

National Park Service
U.S Department of the Interior

Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science
Interpretation, Education and Volunteers



Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Commemoration Summary Report

WOMEN'S VOICES WOMEN'S VOTES

FOREWORD

In 2020, we celebrated a key milestone for women’s contributions to a thriving democracy and the hard-won right for some women to vote. Just as importantly, this anniversary commemorated and highlighted the discrimination and exclusion within this landmark moment in United States history.

Complete history tells of struggles and defeats as well as victories. It shows us not only historical figures we want to emulate and admire, but also those whose values fall short of democratic ideals. Guidance for this commemoration boldly and plainly emphasized that women of many races, religions, and class backgrounds were key leaders in the suffrage movement; that some white suffragists used racist tactics to advance their cause; and that many women of color continued to face exclusion from voting even after ratification. Our employees and audiences demanded that these stories be told in full. Any commemoration that did not emphasize the role of women of color in the suffrage movement and the persistence of barriers to the ballot after 1920 would have been a failure.

The National Park Service owes an enormous thanks to all who made the 19th Amendment Centennial meaningful and memorable. Scores of people committed collateral duty time to ensure its success and showed special dedication and resilience when a global pandemic threatened to obscure this vital commemoration. The creativity, bravery, innovation, and passion of 19th Amendment anniversary program leadership and participants is a credit to all. It is proof of the growing voice and power of women in our agency and society.

Joy Beasley

Associate Director
Cultural Resources, Partnerships & Science

Tom Medema

Associate Director
Interpretation, Education and Volunteers

Table of Contents

FOREWORD	2
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
INTRODUCTION	6
19th Amendment to the United States Constitution:	6
VISION & GOALS	8
Vision Statement	8
Commemoration Goals	9
ORGANIZATION, PLANNING, AND PREPARATION	11
National Working Group and Sub-Groups	13
Staffing	16
Staff Learning and Development	19
IMPLEMENTATION	22
Communication	23
Digital Strategy	24
Interpretive Themes, Audiences, and Tips for Connection	26
Partnerships and Collaboration	29
Thanking Participants	33
RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC	35
PRODUCTS	37
Handbook	37
Eastern National Products	37
Digital Content	38
PROGRAMMING	45
National Programming	45
Signature Parks	51
Region, Park, and Program Activities	55
Social Media	55
LESSONS LEARNED AND LOOKING FORWARD	66
Lessons Learned	67
Looking Forward	70
Appendices List	71

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment was formally adopted as part of the US Constitution. The right to vote in the United States could no longer be denied on the basis of sex. In 2020, the nation and the National Park Service observed the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. The NPS joined other organizations in telling a more diverse and complex story of the women's suffrage movement, acknowledging the importance of women of color in the movement, the presence of racism in suffrage organizations, and the women who remained excluded from the vote even after 1920.

Guided by a robust early visioning process, a flexible and staff-driven Working Group led by National Coordinator Megan Springate in the Cultural Resources Office of Interpretation and Education oversaw planning for the Commemoration. The vision statement read:

"In recognition of the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution that secured women the vote, the National Park Service and its partners will explore the complex stories of women's suffrage within the interwoven contexts of civil and political rights for all Americans. At national park sites, in our programs, and working with our partners in communities throughout the nation, we will seek to engage all Americans in recognizing and celebrating the contributions of women throughout our shared history."

In partnership with two signature parks -- Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York and Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument in Washington, DC -- the Working Group developed interpretive themes and physical and digital products; collaborated on communication and digital strategy; provided learning and development opportunities for staff and partners; and developed relationships with internal and external partners. Its structure allowed participants to work together across parks, programs, regions, and job titles, and created flexibility that proved crucial when responding to the unforeseen events of 2020.

The Covid-19 pandemic disrupted much of the careful planning for the Commemoration, but parks and programs did an admirable job of adapting and finding a way forward, especially using digital tools and social media to reach broader audiences. The strategies deployed in responding to the pandemic restrictions represent important resources for future commemorations.

Programming organized at the national level included posters by Harpers Ferry Center; the Girl Scouts of America limited edition commemoration patch; the wearing of the “Jailed for Freedom” Suffrage Pin as a new uniform item from August 1-31, 2020; and the “Forward Into Light” illumination project on August 26, 2020, in collaboration with the Women’s Suffrage Centennial Commission (WSCC). Lasting products from the commemoration included an official Handbook; four podcast series; two public art projects in collaboration with WSCC; and a vast amount of digital women’s history content for NPS.gov, including two subject sites, extensive new content on park websites, and nearly 450 new elements of shared content. The National Park Foundation honored the 19th Amendment Centennial with a new Women in Parks Fund to support a new Women in Parks Initiative. In an inaugural round of grantmaking announced in August 2020, the fund distributed more than \$460,000 to 23 projects that included oral histories, internships, waysides, public programs, and much more. As of Fall 2021, the NPF continues to raise money through this fund.

By supporting and encouraging participation at varying levels of commitment—from social media posts through fully-fabricated exhibits and new interpretive programs—the Commemoration achieved a high rate of participation. At least 300 NPS units participated, as well as 15 National Historic Trails, 6 National Scenic Trails, 10 partner organizations, 29 programs, and 7 regional offices. This impressive level of involvement has established a base of knowledge about and interest in women’s history across the NPS that will hopefully serve as a foundation for future work. Because parks and programs reach every county and parish in every state and territory, NPS had the opportunity to tell a truly national story built from local histories in places across the nation.

Conducted under the unprecedented circumstances of 2020, the lessons learned from 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration reinforce the importance of telling a full and complete story of US history, connecting our storytelling to NPS places, and building strong relationships and an attitude of resilience that can support the agency in responding to unforeseen events.

INTRODUCTION

19th Amendment to the United States Constitution:

“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.”

On June 4, 1919, the 19th Amendment passed in the US Senate after passing in the US House on May 21. It was not until August 18, 1920 that Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify, passing the three-fourths threshold requirement for the amendment to become law. On August 26, 1920 the 19th Amendment was formally adopted as part of the US Constitution.

In 2020, the nation observed the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. Its ratification meant that the right to vote in the United States could no longer be denied on the basis of sex. Ratification represented a huge victory for the suffrage movement. But it was also only one point on a long and winding path toward full civil and political rights for everyone in America.

The NPS joined other organizations and agencies in telling a more diverse and complex story about the suffrage movement than traditionally had been offered. Content on NPS.gov and in commemoration guidance emphasized that women of many races, religions, and class backgrounds were key leaders in the suffrage movement; that some white suffragists used racist tactics to advance their cause; and that the barriers to women’s voting continued to stand after the ratification in 1920. The public was not only receptive to this nuance but also demanded it. Any commemoration that did not emphasize the role of women of color in the suffrage movement and the partial nature of its victory would have been a failure.

The National Park Service’s 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration encouraged parks, programs, and partners to participate in the Commemoration by discovering and sharing their stories of historical and contemporary women; uncovering their connections to the 19th Amendment; and exploring civics and the process of social change.

By supporting and encouraging participation at varying levels of commitment—from social media posts through fully-fabricated exhibits and new interpretive programs—the Commemoration achieved a high rate of participation. At least 300 NPS units participated, as well as 15 National Historic Trails, 6 National Scenic Trails, 10 partner organizations, 29 programs, and 7 regional offices. This impressive level of involvement has established a base of knowledge about and interest in women’s history across the NPS that will hopefully serve as a foundation for future work. Because parks and programs reach every county in every state, NPS had the opportunity to tell a truly national story built from local histories in places across the nation.

The global Covid-19 pandemic upended much of the careful planning parks and programs had been doing to prepare for the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration. Although long-planned events were canceled, physical exhibits closed, and many NPS staff teleworked, NPS staff undertook heroic and often very successful efforts to move planned programming online and develop creative ways to reach the public.

VISION & GOALS



The national working group drafted the vision and goal statements with the intent to provide framing for the NPS 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration that was not only thematically specific, but also broad enough that all parks and programs could participate. When crafting these goals, the working group kept in mind the desire for lasting change in sharing women’s histories. The group used “blue sky” sessions to try to imagine the best possible outcomes if there were no limits: that is, if budget and capacity were not factors. This visioning allowed the consideration of new avenues of possibility and fostered transformational work. While many of these ideas were ultimately not possible, the “blue sky” exercise shaped the overall flavor and ambition of the commemorative goals.

Vision Statement

“In recognition of the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution that secured women the vote, the National Park Service and its partners will explore the complex stories of women’s suffrage within the interwoven contexts of civil and political rights for all Americans.”

At national park sites, in our programs, and working with our partners in communities throughout the nation, we will seek to engage all Americans in recognizing and celebrating the contributions of women throughout our shared history.”

Commemoration Goals

Goals for the NPS 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration took three forms: (1) overall goals, which set the foundation for the entire commemoration, and specific sets of goals for (2) public-facing and (3) internal audiences.

Overall Goals

Expand understanding and recognition of this important moment in American history and what it meant to all Americans.

Connect broadly to women's rights and women's history as well as civil rights (that is, history leading up to the Amendment and its effects and repercussions moving forward in time).

Explore the complexity of the fight for the vote: class, race, why fight for the vote in the first place, who was left out, and related questions. This goal presents the opportunity to connect with women's history.

Civics Describe the complexity of how change works in America (protest, law, rights, coalitions, and allies). Share both the wins and the challenges. Recognize that the 19th Amendment did not provide full voting rights to all women nor did it achieve full equality for women.

Goals for the Public

Sustainable Products - Create sustainable products that last and have effects beyond the centennial.

Civics, Voting Rights, and Social Change - Place stories into context of civics and voting rights in the United States including comparing and contrasting various methods that affect social and political change.

Relevance - Provide opportunities for dialogue and connection with civic responsibility, voting rights, citizenship, and women's history that allows participants to reflect on the relevance of these events in their lives.

Goals for the Agency

Improve Tools and Resources - Improve tools and resources for the NPS to tell and incorporate women's history at parks and throughout our programs including (but not limited to) the National Historic Landmark (NHL) program, the National Register of Historic Places, Heritage Documentation Programs (HABS/HAER/HALS), National Heritage Areas, and with our Tribal Partners.

Balanced Representation - Achieve greater balance in representation of women and women's history in parks and programs.

Sustainable Products - Create legacy and sustainable products and programs that survive beyond the centennial. (i.e., NHL nominations, web content, etc.)

Outreach for Diversity - Expand outreach and partnerships with the goal to engage more diverse networks of audiences through a range of media and learning opportunities.

Collaboration - Expand and optimize collaboration among NPS entities, NPS and academics, NPS and partners.

ORGANIZATION, PLANNING, AND PREPARATION

The National Park Service 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration had success due in part to planning that began early and to an organizational structure that remained flexible and responsive as conditions changed. The heart of the effort was the enthusiastic participation of NPS staff from across the Service.

Planning for the Commemoration formally began in January 2017 with a planning and visioning meeting held at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia.

On June 17, 2017 the Acting Director established the 19th Amendment Commemoration National Park Service Working Group to coordinate planning for the Centennial. ([APPENDIX A: Director's Memos](#)) He appointed Megan Springate, Interpretation Coordinator in the Cultural Resources Office of Interpretation and Education, as the National Coordinator. He asked each Regional Director to nominate a representative and assigned the following people to represent senior leadership: Superintendents of Women's Rights National Historical Park, Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument, and Independence Hall National Historical Park; Acting Associate Director of Interpretation, Education and Volunteers; Acting Associate Director of Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science; and Stephanie Toothman, former Associate Director of Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science, as an advisor.

The national coordinator, who led planning and implementation, was based in the Cultural Resources Office of Interpretation and Education (CROIE) in the Washington Area Support Office (WASO), managed by Barbara Little. The purpose of this office is to administer youth programs, develop tools for educators, and help parks and programs connect their stories to national narratives like the 19th Amendment centennial.

In April 2017, Congress passed the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission Act, creating the Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (Pub. L. 115-31, APPENDIX C--S. 847)

"to ensure a suitable observance of the centennial of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment of the Constitution of the United States providing for women's suffrage."

The Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (WSCC) coordinated the effort across federal agencies. Included in the membership of the WSCC were representatives of the Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, and the Smithsonian Institution. Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget at the Department of Interior, represented the National Park Service on the WSCC. Within the NPS, Tom Medema, acting Associate Director for Interpretation, Education and Volunteers (IEV), and Joy Beasley, acting Associate Director for Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science (CRPS), worked with the NPS Office of the Director to issue service-wide commemoration information and served as liaison to Susan Combs and the WSCC.

Planning and implementation overlapped and ran in concert, supported by dedicated staff and a service-wide working group that allowed for maximum flexibility and participation by a wide range of staff and partners. Most of the national planning was finished by June 2019. At that time representatives from every region met in Washington, DC to formally initiate the service-wide commemoration, 100 years after Congress passed the 19th Amendment and set in motion the ratification process (see Implementation section below). As the commemoration unfolded, certain projects popped up that required fast planning and implementation, such as the WSCC's illumination project, "Forward into Light," discussed below.

National Working Group and Sub-Groups

Planning for the commemoration was shaped at the national level by the 19th Amendment Working Group, led by National Coordinator, Megan Springate. To complement specific appointees, the Coordinator created an open invitation for people from across the NPS -- from interns and seasonal hires to superintendents and regional and WASO program staff -- to self-select to join the working group. Recognizing that this work was, for many, collateral duty and that capacity across the NPS was stretched thin, joining the working group did not obligate anyone to attend meetings or take on additional work. Instead, participants were invited to share ideas and collaborate with others (or just listen in), and to take part in working sub-groups as they were interested and able. By inviting NPS employees, contractors, staff, and interns at all levels to participate in centennial planning, the working groups established a shared leadership structure and cultivated an environment where everyone could join in and exchange ideas. This structure was extremely successful in getting people out of normal silos and giving more junior employees an opportunity to have their voices heard and contribute innovative ideas. Over 130 people across the NPS joined the Working Group email list. A full list of those who were part of the Working Group is in [Appendix B: 19th Amendment Working Group Members and Subcommittees](#).

The full Working Group met monthly via telephone. Video meetings were not used, recognizing that bandwidth limitations faced by many in the field would have prevented their participation. Meeting minutes were taken collaboratively within the agenda via online documents. Working sub-groups met on their own schedules. All meeting minutes, working documents, and drafts were available to all working group members throughout the planning process via shared drive. This complete transparency helped to foster an environment of collaboration and encouraged participants to stay engaged and active.

Within the larger Working Group, ad hoc sub-groups formed and dissolved as needs were identified and addressed. The initial draft of the vision statement and goals for the commemoration are examples of this kind of short-term work. Some working sub-groups were established early on, and continued to be relevant throughout the commemoration, including the communications, partnerships, and interpretation working sub-groups. Sub-groups also worked on retail products, programming, trainings and webinars, new research, digital content, the new women's history website, and more. [full list in [Appendix B](#)] As with the larger Working Group, membership in these working sub-groups was voluntary, and people could participate in, join, and leave these sub-groups as needed or desired. This open and flexible approach to planning and organizing was successful, as it allowed participants to contribute according to what capacity they had available. It also helped to avoid hierarchical structures in the planning process, allowing people at different levels and across parks and programs to work together.

One of the first actions by the Working Group was to frame the Vision and Goals that would guide the NPS Commemoration. Based on initial conversations with the entire working group, a sub-group drafted text that was then brought back to the whole working group for discussion and editing. After considerable discussion, consensus on final wording and scope proved impossible, though there was agreement on the essence and intent.

The goals and guidance were considered "working drafts." This designation recognized that, overall, there was general consensus on the direction of the commemoration while specific aspects could evolve as needed. This approach allowed the Working Group to move forward in planning while leaving room to revisit as needed, in case of unforeseen circumstances. This flexibility was of enormous benefit when it became necessary to respond to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.

One of the challenges of a service-wide working group, comprised of a wide range of people who had neither worked together nor met, was to create and sustain a functioning and cooperative group. Developing vision and goals yields a somewhat abstract result, however building something together offers an opportunity for collaboration with a tangible outcome. The “20 Suffragists to Know for 2020” project served this purpose. It built both camaraderie and significant content for the new Women’s History web site. It also encouraged people to perform research and to create people pages as shared content for NPS.gov. To begin this project, the National Coordinator polled the working group and others for names of suffragists to include. From the resulting list of approximately 70 suffragists, the Working Group voted on which would be included in the 20 for 2020 series. The final selection was based on this input, adjusted slightly to consider representation of geography, race, class, ability, and time period. The result was a spotlight on the suffrage movement that included not only famous figures like Susan B. Anthony, but lesser-known suffragists of color, like Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee and Zitkala-Ša; people who fought for voting rights after 1920, like Dolores Huerta and Septima Clark; and reformers like Jane Addams who are more well known for other endeavors, but who also were proponents of suffrage. The racial and ethnic diversity represented in the 20 for 2020 series helped to set an expectation that research and interpretation about the suffrage movement would be as inclusive as representative as possible.

Staffing

The home office for the national coordination of the Commemoration was the Cultural Resources Office of Interpretation and Education in the Washington Support Office, managed by Barbara Little. Megan Springate, Interpretation Coordinator, served as the National Coordinator for the Commemoration from June 2017 until February 2021 when she left the National Park Service.

The National Coordinator carried out and supported a variety of planning and implementation activities included the following:

- Coordinating and leading the national working group for the Commemoration;
- Participating and/or leading task-focused sub-groups of the working group;
- Liaising with internal partners and with external partners;
- Researching, writing, and building NPS.gov original content for the public;
- Developing or supporting the development of products for the public;
- Assisting parks and programs with their Commemoration activities through
 - creating extensive resource material (i.e. the Sharepoint site),
 - providing learning opportunities such as through the webinar series, and
 - encouraging participation at all levels of commitment;
- Collecting data and summarizing activities; and
- Saying thank you by acknowledging the efforts of parks, programs, and partners for the Commemoration.

A national commemoration requires staffing beyond a skilled coordinator and a willing group of NPS staff undertaking collateral duty. Members of the working group shared in many of the above activities. Regions and the signature parks dedicated extensive staff time as well. In addition, the following roles provided national level logistical support, content development, and assistance to parks and programs.

Digital Content and CMS Developer

In 2017, funding from the Northeast Regional Office and WASO CRPS enabled assistance through the Cooperative Agreement between the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) and the National Park Service. NCSHPO engaged a graduate student as an independent contractor to develop both an online Women's History subject site and a new women's history themed travel itinerary for the Discover Our Shared Heritage travel itinerary program. Katie Crawford-Lackey began her work in May 2018. She worked collaboratively with the National Coordinator, the staff of CROIE, and the NPS digital team to create both sites through research, writing, and building in NPS.gov.

19th Amendment Centennial Ranger – 120-day detail

Susan Philpott from Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument served a 120-day detail as the 19th Amendment Centennial Ranger from May to September 2019. During her detail, she worked with the National Coordinator, staff in the Commemoration's home office, the WASO Communication Office, her home park, and others across the service on a wide variety of activities.

Women's History Fellow

With WASO CRPS funding, The American Conservation Experience provided a partner hire to serve as the Women's History Fellow from January 2020 to March 2021. Ella Wagner provided essential support to the National Coordinator. She attended the working group calls and followed up with requests for information and assistance. She collected data, summarized activities using the records of the working groups, and assisted in distributing thousands of thank you commemorative Challenge Coins to parks, programs and partners who participated in the NPS 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration. Ella assisted four parks to provide them with research, writing and assistance with their park-specific research. She worked with park staff to present a webinar and other presentations at both internal and external conferences about effective sharing of women's history. She provided expertise not otherwise available to parks and thereby supported their participation in the Commemoration.

Interns

Talented short-term interns performed a variety of tasks to support the centennial goals. Such work included research to support park interpretation; creating interpretive tours, educational materials, and exhibits; and researching and developing digital content such as articles and story maps for NPS.gov. The Commemoration's central office hosted several interns from 2018 to 2021. In 2019 and 2020 parks had the opportunity to compete for funding assistance to host CRDIP interns thanks to cost-sharing grants from the Interpretation, Education and Volunteers Directorate. Some of these internships were eligible for Direct Hire Authority (DHA). Benefiting parks include Boston NHP, Gateway Arch NP, Haleakalā NP, Klondike Gold Rush NHP, President's Park, Maggie L. Walker NHS, Martin Van Buren NHS, Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation, Women's Rights NHP, and Yellowstone NP. [Appendix C: Internships](#) lists over a dozen interns employed through the Cultural Resources Diversity Internship Program (CRDIP) and the National Council for Preservation Education (NCPE).

NPS Mellon Humanities Fellows

The National Park Foundation (NPF) received a grant from The Andrew H. Mellon Foundation to advance the NPS education mission through new scholarship in the public humanities to help the agency tell a more comprehensive story of all Americans. *The National Park Service Mellon Humanities Fellows: A Trio of Fellowships to Advance the Education Mission Through Scholarship* program recruited in 2017 and fellowships extended into early 2022. Three postdoctoral fellows, each with mentors from both the Interpretation and Cultural Resources directorates, began their fellowships in September 2018. The topics were the Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement, the History of Labor and Productivity, and Gender and Sexuality Equality. The first two Fellows were hosted at WASO and the latter was hosted by the regional office in Philadelphia and was designed in part to assist with the 19th Amendment centennial.

In addition to assisting WORI, the Fellow, Sylvea Hollis, provided a service-wide webinar, “‘Obtain the Ballot and Look Alive...’: Black Women’s Voting Pursuits Before and After the 19th Amendment” in May 2019. The other Fellows incorporated women’s history into their work as well. Sylvea Hollis and Eleanor Mahoney, the Fellow in the History of Labor and Productivity, collaborated together on a project funded through a National Park Foundation grant, that has resulted in a podcast series called “Ballot Blocked” ([Ballot Blocked - Labor History \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)). This six-part series explores histories of voting rights in the United States. Through interviews with historians and other scholars, it traces the uneven and fitful course of suffrage from the period of the Civil War to the present-day. Mia Carey, the Fellow in the Legacy of the Civil Rights Movement, developed a nine-part series on Black Women and the Struggle for Equality ([Black Women and the Struggle for Equality - Women’s History \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)) which highlights stories of Black women connected by an intricate intergenerational network.

Staff Learning and Development

NPS staff had numerous opportunities to learn about the Commemoration and how to participate, to discuss their search for women’s history with others across the Service through the Common Learning Portal, and to perform research with materials available through the Department of Interior Library. They could also learn about the overlooked diversity of the suffrage movement through webinar presentations and from the expanding content on the Women’s History subject site. The availability of current scholarship focused on inclusion made it easier to incorporate diversity into programming. Learning and Development opportunities also opened the possibilities for discovering and interpreting women’s history in parks that had not previously done so, enriching experiences for staff and public alike.

During the planning process and continuing through the Commemoration, all available communication avenues were used to spread the word across the service about the NPS 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration. These included Director’s memos; the Green and Grey newsletter; regional newsletters; Interpretation, Education & Volunteers Connections newsletter; the AD Update for Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science newsletter; InsideNPS; email lists; the Common Learning Portal; WASO COMMS service-wide monthly communications strategy calls; service-wide communications calls by other offices, including NHL and National Heritage Areas; social

media; and webinars. In addition, the National Coordinator developed an extensive Sharepoint site to share resources easily. [See [Appendix D](#) for an example newsletter from IE&V]

Internal Sharepoint Site

The National Coordinator first created the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration Resources on InsideNPS. Due to the change in digital communication services from Google to Microsoft, the site had to be transferred in early 2020 and recreated on an Office365 Sharepoint site. As resources were developed, the Coordinator updated and expanded the site, which served as a “one stop shop” for parks and programs across the NPS looking to take part in the Commemoration.

The sections of the site ultimately developed were: the home page (including news); Vision and Goals; Digital and Communications Strategy and Guidance; History Basics; Webinars (Histories and How-Tos); Women’s History Forum on the Common Learning Portal; Best Practices for History Lessons and Discovery Events (courtesy the national Park History Program); Interpreters Toolkit (courtesy of Region 1); Graphics Resources; About the Virtual Running Club’s Ratification Race; Girl Scout Ranger 19th Amendment Centennial Program; Women of the National Park Service Project; 19th Amendment Podcasts; Forward Into Light – An Initiative to Commemorate the 19th Amendment; Partners and Cooperating Associations; Internal Documents; and Contacts. See [Appendix E: Internal Sharepoint Site Material](#).

Common Learning Portal Women’s History Group

<https://mylearning.nps.gov/groups/womens-history/>

The Common Learning Portal Women’s History Group established a centralized place for discussion and sharing resources related to women’s history.

Research Resources

Access to research database Women and Social Movements in the United States, 1600-2000 was made available to DOI employees behind the firewall, via the DOI Library, starting in Fall 2018.

Webinars

Several 19th Amendment related webinars were offered service-wide. These included both “nuts and bolts” offerings, including overviews of the NPS commemoration and details about the Girl Scout 19th Amendment Ranger program, and historic context webinars presented by subject matter experts. Scholarly webinars focused on the overlooked diversity of the suffrage movement, centering the work of, among others, Black suffragists, labor union women, and queer women. Many of these were organized by the NPS 19th Amendment Centennial National Coordinator, but others also organized webinars for the series, including the Mellon Fellows and the Women’s History Fellow. A list of these webinars can be found in [Appendix F: 19th Amendment Webinar List](#).

IMPLEMENTATION

After more than two years of planning, staff learning and development, and the production of extensive digital content, the service-wide commemoration formally began. All regions and numerous parks and programs were represented at the implementation meeting in June 2019, 100 years after Congress passed the 19th Amendment and set in motion the ratification process.

Approximately 30 people attended the gathering in Washington DC. Representatives from each of the NPS regions; the Office of Communications; Interpretation, Education and Volunteers; Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science; Youth Programs; EEO; several parks, and the National Park Foundation heard from the Director and shared their experiences and plans. A facilitated dialogue by Susan Philpott and Brittany Omoleye-Hall, entitled “Women’s Suffrage in Black and White,” set the tone for an inclusive commemoration that would not shy away from the history of racism. Participants agreed that one of the outcomes of the meeting should be a letter from the Director to encourage servicewide participation. Acting Director Vela sent that letter to all staff via email on November 4, 2019. In it, he wrote:

“To honor the significance of the centennial, by March 1, 2020, I invite every park and program across the National Park Service to help share the complex history of the 19th Amendment, and also women’s history more broadly, by developing 19th Amendment and women’s history content through social media, NPS.gov digital content, and other interpretive products and programs. . . . Together, we will commemorate the role of women in America’s ongoing quest for a more perfect Union.”

The meeting agenda and attendees are available in [Appendix G: 2019 All Region Kick-Off Meeting Materials](#). The Director’s November 4 Memo is available in [Appendix A: Director’s Memos](#).

Communication

The national communications office (WASO COMMS) prepared communications tools and guidance integral to planning and implementation. The goal for NPS communications around the Commemoration was to invite visitors and the public to engage with parks and NPS programs by offering an integrated suite of communications tools to

- position national parks and programs as the go-to places to explore this complex story,
- offer engaging opportunities for exploring these stories, and
- foster opportunities for dialogue and discussion about park and NPS program stories of the struggle for women's suffrage and related issues of civil and political rights for all Americans.

Communications guidance included topline communications messages, an introduction to the Race to Ratification social media campaign, an introduction to the Women's History subject site on NPS.gov (including tags for shared content), and a brief introduction to the social media guidance (including hashtags).

The office also provided – in collaboration with WASO Partnerships – guidance for participating in several of the national level programs. WASO COMMS actively engaged NPS audiences, particularly through pushing out social media engagement pieces for programming and products including the virtual 5k race, podcasts, and others. In addition to providing information on these offerings to the public, these posts were also reshared by parks and programs, providing a way to participate in the commemoration requiring few resources at the park/program level.

They hosted a live Twitter chat in collaboration with WSCC focused on Episode 3: "Truth is of No Color" of the podcast "And Nothing Less." The WSCC and PRX produced this seven-part series to commemorate the Centennial. Episode 3 explores the history of the fight for suffrage as more than a story about women's rights; it is a story about civil rights, as much about race as about gender.

WASO COMMS spearheaded the “Race to Ratification” real-time timeline of the ratification progress of the 19th Amendment. On the 100th anniversary of each state ratifying (or voting not to ratify) the amendment, the national NPS social media accounts carried a short summary, written as though it was happening in real time (that is, as if no one yet knew that eventually the Amendment was ratified and became law). These linked back to 19th Amendment resources on NPS.gov. Entries were written by staff in WASO COMMS, CROIE, and Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument.

For August 2020, the national communications theme was #BeyondThe19th, focusing the centennial of the amendment becoming law on what happened afterwards, including those women, including African Americans, Native Americans, and others who continued to be excluded from the ballot because of their race. As part of the #BeyondThe19th, WASO COMMS created a landing page on NPS.gov that guided visitors to a curated collection of 19th Amendment and women’s history content on the website.

Beginning in 2019, the WASO Communications office connected other monthly communications themes to 19th Amendment/Women’s History content. This continued throughout 2020 and continued into 2021.

Digital Strategy

One of the main goals of the NPS Communication strategy was to position national parks and programs as the go-to places to explore this complex story. Robust digital content was foundational to the NPS Commemoration. NPS was successful because it invested early and made content available both for the public and for the use of NPS staff as parks began to look for ways to participate in the commemoration.

Through a cooperative agreement with NCSHPO, noted above under staffing, NPS created a Women’s History site that would both highlight the 19th Amendment Centennial and be evergreen in centering Women’s history in NPS.gov even after the Commemoration had passed. The site is interlinked with the Telling All Americans’ Stories overarching subject site to maximize its findability. The site [Women’s History \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/women) launched in August 2018. The extensive itinerary, [Travel Where Women Made History \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/travel-where-women-made-history), launched later that year, also in partnership with NCSHPO. One of the lessons learned from the earlier NPS Civil War to Civil Rights Commemoration was to avoid creating a commemoration-specific website but instead to incorporate content into the main site. By designing the site in this way, the intensive workload required

to migrate content from a temporary to a permanent subject website was avoided.

The digital strategy was to use shared content on NPS.gov to incorporate local, regional, and site-specific 19th Amendment and women's histories into our telling of all American's stories. These shared content pieces are then pulled into the Women's History subject site, the 19th Amendment subsite of the Women's History subject site, the Travel Where Women Made History subject site, and others. Shared content is web content that is created once and then used in multiple places across the NPS content management system (CMS). Types of shared content (called elements) include news, events, articles, people, places, things to do, and trip ideas. By tagging shared content, it can be pulled into multiple places. For example, the people page about Helen Keller is tagged women's history, disability history, labor history, medical history, civil rights, voting rights, American Heroes, suffrage, and 20 for 2020. Subject sites about each of those subjects, therefore, can automatically pull in her people page. This lets NPS.gov work smarter, not harder, but also helps to share the complexities of history and of people's lives.

The office provided tags for ensuring that park and program content appears on Women's History, 19th Amendment, and Travel Where Women Made History Subject Sites:

- For general women's history content, the "women's history" tag
- For 19th Amendment-specific content, the "19th Amendment" tag (and the women's history tag, so content appears in both areas)
- For women's suffrage content that is not 19th Amendment specific, the "suffrage" tag
- The above tags are for Things to Do section of the Travel Where Women Made History subject site; tags for other parts of the site include "women and the environment", "women and migration", "women and the economy", "women in government", "women artists", and "women in science"

Tagging news and events "women's history" and/or "19th Amendment" pulled that content into the NPS-wide calendars for news and events.

Interpretive Themes, Audiences, and Tips for Connection

Region 1 took the lead in creating a Women's Suffrage Centennial Interpretive Theme Matrix.

Interpretive themes included:

- **Women, Society, and Power (Context)** - This theme sets context and provides background. It describes the legal status, social forces, political circumstances, and personal and group experiences that brought people together to fight for women's suffrage.
- **Suffrage for Women: The 19th Amendment (The Events and the People)** - This theme considers the major people events, and political social and political changes immediately preceding and following of the passage of the 19th Amendment.
- **Work to be Done - (Legacy and Continued Struggle for Rights)** - This theme is about the impact, relevance, and legacy of the early women's rights movement. It describes how the women's movement continues to evolve and inspire passion and commitment from succeeding generations who continue to fight for the rights of all people.

Targeted Audiences included:

- **Students (targeting Grade 11)** - Develop soon-to-be voters into informed, motivated participants in the U.S electoral system.
- **Life-long Learners** - Re-engage citizens on the importance of voting rights and increase social awareness and empathy for the health of our society.
- **New Voters/ New Citizens** - Provide new voters with background and materials on voting rights in the US.
- **National Historic Landmark Partners** - Increase the number of National Historic Landmarks illustrating the history of the women's suffrage movement including those who fought for it and those who stood against it. Reveal little known stories in the fight for equality, and the value of voting rights.
- **Academic Researchers and Community Partners** - Promote and maintain mutually beneficial relationships and open up avenues of communication for sharing new research and programming to reach new networks of audiences.

Park were provided with many ways to connect to stories of women's rights, reforms, and suffrage.

- **No Obvious Connection to Suffrage?** - If on the surface, a park doesn't seem to have an obvious or direct connection to suffrage, dig a little. There are probably connections to women's rights or civil rights stories that align with these topics.
- **The Other Half of the Story** - Examine the lives, conditions, perspectives, and opinions of the women in park stories. Women are more than half of the population, so they will be there (promise!), although their stories may be hidden or obscured because they have not been included in traditional or mainstream narratives.
- **Women's Perspectives Over Time** - After you find the women in the story, learn about their experiences and perspectives over time--especially issues of class, rights, and suffrage. These perspectives will not be limited to the 19th or early 20th centuries. That makes these women's stories important components of a larger whole and puts the urgency for civil rights reforms and the suffrage movement into context. Every story contributes to the bigger picture.
- **Park Founders** - Many parks -- including many natural resource parks -- were founded, primarily or in part, by women. Did these park founders have opinions about suffrage, reforms, or women's rights? Some of the Silent Sentinels who picketed the White House went on to become activists in the early preservation movement. Does the park have connections to suffrage through the preservation movement?

- Start by Naming Women - The suffrage centennial is an opportunity to pull out from the shadows stories of women who have been there all along. Start by naming them. Then, be conscious and deliberate about how we name them.
 - Do we mention women but refer to them mostly by through their relationships to men (calling them wife, mother, daughter, etc.) or do we refer to them in their own right and by their own names?
 - Do we refer to a woman primarily by a man's name or her name? For example, Mrs. Madison vs. Dolley Madison or Dolley Payne Todd Madison.
 - Begin to notice all the places in exhibits and reports -- especially in NPS reports and official documents -- where we refer to women by their first names but men by their last.
 - For example, Harriet Tubman becomes "Harriet" while Abraham Lincoln is "Lincoln." "Mamie" vs. General Eisenhower or President Eisenhower.
 - If you don't think this is an issue, try turning the tables. Imagine exhibit text written about "Tubman" and "Abe." Does that sound right? Why or why not?
 - For American Indians, do we list English names first or Indian names?
 - Use the suffrage centennial to consider the subtle messages of power and personal agency that the Park Service sends or perpetuates simply based on how we unconsciously name people. (Discuss among yourselves.)
- Integrate Women's Stories into the Mainstream - Does the park tell women's stories but segregate them as secondary, as add-ons, or as extras to the "main" park story? Are exhibit panels about women physically separated from panels about men? It's true than many, many park stories focus on government or the military and those topics have been dominated by stories of men. What would happen if we started to find ways to physically and programmatically integrate women's stories and experiences into the mainstream rather than relegate them to the fringes of exhibits and programming?

Partnerships and Collaboration

Partnerships and collaboration were essential to a successful commemoration. Activities required liaising with partners both internal and external.

Internal partnerships crossed the boundaries of directorates, programs, parks, and regions. The Interpretation, Education and Volunteer (IE&V) directorate and the Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science (CRPS) directorate provided essential support. Within the CRPS directorate, nearly all programs participated or provided support in some way. The WASO Office of Communications, Office of Youth Partnerships, and every region carried out essential roles. The NPS Office of Partnerships and Philanthropic Stewardship contributed knowledge and expertise throughout the commemoration, including being a national contact and thought partner for parks, programs, and regional offices considering partnership opportunities; working with the National Park Foundation in developing, implementing, and awarding Innovation Grants as part of the National Park Foundation's Women in Parks Initiative; working with parks and the National Park Foundation to navigate the Virtual Running Club's 5k Ratification Race; and facilitating collaboration with the WSCC for Forward Into Light, podcasts, and the essay series, "On Their Shoulders: The Radical Stories of Women's Fight for the Vote," originally published by the WSCC as a part of the WSCC blog, The Suff Buffs.

In addition to internal channels, the NPS also worked with outside partners to connect to the larger centennial planning effort. Government agencies and organizations in the Washington, DC area formed a working group early on the process to share ideas and collaborate on planning.

External partners include the National Park Foundation (also see Programming), the WSCC, Eastern National/America's National Parks (see Products), Girl Scouts of the USA (see Programming), the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, and the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience.

National Park Foundation

The National Park Foundation honored the 19th Amendment Centennial with a new Women in Parks Grants fund. This fund “supports projects and programs that help the National Park Service share a more comprehensive and inclusive American narrative that amplifies the voices of women whose vision, tenacity, and resilience moved them to climb mountains, take down barriers, protect the environment, and lead social movements. The initiative will increase awareness about the 19th Amendment’s centennial and raise funds for national parks and park programs that highlight stories of women who made history and continue to shape our future.” The call received over 80 applications, requesting more than \$1.7million.

The first round of grantmaking from this fund supported 23 projects at parks, programs, and regional offices across the country. Project include efforts to improve research and interpretation about historical women in parks, conserve archival and museum collections, record oral history interviews, support women in the contemporary NPS workforce, and much more.

View the full list of projects in [Appendix H: National Park Foundation Women in Parks Grantees](#).

Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission (WSCC)

The WSCC partnered with NPS on several initiatives:

- Forward Into Light. Spearheaded the "Forward Into Light" program, which illuminated buildings across the country in suffrage colors of purple and gold (see Programming).
- "Suff Buffs" Blog Series. "Suff Buffs" was a set of articles by subject matter experts covering the diversity of the suffrage movement. With the closing of the WSCC's website in the fall of 2020, the NPS took over this content and it is now hosted on [the women's history subject site](#) under the title "On Their Shoulders: The Radical Stories of Women's Fight for the Vote."
- Podcasts. The WSCC served as a partner on the podcast series (And Nothing Less, The Magic Sash, and The Agitators) produced by PRX and hosted online by the NPS.
- Handbook distribution. In 2020, the WSCC partnered with the American Library Association (ALA) to send children's suffrage history books to libraries across the United States, ensuring that the story of women's fight for the vote is accessible to learners and future changemakers in diverse communities nationwide. The WSCC selected the National Park Service's 19th Amendment suffrage handbook, *Women Making History: The 19th Amendment*, for high school readers, distributing 6000 books.
- Public Art Project: Ripples of Change Statue. The Commission collaborated with Women's Rights National Historical Park on the "Ripples of Change" commemorative statue in Seneca Falls, sculpted by Jane DeDecker and depicting Laura Cornelius Kellogg, Harriet Tubman, Martha Coffin Wright, and Sojourner Truth). The statue is scheduled to be unveiled in September 2021.
- Public Art Project: Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. The Commission partnered with the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association to build a national memorial in Occoquan Regional Park in Lorton, Virginia, on part of the historic prison grounds where suffragists went to jail for picketing outside the White House in 1917. The Commission contributed statues of suffragists Alice Paul, Mary Church Terrell, and Carrie Chapman Catt to the memorial, and worked with the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service to secure a loan to the memorial of a section of the historic White House fence, in front of which suffragists picketed in the early 1900s. This section of the historic fence will be installed as part of the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, allowing visitors to draw inspiration from this authentic piece of suffrage history.

The full report from the WSCC is available [here](#).

National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers

In 2017, funding from the Northeast Regional Office and WASO CRPS enabled assistance through the Cooperative Agreement between the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers (NCSHPO) and the National Park Service. NCSHPO engaged independent contractors to write a series of scholarly essays on “Women’s Access to the Vote,” and engaged public historian Tamara Gaskell to edit the series. A working sub-group for the essays collaborated with the editor and the scholars. These essays were published on the women’s history subject site and most of them appear in the Handbook published by Eastern National. As noted above under “staffing,” NCSHPO also supported the development of the subject site. More information on all these products can be found in the “Products” section.

The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience

The International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, of which many national parks are individual members, served as a thought partner at several points during the planning and implementation. In October 2019 they facilitated early discussion for the guide for interpreters. In January 2020, to mark the start of the anniversary year and stimulate thinking about meaningful participation, they offered a service-wide webinar, “Making Anniversaries Matter.” In September 2020, after the August centennial had passed, they facilitated a discussion with a sub-group of the national working group, “Keeping the Momentum: Centering Women’s Stories.” Members of the working group have elected to maintain the national working group and meet every month to share information, discuss issues, and ensure that Women’s History remains a focus during the 250th anniversary commemoration and in NPS interpretation in general.

Thanking Participants

An essential component to the implementation of any major project is to

thank participants. Awards are important but so are statements and gestures from leadership.

Message from the National Coordinator to the Working Group, August 28, 2020

This past Wednesday, August 26, 2020 was the centennial of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution being signed into law. You're receiving this email because in some way, you helped make the NPS commemoration of the centennial a success. (Your colleagues told me so! That said, I know there is no way I have everyone's email. Please share and forward to your colleagues who have been involved in any capacity).

Thank you, to each and every one of you, who worked towards commemorating this milestone in US history. For sharing the stories of those who continued to be excluded from the ballot for reasons other than their sex (gender) and their ongoing battle for suffrage and civil rights. For finding and sharing stories of women with connections to your parks and programs on NPS.gov, across social media, and in person. For doing the research. For exploring the complexities of people and history. For figuring out the technical issues of hosting virtual conferences and of lighting up structures. And for all the other thousands of things.

I know for a lot of us, COVID impacted our plans for the commemoration. My hat off to you all for pivoting and innovating and stretching yourselves to find other ways to do this work. Parks and regions have collaborated across administrative boundaries; people have been brought together virtually in ways that would have been impossible in person; parks and programs strengthened relationships with their partners; parks and programs navigated virtual internships; and some incredibly wonderful digital media has been produced and shared with the world.

Our niche in the nation-wide commemoration of the 19th Amendment has been that, through our parks and programs, we have the places in every county across the US and its territories and possessions where these histories happened. We tell all Americans' stories by leveraging the power of place, connecting them to our national history. And together, we knocked it out of the park for the 19th Amendment Commemoration.

Thank you. Now that we're on the other side of the Centennial, I hope that you continue to find and share these stories, to collaborate with each other, and to inspire each other.

Thank you again. I am so proud of what we have all accomplished together.

Megan.

Megan Springate, PhD

Interpretation Coordinator

Cultural Resources Office of Interpretation and Education

National Coordinator

NPS 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration (#NPS19th)

Challenge Coins

Inspired by challenge coins given out to commemorate events and group

membership, and in partnership with both the Interpretation, Education, and Volunteers and Cultural Resources, Partnerships, and Science directorates, NPS 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration challenge coins were acquired. The design, featuring an NPS arrowhead on one side and a "Votes for Women" banner on the other, was created by artists at Harpers Ferry Center. Three thousand challenge coins were ordered and distributed to NPS staff, interns, and volunteers as well as close NPS partners who participated in the Commemoration. These challenge coins were designed to recognize those who helped make the NPS 19th Amendment Centennial commemoration a success; they were not intended for public distribution. Two of the challenge coins were also sent to the NPS museum collections at Harpers Ferry Center.



RESPONDING TO THE COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

The global Covid-19 pandemic caused a transition to remote work and park closures starting in March 2020 and upended much of the careful planning parks and programs had been doing to prepare for the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration.

The pandemic complicated commemoration efforts and overshadowed public attention to the suffrage centennial. Long-planned events were canceled, physical exhibits closed, and many NPS staff teleworked. Parks and programs undertook heroic and often very successful efforts to move planned programming online and develop creative ways to reach the public. While some units may have lost potential local audiences for suffrage programming because of the closures, they may also have reached more widely dispersed publics with digital content. In some cases, the pandemic created time and space for projects that otherwise would not have happened. While the disruption caused by the pandemic will ultimately end, it has raised important questions for the NPS about the role of digital interpretation in parks (and the effort required to create successful digital projects) as well as the potential for digital materials to make parks and programs more accessible for visitors.

In general, parks and programs reported a reduction in what they were able to do. Some parks experienced delays in getting planned physical displays done, while others reported that they had completed displays that were then rendered inaccessible to visitors inside closed buildings. Parks with research projects planned, such as Death Valley National Park, had to set new objectives for their work after the indefinite closure of many libraries and archives. The rollout of Girl Scout 19th Amendment program was delayed as the transition was made to virtual alternatives. As a result, the program was extended through March 31, 2021.

There were changes and cancellations of summer 2020 commemoration events, but where possible, planned in-person programs were moved online. For example, Women's Rights National Historical Park held its annual signature event of Convention Days virtually. From July 17-19, 2020 the park offered a series of online programs for visitors via the park's social media platforms. The theme was "Legacies of Our Foremothers." Virtual visitors had the opportunity to participate in online dialogue and live question-and-answer discussions about the impact historical figures continue to have on women's rights today.

However, in a few instances, pandemic conditions gave rise to new projects that would not have been undertaken otherwise. New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park, for example, reported a collaboration between the organization Pride Outside and the NPS LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group on "Marie Equi's New Bedford," telling the story of how this pioneering doctor and activist was shaped by her hometown and her experience as an out lesbian in the early 1900s. The entire project was born out of the Covid-19 pandemic.

With many NPS staff transitioning to telework, including those normally in the field doing public interpretation, there was an opportunity for staff to engage with the commemoration and to do the research needed to tell these stories from the parks and there was a great increase in born-digital content and programming. This experience highlights the fact that staff time to do research and to create interpretive programming results in valuable products.

Several parks reported that they planned to reschedule 19th Amendment programming for the 101st anniversary of the 19th Amendment in 2021. However, Women's Rights National Historical Park (NHP) offered Virtual Convention Days 2021: "From the Pages to the Streets," as a series of online programs July 16-18, 2021, due to Covid-19.

Handbook



Women Making History: The 19th Amendment ([Women Making History: The 19th Amendment Book - Shop Americas National Parks](#)) is the official Handbook for the centennial. It is an edited version of the essays commissioned as core content for the Women’s History subject site. The printed book differs from the online content with the addition of “sidebars” of specific histories, an extended timeline of suffrage from the 1600s through 2016, a collection of associated parks, and additional graphics. The essay on the international history of woman’s suffrage and its connection to the American woman’s suffrage movement was excluded from the Handbook due to space limitations by the publisher. The book

was designed and printed by Eastern National / Americas National Parks. The WSCC purchased and distributed 6,000 copies of the Handbook to libraries across the country, selected in collaboration with the Institute of Museum and Library Services for high school readers.

Eastern National Products

A wide assortment of educational commemorative products for the Commemoration was designed by Eastern National/Americas National Parks and made available for parks across the NPS to carry in their stores – including those shops operated by cooperating associations other than Eastern National. In addition to designing educational products, Eastern National/Americas National Parks also selected suitable products from others to make available. The sell-sheet of products available via Eastern National for the 19th Amendment Centennial is in [Appendix I: Eastern National Product List](#).

Digital Content

The 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration had a strong digital presence. The Covid-19 pandemic only increased the amount of material available in a digital format.

Women's History Subject Site

The hub for suffrage information is the women's history subject site, available at nps.gov/subjects/womenshistory. The site collects women's stories across parks, programs, and historic places listed in the National Register of Historic Places sites. A "19th Amendment" subsection functions as a hub for suffrage content. NPS staff and partners authored suffrage-related material, including biographies of suffragists, descriptions of NPS places with suffrage or women's history ties, and thematic articles. There is also fun content for children, including Suffrage Cat coloring sheet, which became fun for adults as well as kids.

The women's history site relies heavily on the shared content feature within NPS.gov, as noted above under Digital Strategy. As part of the effort to encourage shared content, a considerable amount of existing material was migrated from park-specific content into shared content and from older HTML pages. There was a marked increase in shared content elements tagged with "women's history" on NPS.gov: In October 2018, there were 269 elements (of 6,916 people, places, articles, for a total of 3.9%) tagged; in Feb 2021, there were 716 (of 15,946 people, places, and articles, for a total of 4.5%). Not only did the raw number of elements tagged women's history increase by more than 2.5 times, but the ratio of women's history elements also overall increased even as the number of digital assets more than doubled overall.

Suffrage-related content attracted tens of thousands of pageviews to the women's history subject site and NPS.gov shared content. Based on pageview data, web visitors were particularly interested in state ratification timelines, African American suffragists, and the overall story of suffrage before and after the 19th Amendment.

Digital Content Highlights

Some of the initial content for the new Women’s History subject site launched in August 2018 included the [19th Amendment by State](#), and a [Storymap](#) that highlights a historic place associated with suffrage in every state. The digital content for both the 19th Amendment section of the site and the subject site overall has grown extensively, creating a firm foundation for the representation of women’s history across the NPS.gov digital landscape.

Suffrage in America: The 15th and 19th Amendments

[Suffrage in America](#) is a seven-part series which explores the connections between two Constitutional amendments meant to expand voting rights. Ratified in 1870, the 15th Amendment recognized the voting rights of African American men. Fifty years later, Congress and the states ratified the 19th Amendment.

Essays: Women’s Access to the Vote

The National Park Service and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers commissioned a series of essays by scholars of the suffrage movement on the “19th Amendment and [Women’s Access to the Vote Across America](#).” Public historian Tamara Gaskell served as series editor. The series examines the history of woman suffrage across the United States, including early adopters, international influences, anti-suffragists, depiction in popular culture, and lasting influence. These essays also served as the foundation for the Handbook.

20 Suffragists to Know for 2020

“[20 Suffragists to Know for 2020](#),” was one of the earliest team projects and an example of collaboration that helped the Working Group successfully function as a team. Learn more in the section on the National Working Group and Sub-Groups above. The feature also inspired a set of posters (see [Appendix J: Suffrage Posters and Poster Maker](#)). More information on the 20 for 2020 feature available in [Appendix K: 20 Suffragists to Know for 2020](#).

Race to Ratification

The subject site featured the [Race to Ratification](#) to allow visitors to follow the race to ratify the 19th Amendment in real time. Beginning in May 2019, 100 years after the House of Representatives approved the text of the 19th Amendment, the page recorded each step made toward (or away from) ratification on its 100th anniversary, along with details about each state's ratification (or rejection) story.

Travel Where Women Made History

Along with the women's history subject site, the NCSHPO independent contractor developed a companion site, "[Travel Where Women Made History](#)." The travel site further focuses on the strength of the NPS and the factor that distinguished the agency among the many organizations involved in commemorating the 19th Amendment: stewardship of places. It compiles parks and historic places listed in the National Register of Historic Places that feature women's stories.

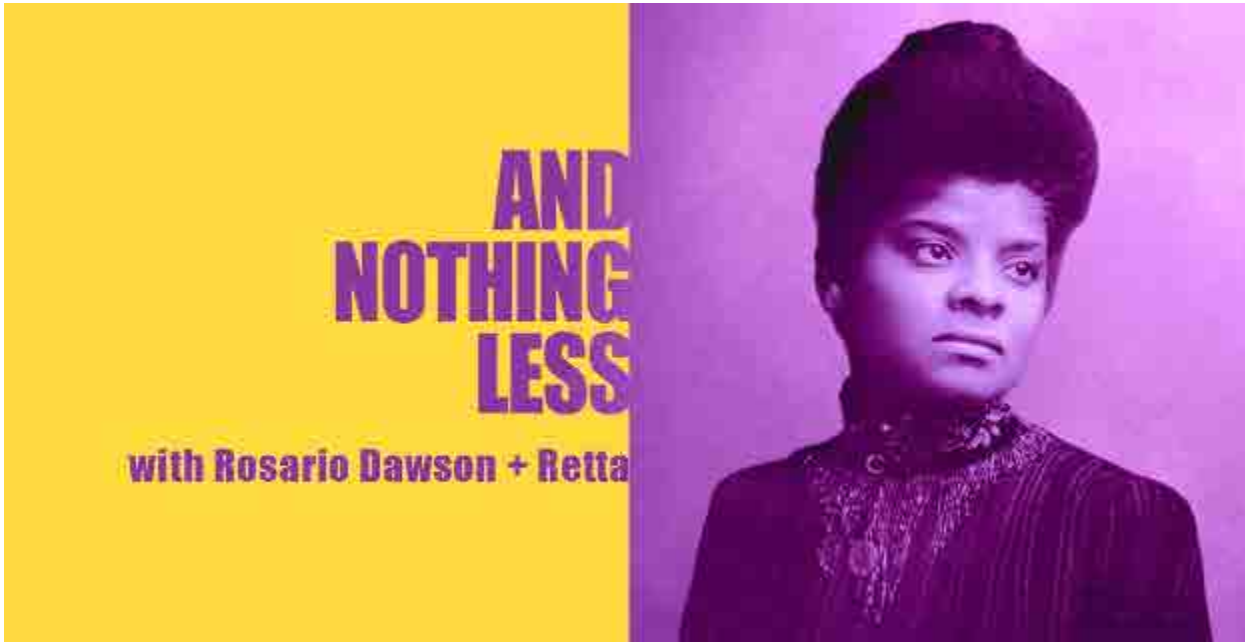
Explore Suffragist Stories and Connections

"[Explore Suffragist Stories and Connections](#)" is an interactive mapping project that allows users to view connections between suffrage activists, explore the historic sites that were significant to securing the vote, and link to scanned letters and archives. The content and structure encourage research into connections among suffragists and how these interlocking social networks worked to push the suffrage movement forward. The map shows connections between suffrage activists and places important to them which are now preserved as National Parks, Historic Landmarks, Monuments, and other sites on the National Register of Historic Places. Partners producing this product include NPS, particularly Region 1; the National Park Foundation; Towson University; the Schlesinger Library; and ESRI. See also [NPS Suffrage Orientation - YouTube](#).

Podcasts

In partnership with NPS and WSCC, Public Radio Exchange (PRX) presented three podcasts that explore the history of the suffrage movement in different ways. All three are hosted on NPS.gov and include NPS companion content including formal lesson plans for “The Magic Sash” and curated links to related listener companion material elsewhere on NPS.gov.

And Nothing Less



[And Nothing Less](#) is a podcast for teens and adults that explores the meaning of the suffragist slogan: “Men their rights and nothing more; women their rights and nothing less.” Though these words were written by movement leaders Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, the suffrage movement included far more voices and perspectives than these two well-known names. Throughout the fight for women’s right to vote, generations of diverse activists demanded full access to the ballot box. This seven-part series was hosted by actors Rosario Dawson and Retta and featured interviews with scholars like Martha Jones, Elaine Weiss, and Allison Lange. As of October 29, 2020, “And Nothing Less” had totaled over 200,000 downloads. The show saw over 81,000 unique listeners during the Centennial month of August; six weeks after the last episode dropped, there were around 1000 unique listeners tuning into the show. Listeners hailed from all 50 states and more than 70 countries. The first episode, “The Cult of True Womanhood,” was the most listened to of all, with 74,466 downloads as of October 29, 2020.

The Magic Sash



[The Magic Sash](#) is a podcast for kids 9 to 13 years old. It presents a journey through time that follows two modern fifth graders named Lotty and Isaiah as a magical suffrage sash takes them through some of the more iconic moments in suffrage history. This seven-part series was hosted by Olympic gymnast Aly Raisman and accompanied by lesson plans for each episode. As of October 29, 2020, "The Magic Sash" had totaled 11,326 downloads. The show saw nearly 2500 unique listeners during August. The first episode, "The Sash," was the most listened to of all, with 2,822 downloads as of October 29, 2020. As part of the publicity for "The Magic Sash," PRX partnered with KIDS FIRST!, a non-profit organization with youth reporters reviewing media rated PG-13 or younger. Reviewers Cadence G. and Kyla C. recorded video reviews of "The Magic Sash."

The Agitators



[The Agitators](#) is a podcast version of a play by Mat Smart, tracing the complex friendship of Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass over several decades. The WSCC had originally planned to fund the licensing fees for several schools and other organizations to perform *The Agitators*. However, Covid meant that in-person performances were not possible. Instead, the WSCC put funds towards creating a podcast from the play.

Additional Regional and Park Digital Content

A sampling of regional and park digital content follows:

- In Regions 8, 9, 10, & 12, a cooperating agreement with the University of California, Davis produced a series of 55 biographies of women associated with parks in the Pacific West. Biographies included stories of historic and contemporary women like Native American activist [LaNada War Jack](#), African American clubwoman and community leader [Julia Ann Shelton Shorey](#), World War II shipyard worker [Katherine Ah Lan Lowe](#), and outdoor recreation advocate [Caro Luevanos-Garcia](#).
- The Natural Resources Stewardship and Science directorate created [National Park Service Scientists Reflect on Value of STEM Leadership for Girls, Young Women \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)
- Women of the NPS ([Women of the NPS - Women's History \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)) was begun by Region 1 staff and leveraged to include national content on the Women's History subject site
- Several NPS units created landing pages on their park websites, presenting women's history (including 19th Amendment) connected with their unit. Examples include Boston: A Suffrage "Hub" (<https://www.nps.gov/bost/learn/historyculture/suffrage2020.htm>); Women's Activism in Lowell ([Women's Activism in Lowell - Lowell National Historical Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)); Women Homesteaders and Suffrage ([homesteading and suffrage - Homestead National Historical Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)); and Women of the Gold Rush ([Women of the Gold Rush - Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)).
- Regions and programs also created curated collections of information such as "[Women Across Alaska](#)" for their subject site, Women Making History in Alaska Parks.
- The National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) created a podcast, "Celebrating the 19th Amendment with Stories from the Lucy Burns Museum" (<https://ncptt.nps.gov/blog/celebrating-the-19th-amendment-with-stories-from-the-lucy-burns-museum/>).
- Two Mellon Fellows (see the section on "staffing" above) collaborated to create a podcast. "Ballot Blocked" ([Ballot Blocked - Labor History \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)) is a six-part series exploring the uneven and fitful course of suffrage from the period of the Civil War to the present-day.

PROGRAMMING

Programming for the Commemoration took place at various scales. In creating nation-wide programming and resources, the goal was to invite parks, programs, and partners to take part and to create an environment where any level of participation was encouraged. This meant creating grab-and-go options like the posters and poster maker graphics produced by Harpers Ferry Center, re-working existing programs like the Girl Scout Ranger program to commemorate the 19th Amendment Centennial, and providing clear guidance and several ways to take part, such as with the Forward Into Light campaign.

Guidance for participation provided by the national office was purposefully broad, encouraging parks, programs, and partners to be creative and engage in whatever way made sense given their associated histories, resource availability, and capacity. From the beginning, the commemoration was designed to engage across the NPS, including national and regional programs and partners, as well as those parks not generally considered to be “women’s history” or even “cultural resources” parks. The 19th Amendment has a nation-wide history and nation-wide impact, and women’s histories and civics are present in every park, program, and community across the country. The Cultural Resources GIS (CRGIS) created a Story Map highlighting NPS participation in the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration. A version of the Story Map is available here: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/eeb5fd7be71f4122a674c99dcf002d31>

National Programming

Several programs of the Commemoration were implemented at a national level. Two were announced with service-wide memos from the NPS Director’s Office. On July 7, 2020 the Director announced approval and encouragement for staff to wear the Jailed for Freedom pin on their uniform during August 2020. On July 27, 2020 the Director encouraged parks and programs to take part in Forward Into Light (see [Appendix A: Director’s Memos](#)). These and other national-level programs and service-wide resources are summarized here.

“Jailed for Freedom” Pin



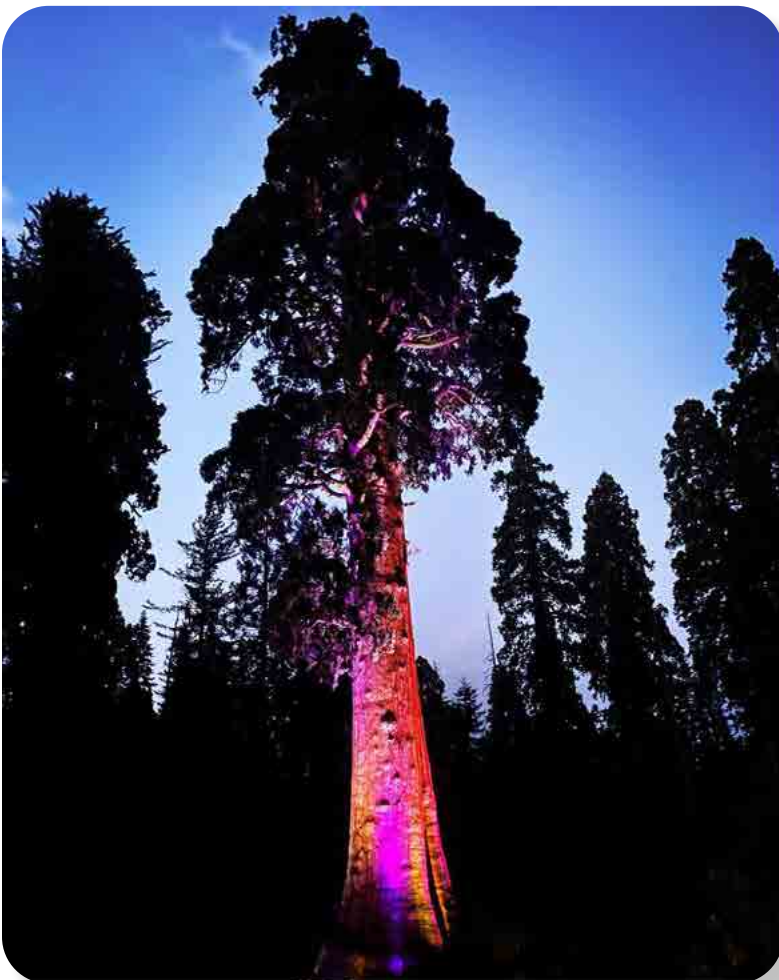
The NPS Director approved the wearing of a new uniform item from August 1-31, 2020 to commemorate the Centennial. The “Jailed for Freedom” Suffrage Pin copies the design of an original pin awarded by the National Woman’s Party to suffragists who served a jail sentence after protests at the White House from 1917-1919. The pins were shaped like a jail cell door with a heart-shaped padlock. The image is the recreation pin design. See [Appendix A: Director’s Memos](#) for the story of the Jailed for Freedom pin.

Forward Into Light

A program of the WSCC, named in honor of the historic suffrage slogan, “Forward through the Darkness, Forward into Light,” the “Forward Into Light” initiative illuminated buildings across America in the suffrage colors of purple and gold. Purple signifies unswerving steadfastness to the cause, while gold signifies the flame of the torch leading the way. “Forward into light!” was a popular rallying cry among suffragists most associated with Inez Milholland, who carried it on a banner at the New York City suffrage parade in 1911. The NPS worked closely with the WSCC to participate in Forward Into Light, including issuing a Director’s Memo and detailed guidance on participation. At least 118 NPS parks and programs participated on August 26, 2020, either by illuminating physical structures or landscapes or by using a custom social media filter. Examples follow.



John Muir National Historic Site



Sequoia and King's Canyon National Parks



President's Park (White House)



Chamizal National Memorial (with custom filer for social media)

Posters and Poster Maker

Inspired by the 20 for 2020 suffragists project, designers at Harpers Ferry Center created a set of 20 posters. They were designed to engage viewers and inspire conversation and a desire to learn more. These posters (see [Appendix J: Suffrage Posters and Poster Maker](#)) were made available for parks to download and print but were also printed via the Government Printing Office in an 11 x 22 inch size. These large, printed posters were available at no cost (plus a small shipping and handling fee) to NPS parks and programs via the National Service Gear website, operated by the Industries for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The poster series won first place from the National Association of Government Communicators in their 2021 Blue Pencil & Gold Screen Awards.

Designers at the Harpers Ferry Center also created a tool that parks and programs could use to create their own posters featuring historic women. Essentially a digital “paper doll” program, creators would select features from a catalog of options and then input accompanying text. The output was a poster featuring an illustrative likeness of the person and information about them. For an example, see [Appendix J](#).

Girl Scouts of the United States of America



Leveraging the existing relationship with the Girl Scouts of the USA and the Girl Scout Ranger Program, the WASO Youth Programs Division and members of the Working Group created programming for the Commemoration. With support from the Office of Partnerships and Philanthropic Stewardship, a limited-

edition patch was created, and suggested activities were prepared. When the Covid-19 pandemic required a pivot in the programming, efforts were made to adapt the program to a virtual one. This included making a virtual certificate of completion available for Girl Scouts, and for parks and programs with the capacity to offer to mail out patches to Girl Scout troop leaders for those who participated – even when it was not at their own park. Some parks and programs, including WORL, NCPTT, and others offered virtual programming to Girl Scouts to meet their requirements.



Because of the effects of Covid-19 on park operations across the service, the 19th Amendment Girl Scout Ranger Patch Program was extended through March of 2021. WASO Youth Programs funded approximately 25,000 patches, which were made available free of charge (plus a small shipping and handling fee) via the NPS Service Gear webstore, operated by the Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired. All of these patches had been distributed by January 2021. If necessary, parks and programs could order custom quantities and pay with park/regional

funds. Materials developed for the program include an [activity guide](#) and [activity log](#), a [certificate](#), and an introductory [video](#). The activity guide and additional information on the Girl Scouts 19th Amendment Patch Program are available in [Appendix L: Girl Scouts 19th Amendment Patch Program Materials](#).

Girl Scouts from across the country and even internationally participated in the program. Troop leader Bethany Ore reported from Peru: "Our Girl Scouts really enjoyed it! We learned about what it means to vote, about the 19th Amendment, and about Seneca Falls. We even tied a little world history into our meeting and talked about what it meant to vote in England and Peru and when women from those countries finally had the right to vote (we have girls from the USA, Peru, and England). Even some parents shared their experiences. I am attaching a picture [image above] of some of our girls that participated and their Suffrage Cats that they made for you. In total we had 10 girls participate virtually and earn their 19th Amendment Badge!"

Ratification Virtual Race



The National Park Foundation and Women’s Rights National Historical Park partnered on the “Race to Ratification,” offered through the Virtual Running Club which organizes “virtual” races on an honor-based, self-report system that are organized digitally but occur physically at the convenience of the runner (<https://www.virtualrunningclub.com/events/ratification/>). A portion of registration fees were donated to the NPF Women in Parks initiative. Image shows details of the Finisher Medal.

Signature Parks

While every park and program has connections to women’s history, and therefore to the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration, two sites within the National Park System were recognized as signature parks.

Women’s Rights National Historical Park (WORI) in Seneca Falls, New York is associated with the First Women’s Rights Convention in the United States in July 1848. Belmont-Paul Women’s Equality National Monument (BEPA) in Washington, DC, is associated with the National Woman’s Party. The NWP was a key player in making the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution possible, and leaders in drafting the Equal Rights Amendment.

National planning efforts relied on these parks’ knowledge and expertise for resources, content, ideas, and editing. Staff from these parks were leaders in centennial planning and created extensive programming for it. Although the pandemic meant that many events had to be reimaged, WORI and BEPA park staff worked hard and got creative to move programs online and develop new offerings during the pandemic.

Below are only a few of many highlights from these parks’ activities. Full reports are available in the appendices. See [Appendix M for BEPA](#) and [Appendix N for WORI](#).

Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument



Belmont-Paul sponsored an in-person Race to Ratification 5k fun run in June of 2019, held at Congressional Cemetery in Washington, DC. The time between states ratifying was used to calculate distance between signs marking the ratification process, so that runners passed a flurry of signs at the beginning of the race as states rushed to ratify the amendment, but then by the end of the race, went much further distances between the votes to ratify.

The park collaborated with other parks and programs to create a 19-part series of 1-minute videos for social media called "[Suffrage in 60 Seconds](#)," covering people (like suffragists Ida B. Wells and Inez Milholland); themes (like Black women in the suffrage movement and suffrage in the West); and symbols of the movement (like suffrage colors and the Jail Door pin). The series was honored with the regional NPS Freeman Tilden Award, recognizing exceptional interpretive products.



Events included:

- Virtual program with author Elaine Weiss
- Virtual program with historian Ellen Carol DuBois
- Living history program with Dr. Leslie Goddard portraying Alice Paul
- Arts programs, including original poetry work “Shout!” by Susanna Rich, and performance of selections from original song cycle “The ERA Project” by Maureen Broy Papovich

Ranger Susan Philpott developed a facilitated dialogue on “Women’s Suffrage in Black and White” for the Commemoration. At their meeting on June 3, 2019, she used that program to engage members of the WSCC in meaningful discussion about suffragists and racism.

The entire BEPA report is available in [Appendix M: BEPA 19th Amendment Report](#).

Women’s Rights National Historical Park

Women’s Rights National Historical Park worked with community partners, other NPS parks and programs, and cultural institutions from across the country to commemorate 100 years of suffrage. Full details are available in WORI’s centennial report in [Appendix N: WORI 19th Amendment Report](#).

The park:

- created special centennial graphics,
- engaged partners in the local community, across the NPS, and nationally,
- sponsored dozens of physical and virtual events and programs,
- hosted several interns and fellows,
- gave presentations at conferences, at libraries, on podcasts,
- created materials for and supported national programs, including the 19th Amendment Girl Scout Ranger patch and the Junior Rangers program,
- created new shared digital content and educational content,
- fielded a high number of media requests related to the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration, and
- engaged thousands of new visitors via social media content.



A temporary exhibit about Sojourner Truth displayed in Summer 2019. Photo courtesy Women's Rights National Historical Park.

WORI's programming highlighted the diverse nature of suffrage activism and the difficult story of racism in the movement. The park sponsored programs and exhibits about Black suffragists like Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, and Fannie Barrier Williams, and about the Haudenosaunee influence on the movement. A program given in February 2020 at WORI on Elizabeth Cady Stanton's racism by historian Dr. Laura Free was recorded and broadcast by CSPAN.



Dr. Laura Free delivers a program entitled "Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Racist?" at WORI's Guntzel Theater in February 2020. The program was broadcast on CSPAN.

The park's annual signature event, Convention Days, was held virtually from July 17-19, 2020. Focused on the theme, "Legacies of Our Foremothers," the park offered a series of online programs for visitors via the park's social media platforms. Virtual visitors participated in online dialogue and live question-and-answer discussions about the impact historical figures continue to have on women's rights today.

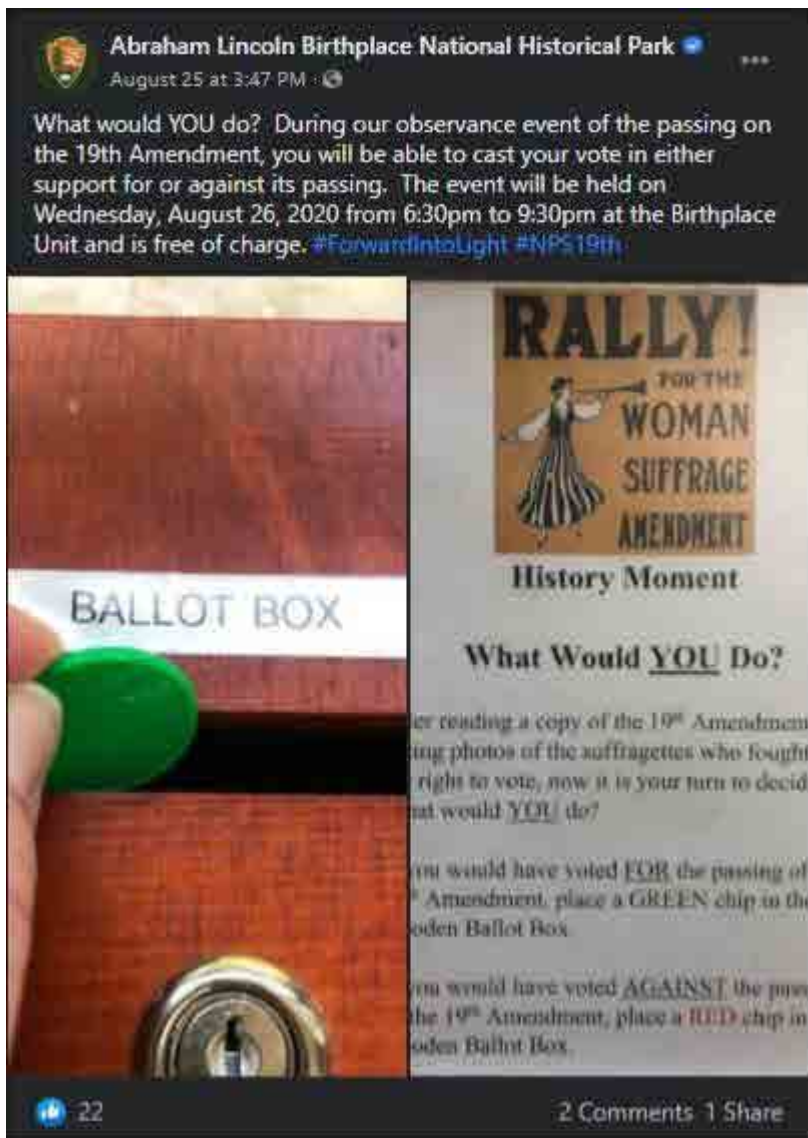
Region, Park, and Program Activities

In addition to the nationally coordinated programs, regional offices, programs, and individual parks developed their own programs and activities for the Commemoration.

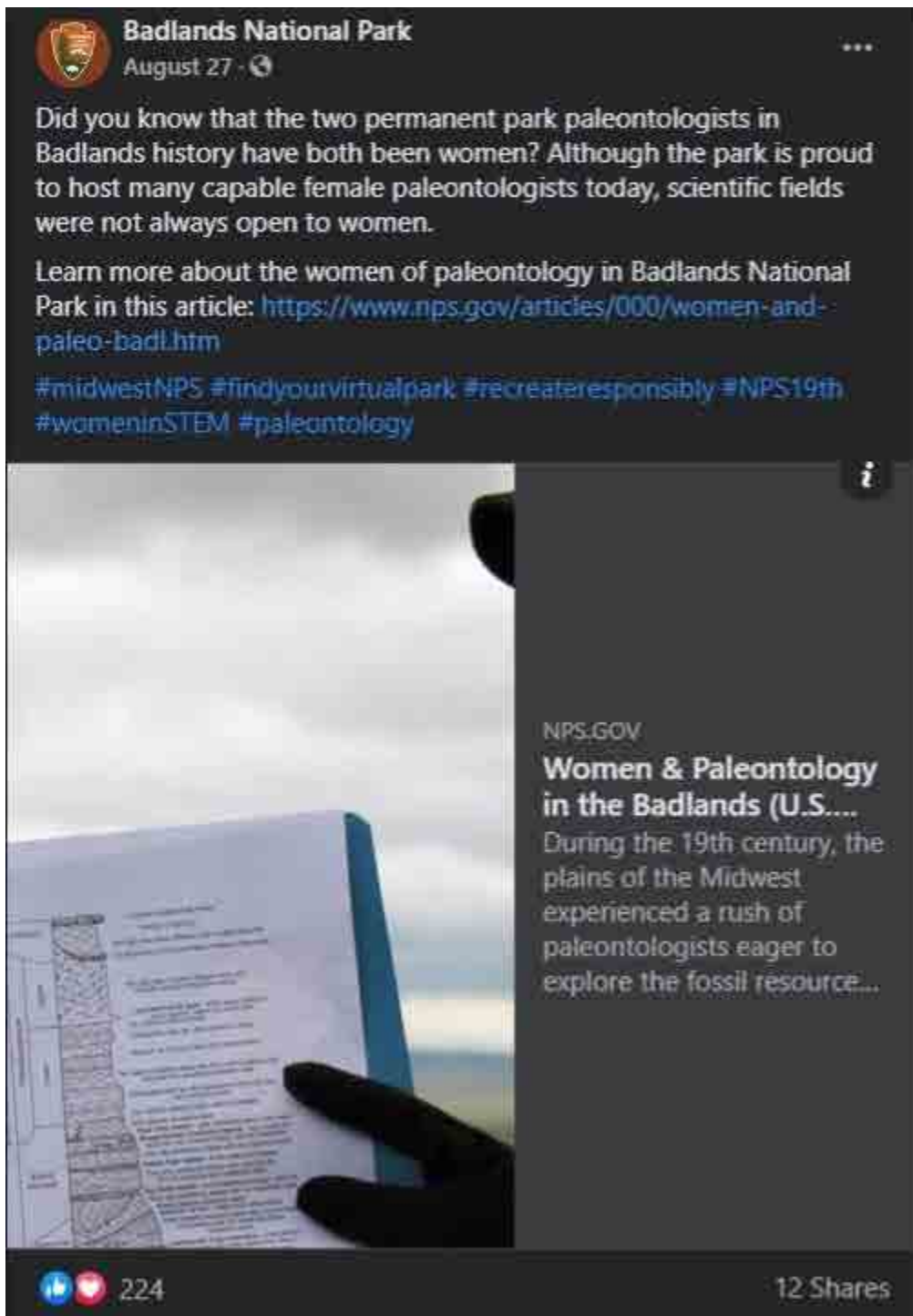
While BEPA's and WORL's efforts were the cornerstone of the NPS centennial, participation was broad throughout the system. At least 300 NPS units participated, as well as 15 National Historic Trails, 6 National Scenic Trails, 10 partner organizations, 29 programs, and 7 regional offices. Participants self-reported their participation and their Facebook accounts were surveyed between August and November 2020 for relevant posts. Types of participation included participating in an NPS-wide program like Forward Into Light or the Girl Scout Ranger program; sharing suffrage or women's history on social media; creating programming or exhibitions to observe the anniversary; and highlighting contemporary women working involved with the park or program, including staff, volunteers, and interns. Selected regional and park permanent digital content is included above under "Digital Highlights."

Social Media

Selected examples of social media are below.



This creative in-person program from Abraham Lincoln Birthplace NHP invited participants to vote for or against the 19th Amendment (one hopes that no one voted against!).



This social media posts highlighted the female paleontologists who have worked in Badlands National Park and called attention to barriers women in science have faced. This is an example of participation by a “Natural Resource” park that might not have a direct connection to the suffrage movement, but that used it as a chance to highlight women’s stories.

El Morro National Monument August 29

Who is the strongest woman in your life?

It's a bird...it's a plane... Nope, it's a tarantula hawk (*Pepsis grossa*), New Mexico's state insect, and the kind of female you don't want to mess with.

Found at El Morro National Monument, this orange-winged nectivore isn't interested in you unless you're a tarantula, which the adult female hunts—and that's just one of the things she's in charge of. She also determines the sex of her offspring, finds a nest site, and wages mortal combat to nourish for her young.

She paralyzes the spider with her stinger and takes it to a pre-dug burrow. She then lays an egg in its abdomen and covers the burrow to trap it. Larvae feed on the spider for weeks, avoiding vital organs to keep it alive until they pupate.


Her sting is reported to be the second-most-painful of any insect (the first is the bullet ant, not found in the U.S.), according to entomologist Justin O. Schmidt's pain index for stings of insects around the world. "Blinding, fierce, and shockingly electric" is how he describes the sting of the tarantula hawk, a four-plus on his four-point scale. While its sting is painful, it isn't aggressive toward humans if unprovoked—so if you see one, just give it a wide berth.

Fear of that stinger should be enough to keep most animals away, but roadrunners—New Mexico's state bird—are an exception. Tarantula hawks must be awfully tasty to risk getting close to that ¼-inch stinger!

Why would New Mexico choose this insect for its state insect? *Blood and Thunder* author Hampton Sides noted, "We've always been a land of proud, strong women, from the earliest Native peoples and Spanish colonists to Georgia O'Keeffe, Maria Martinez, Mabel Dodge Luhan. The infamous 19th-century Santa Fe saloon keeper, Maria Gertrudis Barcelo (aka Doña Tules) also springs to mind—as does the acclaimed Laguna Pueblo novelist and poet Leslie Marmon Silko. Our women have always been tough, original, independent—and unafraid to take on an adversary, no matter how formidable."

As we look toward the August 26 centennial of the 19th amendment that guaranteed and protected women's right to vote, that reason seems pretty apropos.

Picture Description- a tarantula hawk wasps drags a tarantula.



Some parks made creative connections between the suffrage anniversary and the natural world, as with El Morro National Monument's post about the formidable female tarantula hawk (the New Mexico state insect).



Joshua Tree National Park

August 18 at 2:30 PM

Minerva Hoyt was a visionary. She used her passionate love for this desert landscape – a landscape that gave her so much comfort during difficult times – and the anger she felt as she watched people destroy the ecosystem to fuel her conservation actions. From bringing awareness to her cause by curating exhibits at flower shows, to creating her own conservation organization, she was set on turning this land into a national park.

The land was surveyed and proposed as the site of a state park. Meanwhile, Hoyt took note that the Mayor of Baja, California wanted to create a desert park and pitched the idea of an "international desert park" along the U.S. and Mexican border. Between the publication of the latest NPS report and the election of President Roosevelt, Joshua Tree and other desert landscapes were designated as national monuments. Minerva Hoyt had accomplished what she set out to do: preserve the desert as a new national park land.

Southern Belle. Pasadena Socialite, Desert Protector, Apostle of the Cacti. Minerva Hoyt has a lot of names, but one thing we do know is that Joshua Tree National Park would not be here if it wasn't for her and her efforts.

As we highlight women in parks over the next week, we remember Minerva Hoyt and thank her for this incredible desert park in which we all [#ShareTheExperience!](#)

Mural is titled "Spirit of the Desert" and is painted by Cory and Catska Ench.



This post from Joshua Tree National Park shines a spotlight on Minerva Hoyt, a conservationist whose efforts led to the creation of the park.

 Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park- Skagway, Alaska ...
August 18 at 4:27 PM

Celebrate the 100 years since the ratification of the 19th Amendment with us!
#DYK that the 19th Amendment granted women in every state of the United States the right to vote?
But what if you didn't live in a state?!

Alaska was still a territory in 1920 and was unable to cast a vote in the historic decision.

Did that mean Alaskan women couldn't vote? Nope! In fact women in Alaska had full voting rights seven years BEFORE the passing of the 19th Amendment in 1913.

So now all women in Alaska can vote! Or can they?

Alaska Natives, women and men were not considered American citizens. This disenfranchisement means Alaska native men and women were kept from the polls for years. There were many others hurdles put in place such as literacy tests, giving up tribal customs, and even poll taxes. These hurdles were not fully removed until 1965, hurdles that might have been in place even longer without legislature like the 19th Amendment.

#19thAmendment #HERstory #FindYourPark

National Park Service, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, George and Edna Rapuzzi Collection, KLGO SM00147_WCTU 1915, Gift of the Rasmuson Foundation.



 38 15 Shares

A post from Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park in Skagway, AK highlights the territory's suffrage history and sheds light on those who were excluded from the vote. Parks frequently shared stories from their state's or territory's suffrage history during the commemoration.

Minute Man National Historical Park September 11 at 8:00 AM

18th Century Women in Politics: The Long Thread of Politics
In the 1760s and 1770s the clothes you wore and the tea you drank were imbued with political importance. As we might participate in a boycott of a company today –women at the time of the Revolution could participate, and even sign, nonconsumption agreements. These agreements were public promises not to buy imported British goods. In order to promote "home manufacturing" women gathered publicly in large groups to spin their own yarn. Called "spinning matches" these public displays raised awareness of and support for the cause and demonstrated the women's commitment. In 1769 180 women gathered in Middletown, Massachusetts for a spinning and weaving match and produced a record 20,522 yards of cloth. In testimony to the significance of home manufacturing, John Adams asked, "Was not every fireside indeed a theatre of politics?" One minister, Rev. William Tennent, said of these Daughters of Liberty "You have it in your power more than all your committees and Congresses, to strike the stroke, and make the Hills and Plains of America clap their hands."

#MinuteManNPS #findyourpark #AmericanRevolution #NPS19th
<https://www.nps.gov/history/women-s-lives-in-1775.htm>
<https://www.nps.gov/flax-production-in-the>



NPS.GOV
Women's Lives in 1775 - Minute Man National Historical Park (U.S. National Park Service)

63 10 Shares

Minute Man National Historical Park highlights the role of women in politics during the Revolutionary period. Many parks without an explicit connection to suffrage used the anniversary to highlight other topics in women's history.

Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail • August 26 · 🌐

Yes, the 19th Amendment became law today a century ago on Aug. 26, 1920, is often hailed for granting American women the right to vote. And yet most Black women would wait nearly five decades more to actually exercise that right.
<https://time.com/5876456/black-women-right-to-vote/>

Throughout the last 100 years until today, voter suppression tactics have been deployed throughout our country. We have to remember our democracy is fragile, we must participate to keep it alive. The right to Vote is a direct link to democracy and the founding of our nations motto: "E pluribus unum" - "Out of Many One"
<https://www.womenshistory.org/.../biogra.../fannie-lou-hamer>



'It's a Struggle They Will Wage Alone.'
How Black Women Won the Right to...
The activism of Black women often predated t...

'It's a Struggle They Will Wage Alone.'
How Black Women Won the Right to...
The activism of Black women

👍❤️ 4

This post from Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail honors the work of Black women in the suffrage movement and connects their efforts to the Civil Rights Movement and to present-day struggles for the vote.

Weir Farm National Historic Site · August 4 at 11:22 AM · 🌐

On August 26th, 1920, the 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote, was formally adopted into the U.S. Constitution. To commemorate the centennial, on Wednesdays during the month of August, we will be shedding more light on the three generations of women that contributed to the vast history and preservation of Weir Farm.

Follow along to learn their stories and get to know the women of Weir Farm! During this month we also invite you to share with us the most influential women in your life.

Image: Black and white photograph of Dorothy Weir Young, Cora Weir Burlingham and Caro Weir Ely, NPS

[#WomenWednesday](#) [#WomensHistory](#) [#WomensHistoryEveryday](#)
[#BeyondThe19th](#) [#NPS19th](#) [#FindYourPark](#) [#FindYourVirtualPark](#)
[#CTArtTrail](#) [#VirtualTrail](#)



DOROTHY, CORA & CARO.

👍❤️ 23 3 Shares

A feature from Weir Farm National Historic Site on the “Women of Weir Farm.” Some parks and programs chose to highlight the stories of women who were directly connected to the park or site’s history.

A few other examples included:

- Boston National Historical Park & Boston African American National Historic Site: #SuffrageSaturday Instagram series
- Castillo de San Marcos National Monument: “#HerstoryStAugustine” Instagram series
- Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Site: “Proprietress, Patriot, Nurse, & Spy” Facebook virtual ranger program series
- Fort Scott National Historic Site: Facebook posts commemorated the 101st anniversary of Kansas ratifying the 19th Amendment (June 16, 2020)
- Freedom’s Way National Heritage Area “#100Years100Days100Facts” Instagram series
- Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site: Facebook video series “Mrs. Bethune’s Washington” Virtual Bus Tour

LESSONS LEARNED AND LOOKING FORWARD

This Commemoration built on the lessons learned from previous commemorations and initiatives and it is hoped that future commemorations will learn from this one as well. The clear connection to Civil Rights history established in the Vision Statement is rooted in earlier and ongoing NPS efforts to tell all Americans' stories. *The Civil Rights Framework, Civil Rights in America: A Framework for Identifying Significant Sites* (completed in 2002, revised 2008), provided a catalyst for four Heritage Initiatives, among them the Women's History initiative that was launched in May 2012. The Civil War to Civil Rights Commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War and the ongoing struggle for civil rights was also forward looking. That commemoration inspired concrete next steps, including the service-wide community of practice named "Arc to Equality." This service-wide community was established in 2015. Among its goals were the increase of collaborative practice and the telling of more diverse and complete history. Both of those can be found in the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration goals as well. One of the lessons retained from NPS Centennial in 2016 is the value and impact of staff participating in wide variety of ways with varying levels of capacity and resources. That guiding principle helped to create wide interest and extraordinary participation.

Lessons Learned

This Commemoration offers widely relevant lessons applicable to a Service-wide commemoration of national significance. These lessons fall into the categories of Content and Process.

Content:

- Remain true to the historical facts and share as complete a story as possible. Deepen and expand knowledge and understanding about the past.
- It was important to the Working Group that the 19th Amendment Centennial moved beyond superficial celebration to deepen understanding through a more complex commemoration that told both positive and negative truths.
- Recognize that history has consequences and legacies that we live with today. The past isn't dead.
- Women's struggles for suffrage included fighting racism, among other things, but those rifts are not healed.
- Recognize that people have different perceptions about the past and its meanings, and different experiences of the way it reverberates. Therefore, recognize that connecting the past to the present may create conflict.
- There will be some resistance to unfamiliar or unwelcome truths both among staff and among the public. The development of an interpretive guide for Women's History recognizes that interpreters can help each other anticipate and respond to the public appropriately.
- Connect the story with specific places. Telling a nationally significant story requires local places and offers a chance to share lesser-known places with a larger audience.
- The NPS strength is place-based. In addition to park units and partners, programs like the National Heritage Areas, Heritage Documentation Programs (HABS/HAER/HALS), the National Register of Historic Places, National Landmarks Program, Certified Local Governments, Historic Preservation Fund Grants and others represent places and provide NPS connections in every county in every state. Such reach gives NPS the opportunity to tell a truly national story built from local histories in places across the nation.

Process

Start early!

An early start in January 2017 -- more than three years before the centennial date of August 2020 -- provided the opportunity to build knowledge about the commemoration across the NPS and with partners, to research and create resources, and to be thoughtful about the goals, strategies, and rollout both across the NPS and to the public, to respond to feedback and changing circumstances, and to incorporate multiple voices.

Provide resources early, including funding and staffing support.

While the 19th Amendment Centennial Commemoration did not receive substantial funding, it was essential to secure funding early for developing the websites and their content and to support short-term staff, including Fellows and interns.

Support innovation with permission, funding, and acknowledgement.

- The small innovation grants from the Women in Parks NPF initiative were remarkably successful in stimulating nimbleness and innovation. The call received over 80 applications, requesting more than \$1.7million, demonstrating a need for funding opportunities outside of the years-out internal PMIS funding process.
- Encourage staff learning and creativity. Provide plenty of time to prepare.
- Acknowledge and thank: there is little that is more appreciated than a heartfelt "thank you."

Plan with the future beyond the anniversary in mind.

Particularly with digital content, plan for evergreen content and ease of online maintenance. Design and build content and products for ongoing relevance.

Communicate often and in varying formats.

There is no single way to ensure communication across the NPS so use every format available and use it often.

Provide leadership but make room for everyone.

- Provide leadership and coordination from central offices. The Acting Director's memo of November 4, 2019 made it clear that all parks had some relationship to the centennial's themes and should work to find the best way to participate. Messages like this resonate with the field and empower staff to use park resources for participation.
- Let everyone have a voice and encourage leadership throughout the Service. Ensure inclusion of all the NPS: parks, programs, and partners (including cooperating associations, National Heritage Areas, etc.) and of staff at every level, from interns to senior management. Be expansive in inclusion and remember to invite natural resource staff to participate in cultural commemorations.
- Create opportunities for collaborative leadership: Encourage parks, programs, and regions to collaborate across boundaries.

Make it easy.

A "low bar" for recognized participation in the commemoration led to increased participation. When parks/programs/partners did one thing associated with the commemoration, they most likely did more.

Make it meaningful.

Give parks, programs, and partners the ability to connect in ways meaningful for them. Give wide lanes for participation.

Be flexible.

Create a logical overarching structure but encourage flexibility within it by building in space for reflection and feedback. Flexibility allowed for an effective pivot during the pandemic shutdown.

Looking Forward

When we commemorate anniversaries, we mark something important in the past as something worth remembering and learning from. A nationally significant anniversary helps us to identify what is important to us as a society. The lessons we look for are drawn from the needs of our time.

The needs of our time demand that we learn from the past as we face an uncertain future. Learning from a partial past, or half of our history, won't serve us well. Women's history is American history and we need the full story to guide us.

We can look forward not only to future commemorations but also to the work of NPS applied research, preservation, and storytelling every day. We can draw on the Commemoration's interpretive framework for inspiration. As NPS looks forward, we can:

- Include the Other Half of the Story. Women are not optional or extra. Pull out from the shadows stories of women who have been there all along.
- Integrate Women's Stories into the Mainstream. Does the park tell women's stories but segregates them as secondary, as add-ons, or as extras to the "main" park story? Are exhibit panels about women physically separated from panels about men?

The National Park Service can find ways to physically and programmatically integrate women's stories and experiences into the mainstream rather than relegate them to the fringes of exhibits and programming. We can include women in the mainstream narratives to tell a complete story.

Appendices List

- A. [Director's Memos](#)
- B. [19th Amendment Working Group Members and Subcommittees](#)
- C. [Internships](#)
- D. [19th Amendment IE&V Newsletter Edition](#)
- E. [Internal Sharepoint Site Material](#)
- F. [Service-wide Webinars](#)
- G. [2019 All Region Kick-Off Meeting Materials and Attendees](#)
- H. [National Park Foundation Women in Parks Grantees](#)
- I. [Eastern National Product List](#)
- J. [Suffrage Posters and Poster Maker](#)
- K. [20 Suffragists to Know for 2020](#)
- L. [Girl Scouts 19th Amendment Patch Program Material](#)
- M. [Belmont-Paul Women's Equality National Monument Report](#)
- N. [Women's Rights National Historical Park Report](#)
- O. [Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission \(WSCC\) Report](#)

Suggested citation:

Springate, Megan, Ella Wagner, and Barbara Little. *Women's Voices, Women's Votes: The National Park Service Commemoration of the 19th Amendment Centennial*. Washington, DC: National Park Service, 2022.