorite park or program. These posts can be shared widely on social media as well as on [FindYourPark.com](http://FindYourPark.com). Other activities for the Congressional Friends can be tailored to make promoting the Centennial fit with the kinds of activities that members of Congress already do. For example, if members are holding a town hall meeting or speaking to a high school civics class, they might invite a Park Service ranger to talk about the NPS Centennial. If they are meeting with an editorial board, they might include a few words about what the NPS is doing to cultivate new park visitors and supporters. If they are looking for a subject for a House or Senate floor speech, or an insert for the *Congressional Record*, or a subject for their websites or Twitter feeds—how about talking about the great experience of visiting a national park in their state or district? For more information on getting involved or learning more about the group, contact Susan Farinelli at [susan.farinelli@nps.gov](mailto:susan.farinelli@nps.gov) or 202-208-7676.

The list of Congressional Friends of the National Park Service Centennial is posted on both the [Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs](#) and the [Centennial Partners](#) websites.

### Co-Chairs of the Congressional Friends of the National Park Service Centennial



Rep. Rob Bishop



Rep. Raul Grijalva



Rep. Dave Reichert



Rep. Ron Kind



Sen. Rob Portman



Sen. Barbara Boxer

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### OCTOBER 2015

October celebrates fall, family, and is the NPS month to celebrate Every Kid in a Park. Check your local park for events or visit [FindYourPark.com](http://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.

OCTOBER 1, 2015 – OCTOBER 1, 2016

#### **I WILL WALK 2,000 MILES: CLATSOP COUNTY CHALLENGE**

LEWIS AND CLARK NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

ASTORIA, OR

A CHALLENGE TO FORM TEAMS OF 5-10 MEMBERS AND WALK 2,000 MILES OVER THE NEXT 365 DAYS.

[WWW.NPS.GOV/LEWI/PLANYOURVISIT/I-WILL-WALK-TWO-THOUSAND-MILES](http://WWW.NPS.GOV/LEWI/PLANYOURVISIT/I-WILL-WALK-TWO-THOUSAND-MILES)

OCTOBER 5

#### **WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT DEDICATION**

WACO MAMMOTH NATIONAL MONUMENT

WACO, TX

FORMER FIRST LADY LAURA BUSH, SECRETARY SALLY JEWELL, AND DIRECTOR JON JARVIS WILL HOLD A DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THE NEW NATIONAL MONUMENT.

[WWW.NPS.GOV/WACO](http://WWW.NPS.GOV/WACO)

OCTOBER 8

#### **HUMANA SENIOR SKIP DAY**

NATIONWIDE

SENIORS CAN SKIP OUT ON THEIR DAILY ROUTINE TO ENJOY A HEALTHY DAY AT A NATIONAL PARK!

[WWW.NPS.GOV/SUBJECTS/PARTNERSHIPS/SENIOR-SKIP-DAY](http://WWW.NPS.GOV/SUBJECTS/PARTNERSHIPS/SENIOR-SKIP-DAY)

OCTOBER 14

#### **NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY**

NATIONWIDE

A DAY TO PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND STEWARDSHIP OF FOSSILS.

[WWW.NATURE.NPS.GOV/GEOLOGY/NATIONALFOSSILDAY](http://WWW.NATURE.NPS.GOV/GEOLOGY/NATIONALFOSSILDAY)

OCTOBER 15

#### **NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT 49<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

NATIONWIDE

ON OCTOBER 15, 1966, PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON SIGNED THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT INTO LAW.

[WWW.NPS.GOV/SUBJECTS/HISTORICPRESERVATION/NHPA-50](http://WWW.NPS.GOV/SUBJECTS/HISTORICPRESERVATION/NHPA-50)

OCTOBER 15

#### **PUMPKIN SUNDAY**

GRANT-KOHR'S RANCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

DEER LODGE, MT

ENJOY THE FALL SEASON WITH THEMED ACTIVITIES FOR KIDS AND PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES FOR VISITORS OF ALL AGES.

[WWW.NPS.GOV/GRKO](http://WWW.NPS.GOV/GRKO)

OCTOBER 17

#### **SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS OFFICIAL WORLD HERITAGE INSCRIPTION CEREMONY**

SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

SAN ANTONIO, TX

SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS WILL BE OFFICIALLY INSCRIBED AS A WORLD HERITAGE SITE.

[WWW.NPS.GOV/SAAN](http://WWW.NPS.GOV/SAAN)

OCTOBER 17

#### **PICNIC IN THE PARK**

SAGUARO NATIONAL PARK

TUCSON, AZ

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS MATCHES WILL BE COMING FOR A RANGER GUIDED HIKE, LUNCH, AND TO EXPLORE THE PARK FOR THE DAY.

[WWW.NPS.GOV/SAGU](http://WWW.NPS.GOV/SAGU)

# FIND YOUR PARK

FINDYOURPARK.COM

# National Historic Preservation Act

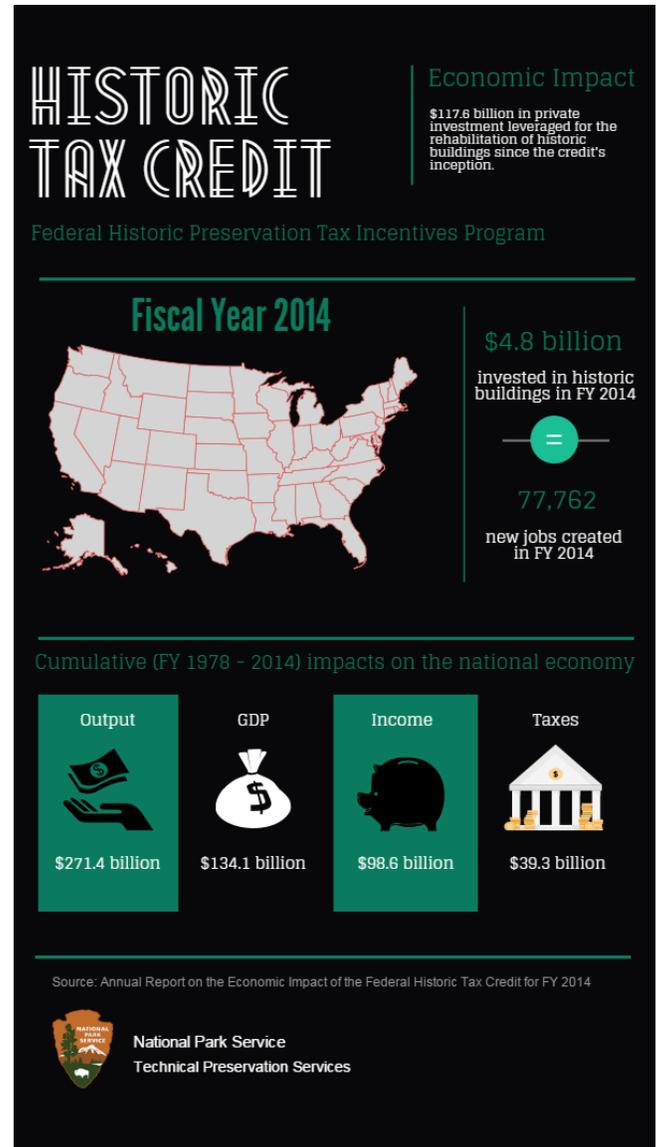
On October 11, 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed into law the [National Historic Preservation Act \(NHPA\)](#). In response to the destruction of older buildings and neighborhoods in the immediate post-World War II years, the NHPA signaled America's commitment to preserving its heritage. The NHPA established the framework that focused local, state, and national efforts on a common goal – preserving the historic fabric of our nation.

The National Historic Preservation Act:

- Fostered the system by which federal agencies survey and identify districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture, and use this information to plan projects so that, where possible, historic places are preserved.
- Established the [National Register of Historic Places](#) as we know it today. The National Register identifies the significant national patrimony and provides federal recognition to properties of state and local, as well as national, significance.
- Created the [Advisory Council on Historic Preservation](#) – charged with advising the President and the Congress on historic preservation matters and working with federal agencies to address historic resources in the fulfillment of their missions.
- Created the [Historic Preservation Fund](#) (HPF) which supports matching grants to states, Certified Local Governments, and Indian tribes for historic preservation surveys, plans, and projects.

2015 marks the 49th anniversary of the NHPA and of the partnership it created. The National Park Service is proud of its role in the partnership, preserving history not only in our 408 national parks but also working with thousands of communities to help preserve places important to local history.

The [Historic Tax Credit Program](#) relies on the State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) to advise and assist in the evaluation of proposals for rehabilitation projects that may qualify for Federal assistance. The SHPOs are our partner in administering the tax incentives program, and they are the first point of contact for applicants. The HPF helps support the work of the SHPOs to carry out their responsibilities under the NHPA. Click on the infographic above to see how the Historic Tax Credit Program supports your state.



*Click on the infographic above to link to an interactive page where you can find specific information on the Historic Tax Program economic impact by state.*

# Senior Skip Day

[Senior Skip Day](#), a part of Humana’s Find Your Park premier sponsorship, is set for Thursday, October 8, 2015. It is a day created to encourage people 62 years of age and older to skip out on their normal, daily routine to enjoy a healthy day in one of the national parks. On October 8, seniors will have free access to more than 400 national park sites across the United States.

In addition, celebratory events will be held for seniors at Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Biscayne National Park. Seniors and people of all ages will be able to participate in park-related activities and special events like hiking, biking, boat and kayak tours, as well as ranger-led activities, including Monarch butterfly tagging. Activities are free, and seniors can learn more about the special events in each park at on the [NPS Senior Skip Day webpage](#).



“Good times with good friends – that’s what most of us remember about senior skip day in high school. We want to help recapture that carefree feeling of freedom and fun,” said Humana Chief Consumer Officer Jody Bilney. “So many Americans are missing ‘refresh and recharge’ time in this busy day and age. Senior Skip Day gives people a chance to take a break and take in the health benefits of a national park.”

Humana will also offer up to 10,000 free vouchers for lifetime access to the national parks with the Interagency Senior Pass. People 62 years of age or older can download the voucher online through the [HumanaSeniorSkipDay.com](#) website and can redeem the voucher at any National Park Service site that issues The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Senior Pass. The lifetime pass is always available at national park sites for a \$10 fee.

“Natural environments have a direct and positive impact on well-being and the national parks provide

countless opportunities to get active and stay fit outdoors,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. “We are grateful to Humana for bringing awareness to the ways the national parks can help overall health and well-being.”

To download the lifetime pass voucher and find out more about Senior Skip Day, visit [HumanaSeniorSkipDay.com](#).

To discover parks across the country and learn more about National Park Service Centennial events, including healthy park programs, visit [www.findyourpark.com](#).



Visitor and Park Ranger using safe viewing glasses to view a solar eclipse.

## 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.

### National Parks Inspire Musical Performances

The hills are alive with the sound of music! To highlight the connection between artists and parks, [Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve](#) and [Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve](#) are coordinating with National Park Service partners on two separate concert series beginning in 2016. Music lovers who don't want to wait another year for the performance can visit [www.stephenlias.com/gaar](http://www.stephenlias.com/gaar) for a glimpse of this experience.

A symphony concert series will kick off on Sunday, October 2, 2016, on the campus of the



*Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve*

University of Alaska in Fairbanks, with tentative plans to expand to Anchorage. The performance, featuring the Fairbanks Symphony Orchestra and the music of Stephen Lias, will feature both contemporary and traditional classical compositions inspired by national parks, including Gates of the Arctic, Denali, and Grand Canyon. The concert will include a projection of still and video images from these and other national parks.

A chamber music concert series is also planned featuring original musical compositions created in the remote settings of Denali National Park and Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve by participants of the highly regarded "Composing in the Wilderness" program. These performances will be selected and performed by the Brooklyn, New York-based ensemble "Concert Black". Chamber concerts are slated to be held in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Homer, Alaska, as well as [Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts](#) in Virginia on Founders' Day, August 25, 2016. To learn more about the inspiration behind this music, visit the National Park Service's [Artist-in-Residence website](#).



[www.everykidinapark.gov](http://www.everykidinapark.gov)

## Every Kid in a Park!

Last month President Obama announced the [Every Kid in a Park](#) program which aims to get every fourth grader in America out to visit our public lands. Over the past month almost 900,000 vouchers were downloaded from the website, showing us that kids have accepted the invitation, and are excited about this new opportunity to learn about America's natural wonders and historic sites.

Fourth graders and their families across the country are exploring, experiencing, and learning what our nation's public parks, lands and waters have to offer.

### Transportation Grants!

In support of Every Kid in a Park, the [National Park Foundation](#) is raising funds to help connect fourth graders to America's federal public lands and waters through transportation grants.

As part of the Foundation's [Open Outdoors for Kids](#) program, the [Every Kid in a Park transportation grants](#) seek to remove barriers to accessing our nation's public lands and waters, with a special focus on underserved and urban communities.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, October 9**



*NPS Director Jon Jarvis handing out free passes to fourth graders at an Every Kid in a Park event at Rock Creek Park in Washington, DC.*

### 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 [National Park Service Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs](#) website. Know a colleague who may be interested? See our contact below:

Susan Farinelli  
NPS Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs  
[susan\\_farinelli@nps.gov](mailto:susan_farinelli@nps.gov)  
202-208-7676

### Follow Us!

