



Education on Wheels

Step out of the classroom and experience the power of place at your national park on Guam.

Historic places are tangible reminders of our past. They help us share important stories that span generations. This year, through the “Education on Wheels” program, educators will once again be offered free transportation for their students to the historic sites at War in the Pacific National Historical Park.

“The [park] is important to me because it preserves our history, the cultures, and lets us learn things we might not learn in a classroom” - 8th grade student

The “Education on Wheels” program is made possible by the park’s non-profit partner, Pacific Historic Parks (PHP). Two of the program’s goals are to help educators use the park as outdoor classrooms and to help students, through hands-on learning experiences, connect the park’s history and resources to lessons learned in history, geography, and science. Teachers from grades K-12 who

“[Education on Wheels] gave the students a better understanding of our Guam history that’s not covered in our standard social studies text book” - Adacao Elementary School teacher

teach any subject are eligible to apply for the grant. To allow as many participants



Middle school students take in the view and history at the Asan Bay Overlook.

as possible, grants are limited to one per school. Teachers awarded the grant will receive:

- Bus transportation to and from the school, the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center, and park sites for up to 3 hours.
- A school visit by a park ranger and the PHP Education Specialist to help students learn about the mission of the park.
- A 6th-12th grade “Interactive Activities” packet that engages students in learning about exhibits on display at the visitor center.
- A free movie about Guam during World War II to share with your class.
- The “Chew on This” Discovery Booklet to encourage discovery of the history of the park and its mission.
- Free photo presentations that help students use primary resources to learn about history.
- An opportunity to collaborate with the park on goals.
- 10% off purchases at the Pacific Historic Parks bookstore.

Do you want to become involved? For more information, please contact Education Specialist Jaelyn Zapanta at 477-7278, extension 1015, or at jzapanta@pacifichistoricparks.org.

A Message from the Superintendent:

Parks as Classrooms!

War in the Pacific National Historical Park is more than just a place for a picnic!

National parks serve as learning laboratories to develop greater awareness, understanding, appreciation, and commitment to preservation of the cultural and natural environment.

Parks promote an improved education system by developing interactive lesson plans that incorporate park resources.

Parks integrate research into community education goals through partnerships with schools. By encouraging these connections, we create memorable experiences, preserve our diverse heritage, and promote stewardship.

I hope you will use the resources of Guam's national park as your classroom. Educators can "Teach with Historic Places" through our Education on Wheels program. Students can become Junior Rangers and Reef Rangers, or serve in the Reef Ranger Conservation Corps.

And, don't forget - anyone can participate in the fun and educational opportunities listed on our Calendar of Events! If you take the time to explore what national parks offer, you will find that there are always new learning opportunities.

Sinceramente,

Barbara Alberti
Superintendent

Pardon our Progress!

Visitor center improvements begin in November

War in the Pacific National Historical Park is working hard to develop new permanent exhibits for the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center in Sumay.

The new exhibits will feature a section on "The Pacific War in Depth," a "War in News" video program, a laser light program on the Battle for Guam, and interactive media stations where visitors can hear gripping personal stories from war survivors. The opening is planned for late summer of 2012, so watch for updates on this exciting news!

To prepare for the installation of the new exhibits, the visitor center will close November 24 through December 5 and partially reopen on December 6. Temporary closure of the visitor center will be required to install new carpeting, upgrade the building's electrical systems for new exhibit components, and install exhibit lighting. Specific closure dates will be announced in the near future.

We thank you for your patience as we move toward bringing you the best visitor center in the Pacific!



National Public Lands Day: Sailors load branches for removal at Ga'an Point in Agat.

"Thank You" to our National Public Lands Day Volunteers

On September 24, War in the Pacific National Historical Park celebrated National Public Lands Day, a day when thousands of volunteers lend helping hands, working together to make their public parks, trails, and recreation areas a little more beautiful.

Here on Guam, park rangers were joined by over one hundred volunteers, from the U.S. Navy to the Guam Girl Scouts. Activities included the start of a native plant nursery for the park and removal of invasive vegetation at Ga'an Point.

The park staff would like to extend our sincere appreciation to all of the volunteers who spent several hours caring for their public lands. We look forward to working with you next year, but we want to remind the public that any day is a great day to volunteer at your national park. For more information, call 333-4050.



Your Park: Everyone's Park

After an awareness was raised by the local community, in 1978 War in the Pacific National Historical Park was created by Congress "for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations." Although park rangers oversee the care and development of that mission today, it is everyone's responsibility to use this public land wisely.

To help in this effort, special use of the park units is managed under permits. Currently, there is no charge for small groups who wish to use the park for picnics, barbecues, or similar everyday functions. However, groups of 25 or more are asked to stop by the park visitor center for a permit.

Please plan your event in advance and give us notice. This helps to ensure that we can accommodate your request and that the site you select will be available. Permits also provide us accurate records concerning public use to help us discern better ways to manage these valuable resources.

Applications for a permit can be picked up at the visitor center, faxed to you upon request, or found online at go.nps.gov/guam-permit.

So please come out and visit the park: everyone's park - your park! It means many things to many people. Some see the park as a gift from a past generation, some as a place for recreation; some see it as a learning tool to discover our past, some see it as a site for quiet reflection. We hope all will see War in the Pacific National Historical Park as a memorial shared by everyone who will use it responsibly.

Junior Ranger Academy

During October, the national park hosted the Junior Ranger Academy, an opportunity for the island's 6th and 7th-graders to explore the connections between the distant past, modern science, and their everyday lives.

During the program, Junior Rangers saw real artifacts from World War II, learned about the battles on Guam and throughout the Pacific War, explored a watershed in the park, and participated in restoring a World War II site! More importantly, they became representatives of the park who can help take care of these very special places.

The Junior Ranger Academy programs took place on Saturdays and Sundays throughout October. Junior Rangers collected stamps in their official passports for each program they completed. Completion of four programs garnered an official badge and certificate at the closing ceremony.



Junior Rangers have fun and learn about the world around them through hands on activities - both on land and under water!

Mark Your Calendar -Don't Miss These Park Events!

- **Ranger Talks each Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m.** Explore the resources and stories of your park with a park ranger. For more details, call 333-4050 or visit www.nps.gov/wapa.
- **Battle of the Aleutians** - Explore this fascinating exhibit on display at the visitor center through November.

October

- **Junior Ranger Academy** - Saturdays in October.
- **Curators Corner** - Saturday, October 22, 9 a.m. - See winter warfare artifacts and hear the story of the Aleutian Islands campaign. (1 hour).

November

- **Movie in the Park** - Friday, November 11, 6 p.m. at Asan Beach - Join us for a special movie under the stars on traditional fishing on Guam. (2 hours).
- **Curator's Corner** - Saturday, November 19, 1 p.m. at the visitor center - Check out museum artifacts and learn about the U.S. strategic bombing of Japan from the Marianas, a highly important campaign, which hastened the end of the Pacific War (2 hours).
- **Park Closure:** All park facilities will be closed on Thursday, November 24.
- **Visitor Center Closure** - The visitor center will be temporarily closed starting November 24 due to exhibit construction. For a specific closure schedule, call 333-4050 or visit www.nps.gov/wapa.

December

- **Visitor Center Closure** - The visitor center closure will continue through December 5 due to exhibit infrastructure construction. For a specific closure schedule, call 333-4050 or visit www.nps.gov/wapa.
- **70th Anniversary of the Japanese Invasion of Guam** - Saturday, December 10 - Join us as we remember the beginning of World War II and one of the most tragic events in Guam's history. For program details, call 333-4050 or visit www.nps.gov/wapa.
- **Park Closure:** All park facilities will be closed on Sunday, December 25.

War in the Pacific National Historical Park

was established by Congress in 1978 "to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of those participating in the campaigns of the Pacific Theater of World War II and to conserve and interpret outstanding natural, scenic, and historic values and objects on the island of Guam for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations..."

Superintendent

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Chief of Interpretation

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Ranger Review: *The Rising Sun*

by Ben Hayes

The Pacific War is fraught with many debated issues, but several questions remain paramount: why did Japan go to war against the United States and why did its leaders refuse to surrender for so long? These questions are answered in John Toland's Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Rising Sun: The Decline and Fall of the Japanese Empire*, which examines the conflict through Japan's perspective and reveals several surprising conclusions.

The demise of the Japanese Empire, Toland argues, began as a consequence of a failed coup attempt in 1936, which gave the military virtual control over the government. Although Japan's military leaders bickered incessantly, their arrogant and myopic decisions placed the nation on an irrational path toward war and ruin. Toland contends it was the war with China, not the United States, which served as a critical turning point. According to Toland, the 1937 invasion of China made Japan an international pariah and triggered an increasingly

antagonistic diplomacy relying more on military might than negotiation. Unwilling to admit to the quagmire in China, Japan began a campaign of belligerent expansion culminating in an unprovoked attack on the United States.

Toland notes that as the war turned against Japan, however, its leaders grew progressively out of touch with reality and became incapable of admitting defeat. The path of least resistance for the Empire was to continue the war against all hope and logic ironically bringing about both the Empire's collapse and unimaginable destruction for its people.

Toland describes events in an engrossing and dramatic narrative drawn from a wealth of interviews, documents, and personal letters of Japan's leaders. Although it is 40 years old, *The Rising Sun* remains one of the most important Pacific War books yet written. The book is available for \$21.95 at the Pacific Historic Parks bookstore in the T. Stell Newman Visitor Center.