

RANGER

The Journal of the Association of National Park Rangers

Stewards for parks, visitors & each other

Vol. 36, No. 3 | Summer 2020

Commemorating the right to vote



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Harriett Tubman house. NPS photo

Learn about women's history and visit the parks when you can

Andrea DeKoter is acting superintendent at Women's Rights National Historical Park and Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in the Finger Lakes Region of New York. As a women's history scholar and a National Park Service professional and leader, DeKoter has devoted years of study to the long journey for the right of the first American women to vote.

When DeKoter calls the places that embody this history sacred she is not practicing the art of interpretation. She is stating truth.

Some years ago I had the opportunity to write several grants for the National Women's Hall of Fame – located just down the street from the Women's Rights Visitor Center in downtown Seneca Falls. At the time, I lived a few miles from Auburn, where the great abolitionist Harriet Tubman also changed the course of American history.

Although I made dozens of trips to Seneca Falls and Auburn during my nine-month stay in the area, the reverence I felt in their sacred places never diminished. The Wesleyan Chapel, site of the First Woman's Rights Convention in the United States, and the homes of a number of awe-inspiring civil rights leaders

in the region never failed to transport me to a place of reflection and amazement.

Women's history is no less significant to American history than any other aspect of history. While great monuments have been built to white men who held and passed along the seats of power in America to each other, everyone knows that no American has ever acted alone in shaping our collective history. The men who have been nationally feted for centuries could not have committed their noteworthy deeds without friends and countrywomen of every persuasion.

When the threat of the coronavirus diminishes enough that people can travel safely and visit our nation's great places, I encourage you to put Seneca Falls, Auburn and Rochester, New York – home to Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony – at the top of your bucket list.

Until then, learn everything you can about what truly extraordinary women have achieved – most of them while living everyday lives – for you and your country.

— Ann Dee Allen
Ranger editor



ON THE COVER: Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York

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In meeting these purposes, the Association provides education and other training to develop and/or improve the knowledge and skills of park professionals and those interested in the stewardship of national parks; provides a forum for discussion of common concerns of all employees; and provides information to the public.

The membership of ANPR is comprised of individuals who are entrusted with and committed to the care, study, explanation and/or protection of those natural, cultural and recreational resources included in the National Park System, and persons who support these efforts.

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Paul Anderson, President ANPR



Photo by Reghan Tank

We will get through this together

As I write this message – sheltering in place at home in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic – I find it difficult to predict where the National Park Service will be in its response to the pandemic when this issue of *Ranger* reaches your inbox or mailbox. This has already been a tough time for our members, the NPS and the communities surrounding the parks.

The seemingly inconsistent manner in which park requests for “modifying park operations” to respond to the evolving pandemic were handled, and the very real threats to the health and safety of our visitors and employees, created a confusing and stressful situation for everyone. Through it all, NPS employees on the front lines and the people supporting them continued to do their jobs professionally and exceptionally well.

Thank you for your service

Whether you patrolled the parks, responded to emergencies, cleaned restrooms or developed virtual tours, you rose to the occasion. I commend you, along with the nation’s first responders, doctors and nurses, for putting yourselves in harm’s way to serve America and Americans in a time of need. Thank you for what you have done, and continue to do, until we contain and resolve this crisis.

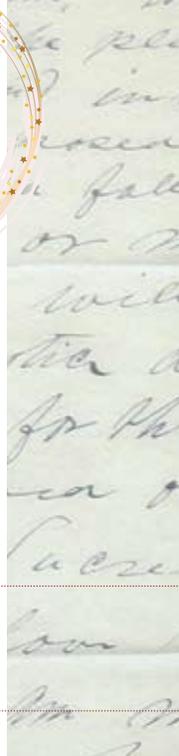
I hope this issue of *Ranger* magazine will be instructive, supportive and motivational for you as we proceed through one of the most difficult seasons the NPS and the nation have faced in modern times.

I’m sure you aren’t bored! But if you are (or even if you aren’t) check out Kevin Moses’ protection column, which contains a list of important things we should all consider accomplishing. And what a time to be celebrating the 19th Amendment to the Constitution and the long and difficult history that led to its ratification on August 18, 1920! I’m sure you will gain new insights into the parks that honor the struggle for women’s rights in America through our *Ranger* articles.

Meanwhile, your ANPR Board of Directors continues to work on the most important aspects of our Strategic Plan and plan for an outstanding Ranger Rendezvous 43 in Jacksonville, Florida, in October. We hope the COVID-19 situation status will allow the Rendezvous to proceed, but we understand that it may not. We will keep you informed as we get closer to October.

Please be vigilant, be patient, stay calm, act professionally and take care of each other during this exceptional time. We will get through this together.

— Paul
ANPR President



COMMEMORATING THE 19TH AMENDMENT IN SENECA FALLS

By Stephanie Freese, *Women's Rights*,
and Ann Dee Allen, *Ranger editor*

ON August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution.

The right to vote in the United States of America could no longer be denied on the basis of gender. The long fight for women's suffrage was successful, but it was also complex and interwoven with issues concerning the civil and political rights of all Americans.

As the nation approaches the 100th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, the National Park Service has spent months preparing to commemorate this historic milestone and highlight its complicated history. From Centennial presentations and activities to unique social media moments, Women's Rights National Historical Park in New York and park partners made plans to commemorate the anniversary in a variety of ways.

Activities were designed to examine the people, places, influences and challenges along the quest for the right to vote. They included speakers, multimedia and musical events, ranger-led programs, living history programs, community projects and crafts, youth programming, special exhibits and new interpretative online experiences.

The coronavirus pandemic significantly impacted the largest on-site events planned for the Centennial: Convention Days, scheduled for July 17-19, and Equality Weekend – Seneca Falls, scheduled for August 22-23. At press time, Women's

Rights was planning to modify programs for these events to ensure staff and visitor safety and comply with public health guidance on public gatherings.

Convention Days commemorate the 1848 Seneca Falls Women's Rights Convention and take place annually on the third weekend of July. Visitors usually have on-site opportunities to learn, experience and be inspired by the women and men who led the call for women's suffrage. The theme for 2020 is **"Legacy of our Foremothers."**

The three-day event typically includes live performances, historic tours, living history portrayals, children's activities, hands-on art projects and presentations by women's rights scholars.

Equality Weekend – Seneca Falls is a new event for the Centennial of the 19th Amendment. It was envisioned as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to commemorate the 19th Amendment with the National Park Service in the place where the American women's rights movement began.

IT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED TO INCLUDE:

- **"Multiple Voices on the 19th Amendment,"** about suffrage history through the voices of history-changing women and men.
- Keynote presentations by Kenneth B. Morris, Jr., a descendant of Frederick Douglass; Elizabeth "Liza" Walker Mick-

ens, a descendant of Maggie Walker; and Coline Jenkins, great-great-granddaughter of Elizabeth Cady Stanton.

- **"Commemorating the Centennial"** with National Park Service Mellon fellow Sylvea Hollis, on why NPS is commemorating rather than celebrating suffrage, in recognition of the fact that women of color did not win the right to vote in 1920.
- A presentation by Judy Hart, the first superintendent of Women's Rights National Historical Park, with an acknowledgment of the park's 40th Anniversary.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS' CENTENNIAL PROGRAMS IN EARLY SPRING WERE HELD WITHOUT INTERRUPTION. THEY INCLUDED:

- **"Fannie Barrier Williams (1893-1918): 100 Years After Suffrage and the Legacies of Race, Gender and Civic Voice"** with Barb LeSavoy, Ph.D., who discussed the life of the first African American woman to graduate from college in Brockport, New York, and become a nationally recognized expert on social justice, civil rights and gender issues.
- **"Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Racist?"** with Laura Free, Ph.D., who discussed the complicated race and gender politics of the 1860s and how the early feminist's views about race informed her activism.



Conferring over ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution at National Woman's Party headquarters, Jackson Place, Washington, D.C. Left to right: Dora Lewis, Abby Scott Baker, Anita Pollitzer, Alice Paul, Florence Boeckel and Mabel Vernon (standing, right) Photo: Library of Congress

WOMEN'S RIGHTS CREATED VIRTUAL EVENTS FOR THESE ACTIVITIES:

- Junior Ranger Day at the Visitor Center, which had been planned to kick off National Park Week and provide Centennial badges to junior rangers.
- Kids to Parks Day for 4th graders, which became Parks to Kids Day.
- Arts in Your Park, which featured videos produced by park staff members.

A panel of female comic book artists speaking about researching and creating a 200-page anthology was being planned as a virtual event when *Ranger* went to press. The anthology, "Votes for Women: The Battle for the 19th Amendment" (<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/allyshwed/votes-for-women-anthology/comments>), includes comics and artwork that explore the individuals and narratives behind women's suffrage.

The park was also scheduled to hold an Equality Day / Naturalization Ceremony on August 26 to welcome new American citizens 100 years after women's right to vote was officially added to the U.S. Constitution. Plans for the event were in progress at press time.

"SuperHERoes of History," in partnership with Seneca Museum, Seneca Falls Library and Seneca Falls Historical Society, is being rescheduled for fall.

CENTENNIAL RESOURCES

- Women's Rights National Historical Park: [NPS.gov/WORI](https://www.nps.gov/WORI)
- Harriet Tubman National Historical Park: [NPS.gov/HART](https://www.nps.gov/HART)
- National Parks Foundation: [nationalparks.org/our-work/campaigns-initiatives/women-parks](https://www.nationalparks.org/our-work/campaigns-initiatives/women-parks)
- Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission: [womensvote100.org/learn](https://www.womensvote100.org/learn)
- Women's Vote Centennial Initiative: [2020centennial.org](https://www.2020centennial.org)

Women's Rights has a robust Junior Ranger program. The program has grown since the onset of the pandemic, with park staff continuing to engage with Junior Rangers online and sending badges by mail. Junior Rangers will be able to return to the park in the coming months and take their oaths alongside the First Wave exhibit, which features statues of the founders of the 1848 Women's Rights Convention.

TWO SPRING EVENTS NEEDED TO BE CANCELED DUE TO THE PANDEMIC:

- "How Did They Do It? Grass Roots Social Activism, Emily Howland, and the Battle for Political Equality" with

the Rev. Larry Bell, on the life and activism of Emily Howland, a philanthropist and early women's rights advocate who provided grants for African-Americans to attend college and helped fund educational institutions, including the Tuskegee Institute. The event had been in partnership with the Seneca Falls Historical Society.

- "The Pivot: The Marriage Question in the Women's Rights Movement" with Carol Faulkner, Ph.D., on how 19th-century feminists and other marriage reformers, including abolitionists, spiritualists and communitarians, challenged the legal institution of marriage.

The 2020 commemoration of the 19th Amendment in Seneca Falls will not look as it was originally envisioned. Women's Rights National Historical Park will continue to shift its plans in the best interest of health and safety while continuing to be a gateway into the origins of the suffrage movement in the United States.

Like every unit in the system, the park's mission remains firm: to preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education and inspiration of this and future generations.

Stephanie Freese is the 19th Amendment Centennial coordinator for Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York.



**WHAT WOULD THE
COMMEMORATION LOOK
LIKE AT A NATIONAL PARK
SERVICE SITE DEDICATED
TO THE STRUGGLE FOR
WOMEN'S EQUALITY?**

*By Stephanie Freese,
Women's Rights*

**Above: Visitor Center lobby's
life-size bronze sculpture,
The First Wave, which consists of
20 figures representing
women and men who attended
the first Woman's Rights
Convention. Photo: NPS.gov**

LOGISTICS:

PLANNING THE SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL AT WOMEN'S RIGHTS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

In 1848, five women organized the First Woman's Rights Convention in the United States and wrote the Declaration of Sentiments. The declaration stated that "all men and women are created equal."

Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York, commemorates the convention and preserves the sites associated with the convention and its organizers, including the Wesleyan Chapel, Stanton House, M'Clintock House and Hunt House. Due to its connection with

women's history and the suffrage movement, Women's Rights is a focal point for the Centennial commemoration of the passage of the 19th Amendment.

When I became 19th Amendment Centennial coordinator for the park in Fall 2018, the park did not have plans for the Centennial. When I started researching what other community, state and national groups were planning, I quickly realized we were behind schedule.

Thankfully, the National Park Service's Washington Office had established a thematic framework and general messaging for the commemoration. Women's Rights is so closely aligned with the overarching themes of the Centennial that the framework provided the perfect starting point for planning.

My first big challenge was determining how the park wanted to engage with the Centennial. Our park's staff and leaders are in a unique position because we talk about women's fight for the vote every day. At a park that is already immersed in suffrage, we needed to decide what sets our park apart from other places that would be showcasing women's history during the Centennial.

Our team focused in on foundational concepts that helped direct programming and events for the year.

A VISION EMERGES

Inclusivity became a major goal for Centennial storytelling and activities. Many amazing men and women have changed the course of history. Women's Rights tells the story of the five women who organized the 1848 Woman's Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, but we also wanted to include lesser-known figures significant to the suffrage movement. We decided to use programming and social media to tell previously unshared stories.

Our second big concept related specifically to the 19th Amendment and the lack of access to the vote that existed even after



LADIES OF THE SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT

Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. Journalist and member of the Chicago Alpha Suffrage Club, Ida B. Wells. Photos: National Portrait Gallery

ratification of the amendment. People of color, tribal members and some immigrants did not achieve voting equality under the amendment.

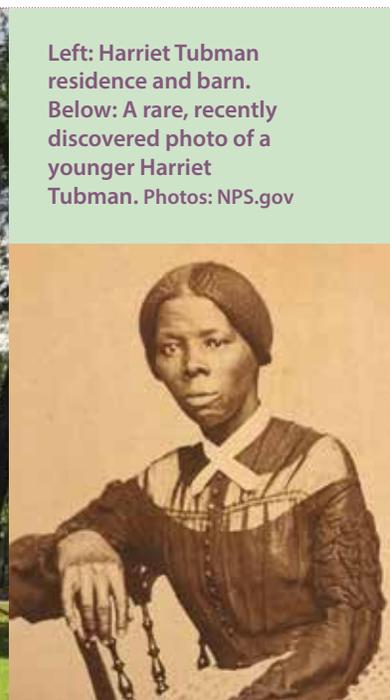
While some groups chose to "celebrate" the 19th Amendment, Women's Rights decided to "commemorate" history and also acknowledge remaining voting injustices. This approach set us apart from many other groups and institutions exploring women's history through the Centennial.

Using the word commemorate honors the positive outcomes of the 19th Amendment while also acknowledging the work that was left to be done.

With the basic framework and key messaging decided, we began to envision

how the year's activities would unfold. This led me back to researching U.S. history, digging through databases, collecting park history and networking within NPS to identify potential speakers and programs for the Centennial.

Over two years' time, we had been receiving hundreds of proposals and letters of interest from musicians, authors, exhibit designers, sculptors, speakers, scholars, students and actors about every type of Centennial program imaginable. Identifying potential programs requires multiple levels of vetting before any contact is made or invitation extended, to ensure that programs align with the quality and content we offer our visitors.



Left: Harriet Tubman residence and barn. Below: A rare, recently discovered photo of a younger Harriet Tubman. Photos: NPS.gov

Working with management, I developed criteria to vet program proposals. The park's Centennial team then determined which qualified programs to offer visitors. We aimed to provide a wide range of new programs alongside more familiar programs our visitors have come to expect, such as the annual Convention Days.

A NEW WEEKEND-LONG EVENT

One of our focal points would be a new event, Equality Weekend – Seneca Falls. The goal for this event would be to highlight the Park Service as the caretaker of the significant physical spaces that symbolize women's history.

We focused on connections between NPS places and suffrage to identify three keynote speakers for Equality Weekend. Each speaker is a descendant of an individual who made women's rights history and is associated with a national park. The individuals are the notable Americans Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Frederick Douglass and Maggie L. Walker.



M'Clintock House front. Women's Rights National Historical Park. Photo: NPS.gov

A large group, mostly women, standing around a table in the office of Missouri Governor Frederick Gardner as he signs the resolution ratifying the 19th Constitutional Amendment on July 3, 1919. Photo: Library of Congress



Women's Rights has been telling the suffrage story for 40 years, but women's history is part of all national parks. We looked at how to honor NPS's role during Equality Weekend. We focused on the fact that our national park unit strives to help visitors understand the challenges faced by the leaders of the suffrage movement and the significance of the ratification, including the lack of equal access to voting after ratification.

Women's Rights initially worked to secure support and grants for an on-site Equality Weekend event from the nonprofit organizations Eastern National and the National Park Foundation. This initiative started at the park level, then rapidly grew into a Seneca Falls-wide effort as the park pursued partnerships and encouraged local entities to join the commemoration.

VISITOR CENTER EXHIBIT UPDATES

As we were preparing for the Centennial, we acknowledged that the park's Visitor Center had some weaknesses. Dated and somewhat faded, the exhibit space was not ready to welcome the influx of visitors we expected this year.

Applying a fresh coat of paint and securing loaned and traveling exhibits from other museums took us in the right direction. An intern did a massive amount of research and worked with a designer to create an exhibit that dramatically expands the narrative of the birth of the organized fight for suffrage in the United States. I developed temporary exhibits that can be presented through an inexpensive and easy-to-modify digital medium.

We couldn't redo all the exhibits, but being thoughtful and intentional about the small changes we could make has had an enormous impact on exhibit content and quality, and will broaden our visitors' experiences.

Since the onset of COVID-19, 2020 is not looking at all like what we had anticipated or planned. In the interest of staff and visitor health and safety, we have needed to pivot plans in short time frames. Most significant, Equality Weekend will be much different from the gathering we had planned. Details were still unfolding in May.

Our determination and dedication to women's history and providing outstanding visitor experiences remain at the forefront of our efforts. We look forward to visitors being able to safely join us and enjoy the park's new offerings in the near future.

Looking back to winter, I remember when Acting Superintendent Andrea DeKoter presented the park's Centennial plans to higher-level NPS management. Her message was clear: While Women's Rights has limited capacity due to its

small staff, we are creative and dedicated and have fantastic community partners.

We are small, but we are mighty. Pandemic or no pandemic, Women's Rights National Historical Park will adapt and overcome, just as our foremothers and fathers did in their 72-plus-year fight for women's suffrage.

At times we even see ourselves in the iconic Rosie the Riveter posters that proclaim "We Can Do It!"

Stephanie Freese is the 19th Amendment Centennial coordinator for Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls, New York.

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ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

HAS HER OWN HISTORY

WITH WOMEN'S RIGHTS NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

By Ann Dee Allen, Ranger editor

AS Andrea DeKoter, Ph.D., describes the trajectory of women's rights in U.S. history, parallels to her own career emerge.

"It is not a neat, linear movement," she said. "And there is still work to be done."

She's referring to the 72-year campaign for the right of the first American women to vote, and the subsequent decades in which the women's rights movement gained momentum and became more inclusive.

DeKoter has been acting superintendent of the Women's Rights National Historical Park in Seneca Falls and Harriet Tubman National Historical Park in Auburn, New York, since summer 2019. Although the role is relatively new for her, she has a long history with the cultural resources she now oversees.

DeKoter entered undergraduate school in 2000 with a focus on physics and math. She hadn't studied women's history before taking an elective class as a sophomore. She found the class so fascinating that her professor recommended additional reading for her at the end of the semester.

She was also surprised, and a bit embarrassed, that she didn't know more about women's history. At the time she was feeling isolated as a woman studying physics and mathematics, as most of her classmates were men. Her experiences with male-dominated academic situations helped her make even more of a connection to women's history.

DeKoter's educational pursuits led her to study at Oxford University in England. As her studies expanded, she changed her major to U.S. history with a concentration in women's history and decided to attend graduate school at the State University of New York at Binghamton. At Binghamton, she had the opportunity to work at Women's Rights as a seasonal interpreter.

NEW HORIZONS

In 2008, DeKoter started on a four-year path to becoming a National Park Service permanent employee through the former Student Career Experience Program. She went on to earn her doctorate degree in U.S. history with an emphasis on women's history and to further advance her career.

"I fell in love with the Park Service," Dekoter said. "I was engaging with visitors who wanted to dive into the material and who were so excited to be on sacred ground where women's rights history took place. The people who come to the parks really want to be there and speak with rangers, the experts who can connect them with this history. They are excited about interacting with and engaging with park resources."

Soon DeKoter was hired as an interpretive ranger at Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park in Virginia. There she became immersed in the association between military history and social history, particularly through park visitors who wanted to learn more about their families' stories in relation to American history.

She also worked on a public information detail in the headquarters of the former National Capital Region, where she gained experience working with the news media, explaining operational and budgeting aspects of the National Park System to reporters. She sharpened her skills, focusing on ways to describe Americans' role as national park stakeholders. While there, she was also able to learn from Jennifer Mummart, who was associate regional director of communications.

“That really helped prepare me for becoming a chief and an acting superintendent,” DeKoter said.

She also worked as a legislative affairs researcher in the Office of Legislative and Congressional Affairs in Washington, D.C., and went on to become chief of interpretation at Richmond National Battlefield Park and Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site in Virginia.

FULL CIRCLE

By the time an opening came for a 120-day detail as acting superintendent at Women’s Rights, Dekoter was well-prepared to apply. The position was extended and altered to include Harriet Tubman.

“I ‘grew up’ at Women’s Rights and spent about 10 years here before coming back,” she said. “I am very excited to be here. The 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, giving women the right to vote in the United States for the first time, is such a great time to be here talking about women’s rights.”

She said the park and the commemorative activities are designed to make it clear to visitors that not all women were granted the right to vote in 1920. Even so, it was a monumental achievement after decades of struggle from 1848 to 1920, and featured key figures in the abolitionist movement to end slavery in the United States.

“I think about the fact that a small group of women organized a convention in 1848 to advocate for the right to vote,” DeKoter said. “They used their voices, they used their abolitionist networking experience to bring people together.”

Just as women in history have supported each other, DeKoter had help from female trailblazers. She now tries to pay it forward for other women.

“I benefitted from some very wise mentors along the way,” she said. “Margaret Lamberts Bendroth, my undergraduate professor, and Tina Cappetta, who was superintendent at Women’s Rights and is now at C&O Canal National Historical Park – I really looked up to them. That mirrors what we learn about women in history.”

It’s part of the education she hopes visitors take away from the parks she now leads in upstate New York.

“It’s important to tell people that your voice matters, you can become empowered to make a difference,” she said. “You can create tremendous change and make the world a better place.”

DeKoter encourages all Americans to visit the parks and learn about women’s history.

“These are sacred places,” she said. “People can come and be in the same spaces where Harriet Tubman, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Susan B. Anthony, Lucretia Mott, Frederick Douglass and other important Americans walked and hear their stories.”

Ann Dee Allen is editor of the Association of National Park Rangers’ quarterly Ranger magazine.

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A conversation with **Mike Reynolds**

By Ann Dee Allen, Ranger editor

Mike Reynolds in 2017 speaking on the significance of the Reconstruction era in American history. Reconstruction Era National Monument, South Carolina. Photo: NPS.gov

In October 2019, Mike Reynolds was named National Park Service regional director of the Department of the Interior Lower Colorado Basin, Upper Colorado Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas-Gulf regions. He oversees 89 park units within nine states of the American West.

Ann Dee Allen, editor of the Association of National Park Rangers' quarterly magazine, *Ranger*, spoke with Reynolds in spring 2020.

Ranger: What are your top priorities for the region at this time?

REYNOLDS: I can't express how important the subjects of mental health and resiliency are in our region right now. Another priority for the region and national leadership is the NPS workforce.

One of the things I find so admirable about national park employees is that they don't complain. They are very dedicated. But we have to take better care of ourselves, and NPS managers have to learn better skills and have more tools so we can be there for others when it comes to the mental health of our employees.

There is no more tragic period than when we have a loss of one of our own to suicide. We need to be mindful and inclusive of all our employees. NPS rangers and

firefighters have been leading on addressing mental health issues in their ranks. On the operations side, our facilities and maintenance teams are also experiencing a lot of stress.

I'm on the Safety Leadership Council that reports to the NPS director, and the council is looking at resiliency, mental health and safety issues. We have to invest in mental health professionals who understand our parks culture and know how to speak to people in our profession.

Our workforce issues include many different elements. HR is working to get better and better at increasing the federal government's ability to hire the right people faster and easier, and prioritizing diversity and inclusion.

We are aligning our strategic priorities. We're reflecting on what our parks look like in the 21st century, even though it has been in our DNA to resist change.



Mike Reynolds at the 2011 Casey property dedication with Vidal Davila, Gates Watson and Dan Sakura. Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota. Photo: NPS.gov

We don't have to stick to the old cultures and ways of doing business. Our employees are very skilled, and we have the opportunity to leverage those skills, be innovative and pilot positive change. This is something we are thinking hard about and putting a lot of effort into.

Ranger: What are some additional priorities at the national level?

REYNOLDS: Visitor use, visitor experience and recreation issues are important. We have an opportunity to help visitors discover lesser known parks and ensure that some parks are not overrun by too many visitors. We know that visitor use management is an art and there are ways to be most effective at managing use.

Infrastructure is also critical. We need to focus on making sure that basic systems like water and sewer infrastructure needs are part of our innovation efforts. Shifts in climate have an impact on our aging parks in particular.

Ranger: How can everyone in the National Park Service plan ahead and be flexible at the same time?

REYNOLDS: It's one thing for us to set priorities from a leadership level, but the actions come down to each individual's sphere of influence. How does your patrol route or the way you interact with your visitors groups make a difference?

The best thing is to have good communication – a feedback loop between leaders and teams. I like to see shift supervisors sitting down with their teams and listening to their ideas. Supervisors asking, what do you see, how can we make your job easier and better?

Picture pieces of twine that eventually become a big ball that can have some momentum. This is how we can be more nimble. You aren't stuck in a rigid format that doesn't change.

If you think about it, our employees are the best at quickly and efficiently managing incidents and caring for others. We need to harness the adaptability and flexibility we already apply in a crisis to day-to-day operations.

It's on us as leaders to create this culture, but it's easier said than done.

One of the beautiful things about the park system is how diverse it is. A cookie cutter approach to managing all of these different places doesn't work. U.S. border parks have different issues than parks in the Rockies.



About MIKE REYNOLDS

Mike Reynolds is a 34-year National Park Service veteran and a third-generation NPS employee. He grew up in Yosemite National Park and later returned to the park as a resource manager, planner, division chief, and most recently, park superintendent. He previously served as the deputy director for operations of the NPS and spent the majority of his tenure serving as NPS acting director.

Other assignments for Reynolds included serving as NPS Midwest regional director, deputy north-east regional director, superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore, and in other roles at Mojave National Preserve, Cape Cod National Seashore, Curecanti National Recreation Area, and the NPS Denver Service Center. He earned a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and an MBA from Regis University in Denver. He was a senior executive fellow at Harvard University in spring 2011.



Local partners and officials join National Park Service Southeast Regional Director Stan Austin and Acting Director Mike Reynolds (left and right of sign) in dedicating Reconstruction Era National Monument, South Carolina. Photo: NPS.gov

We share commonalities but we need a culture where there is room to do things differently and stay true to the NPS mission.

Ranger: What is the most important message to convey to NPS employees right now?

REYNOLDS: Meet with your partners, community leaders and visitors. Remind them that they have inherited an incredible national heritage of public lands. Let them know you are stewards of these lands on their behalf.

Help them understand that you want them to learn about and enjoy our national parks as citizens. Explain how important these places are to our nation, how much people benefit from the parks, that they have a stake in helping us manage these resources, and that we want to help the parks to remain relevant to them.

Maybe we need to be in the schools, maybe we need to play more of a role in the community as public land owners.

Simply say: "I want to be your partner in protecting this place. How do we do that together? As National Park Service professionals, we get to know these places.

We have come to understand how complex and nuanced your park is. We want to help you become more engaged with your park."

Ranger: Do you have any parting thoughts for ANPR readers?

REYNOLDS: This is the digital age. We need to remember that in our interactions with visitors and in visitor use management. The American people are using digital tools to show us how important they are to the parks and we need to listen.

At the same time, we need to remember that everyone is not on the same page. We need to keep reminding ourselves and Americans what an incredible resource we have in our national parks. And we need to make sure we do it in the right way.

Life Century Club
MEMBERS

Life members who contribute \$125 to ANPR are recognized in the Second Century Club. Once you are a Second Century Club member, each additional \$250 donation will increase your life level by one century. If you are a life member, please consider raising your contribution to the next level!

(updated 5/13/20)

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- Bill Wade



As COVID-19 changes landscape for seasonals, ANPR can help

By Reghan Tank

As a little girl, I got through the rainy Kansas springs and end of the school year by anticipating the summer. There would be pool parties, freeze pops, fireflies, rollerblading – what more could a kid ask for?

As I got older, summer meant working full time. Whether I was a camp counselor, nanny or “deckie” at the city pool (a.k.a. bathroom cleaner), the notion of ever having a summer of freedom again slowly faded.

That was until five years ago, when I got my first taste of “rangering” as an intern at Rocky Mountain National Park (ROMO) in Colorado. While spending evenings under the Milky Way, listening to chorus frogs sing as the sun set over the Never Summers, watching the clouds blanket the front range from the alpine tundra, I got to work in one of the world’s most beautiful playgrounds.

For the first time in a long time, the summers I experienced as a child didn’t seem out of reach.

After one more stint as an intern and three seasons as an interpretation ranger, I no longer have working at, and living in, ROMO to look forward to. I decided to make the move to another state to be with my significant other and find a full-time, year-round job. The summer looks a lot different for me, and the transition hasn’t been easy.

We’re here for you

This summer also looks very different for many seasonal rangers. Some were planning to go back to their parks or work at a new park. Others were starting their first-ever NPS jobs. Because of COVID-19, their plans were drastically altered.

If you are one of these people, know that the Association of National Park Rangers is here to support you. Whether we can connect you with a mentor or find a scholarship for you to attend your first Ranger Rendezvous conference, we want to make sure you remain a part of the ranger community, especially during this difficult time.

Along with the mentorship program and scholarship opportunities, ANPR has made it a priority to provide valuable and useful benefits to all our members.

As of May 2020, our latest member service is a resume and cover letter review by a former ANPR board director and longtime member. Tom Banks has offered to donate his time editing and providing feedback to any ANPR member in need of another pair of eyes on their job application materials. You can learn more about how to take advantage of this service at ANPR.org/benefits.

If you are interested in providing a member service, brainstorming ideas for member recruitment, or want to talk about

the National Park Service or ANPR, please reach out to me at rtank@anpr.org. I always enjoy hearing about the priceless work and places national park enthusiasts are so fortunate to experience.

Reghan Tank is a member of the ANPR Board of Directors. She represents Membership Services for ANPR members.

Kudos List

These people have either given someone a gift membership to ANPR or recruited a new member. Thanks for your help and support!

(updated 5/13/20)

- Demi Vigil
- Jamie Richards
- Ginny Rousseau
- Dennis Burnett
- Jan Lemons
- Jonathan Shafer
- Wendy Lauritzen
- Bill Pierce



JOIN US AT Ranger Rendezvous in Florida

OCTOBER 13-18 | JACKSONVILLE, FL

We are only halfway through 2020, and it seems like everyone has already experienced a full year's worth of impacts. With changes to park operations, the run-up to a national election and our nation's battle with the coronavirus, a lot has been going on.

None of it has gotten in the way of your Ranger Rendezvous 43 management team. We're moving full steam ahead.

Rendezvous is planned for Jacksonville, Florida, October 13-18. We plan to stay at the Lexington Hotel and Conference Center on the south waterfront of the St. Johns river next to the vibrant and artistically diverse San Marcos area.

This year's Rendezvous theme is Building on Our Legacy. We have a lot of great training sessions, speakers and activities lined up that you don't want to miss.

TRAINING

We'll kick things off on October 13 with two full days of training. This year's sessions include:

Mental Health First Aid for Public Safety – An eight-hour class designed for first responders to learn critical de-escalation techniques for responding to mental health-related situations appropriately without compromising safety.

Operational Leadership – A 16-hour class on how to identify and proactively address risk in the workplace.

NPS Retirement and Benefits – A 16-hour class on NPS that includes information about TSP, health insurance, life insurance and much more. This class is designed for permanent National Park Service employees who have been working for at least five years. It is especially beneficial for all employees within 10 years of retirement and individuals who want to better understand federal benefits.

Making Green Choices – A workshop on self-assessment and self-reflection designed to leave participants with actionable tools to evaluate their environment, make purposeful choices to become more resilient, and elevate their performance, especially in dynamic and sometimes critical situations. This session will help leaders evaluate the current status of their teams, direct reports and actions to stay healthy, present and more connected – ultimately increasing productivity, facilitating creativity and improving performance.

Professional ranger tip: Help your supervisor understand that attending Ranger Rendezvous will benefit your professional development. Explain how training sessions, panels and keynote addresses will help you accomplish goals in your IDP or EPAP.

PANELS AND BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Starting on October 15 will be keynote presentations, engaging panel discussions and breakout sessions focused on natural

and cultural resources, preservation, fire management, highlights from the 9th World Ranger Congress, and much more. The program will include:

- Panel presentation on the lasting legacy of the Stoneman Meadow Riot in Yosemite National Park 50 years later
- NPS program leader panel (interpretation, VM&RP and others)
- Operational leadership for supervisors
- Ranger Rendezvous raffle and auction
- ANPR Photo Contest
- New park films from Harpers Ferry Center
- Trivia night
- Golf tournament
- ANPR membership meetings
- Rendezvous hospitality room

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Department of Interior Assistant Secretary of Fish, Wildlife and Parks Rob Wallace – A former NPS seasonal ranger, Wallace will address his decades of experience as a conservation professional.

Johnnetta Cole, Ph.D. – Descended from the family of former slaves and Florida's first black millionaire, Dr. Cole will share the history of area that is now part of Timucuan Ecological and Historic Preserve.

National Park Service Acting Director David Vela – A presentation on the NPS-Next initiative and working with ANPR members to reinvest in the NPS workforce.



An example of a conference-goers' room at the Lexington Hotel and Conference Center

EXHIBITS

Exhibitors will provide information about their products and services and host a reception for Rendezvous participants.

FIELD TRIPS

At Timucuan Ecological & Historic Preserve, [NPS.gov/TIMU](https://www.nps.gov/TIMU), participants will visit one of the last unspoiled coastal wetlands on the Atlantic Coast that includes 6,000 years of human history, salt marshes, coastal dunes and hardwood hammocks. They will also stop at Fort Caroline National Memorial and hear stories of exploration and survival related to French attempts at settlement in the 16th century. From there, participants will go by boat to Kingsley Plantation to discover the stories of free and enslaved people who lived during the 18th and 19th centuries. Finally, they will ride through the Talbot Islands, with stops at American Beach and Driftwood Beach if time allows.

At Castillo de San Marcos, [NPS.gov/CASA](https://www.nps.gov/CASA), we will visit the only remaining 17th century fort and oldest masonry fort in North America. The fort symbolizes a clash between cultures that provides a tangible connection with America's sometimes grim but remarkable history. After a ranger-led tour of the fort, participants will enjoy a leisurely stop in the St. Augustine Historic District, lunch and a tour of Fort Mose Historic State Park. Fort Mose is a premier site on the Florida Black Heritage Trail, and is the location of the first legally sanctioned, free black settlement in what would become the United States.

THERE'S MORE

This year, we are celebrating the Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award at Rendezvous. All past award recipients are invited to attend and be recognized at a

special campfire awards program featuring national NPS leaders. The program will include presentations of the National Parks Conservation Association's Stephen T. Mather Award and ANPR annual awards. A reception and band will follow.

Visit [ANPR.org](https://www.anpr.org) to register for the conference and look for the link to book your hotel room separately. Watch your inbox for the ANPR monthly newsletter, where we'll continue to share Rendezvous updates and links.

Rest assured, the conference management team is closely monitoring the evolving COVID-19 situation. While we have every intention of meeting this October, the health and safety of conference participants is our first priority. If we need to postpone Ranger Rendezvous 43, we'll let you know no later than mid-August, in time for refunds.

Mark your calendar and make your travel plans. We hope to see you in Jacksonville this October!

— Bill Wade
Ranger Rendezvous Manager

Calling all Harry Yount Award recipients

Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award regional and national honorees are invited to attend this year's Ranger Rendezvous and be recognized as recipients of one of the National Park Service's most prestigious awards for rangers. Please forward this information to recipients you know and ask them to visit [ANPR.org](https://www.anpr.org) for details.

ANPR'S ANNUAL 2020 photo contest

Submit your best photos to the Annual Photo Contest at Ranger Rendezvous.

CATEGORIES

1. Landscapes
2. Wildlife
3. Historical & Cultural Resources
4. People in the Parks – *Be sure to ask permission before submitting.*
5. It's in the Details (*close-ups, abstract designs, micro-details*)
6. Park Skies

GUIDELINES

- Contestants must be ANPR members. Memberships will be available at Rendezvous
- All photos must be taken within a national park unit or international protected area.
- Contestants may enter only one photo per category.
- Photos should be printed and unframed. Recommended size is 8 x 10 inches.

HOW TO ENTER

- Write your name, location of the photo, and the category on the back of each print.
- Drop photos at Rendezvous' ANPR registration desk upon arrival. If unable to attend, printed photos can be mailed to 189 E. River Rd., Emigrant, MT. Photos must arrive no later than Friday, September 25 to be included.

Rendezvous attendees vote for their favorite photos. Winners will be selected from each category, and a "Best of Show" photo will take the top spot. All winners will receive recognition at the Rendezvous and have their photos published in *Ranger* magazine.

Harry Yount award achieves NPS-wide and lifetime achievement status

By JT Townsend

This is the second part in a series about the Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award. The first part of the series appeared in the Spring 2020 issue of ANPR's Ranger magazine. The third part in the series will be published in the Fall 2020 issue.

A Midwest Region call for nominations for the first annual regional Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award was issued in spring 1992. Those of us in the Midwest Regional Office's Division of Ranger Activities also developed a special and unique recognition plaque and found funding for it.

Shortly thereafter, the first plaque was presented to Judith Kunth Folts of Cuyahoga National Recreation Area (now Cuyahoga National Park) in Ohio. The plaque became the form of recognition for regional Yount award recipients.

The same spring, at the joint Southwest and Midwest regions Chief Park Rangers Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, NPS Chief Ranger Jim Brady told an audience (as only he could), "What we need is a Harry Yount award."

Midwest Region Chief Ranger Tommy Thompson raised his hand and said, "Ah, Jim." Brady kept talking. Thompson, a bit more forcefully, again said, "Ah, Jim." Brady kept talking.

The next time Thompson said, "Ah, Jim," he stood up. When Brady paused, Thompson said, "About the Yount award – we've already got one." Southwest Region Chief Ranger Bill Tanner jumped in and said, "And we've been thinking about one."

Brady was (momentarily) speechless. It was priceless.

Subsequent to the conference, an email about the award was sent to regional offices. Thompson also made a presentation about the program to regional chief rangers at their meeting in Seattle in the fall.

The combination of events resulted in the Midwest Region being asked to send a ranger to the Washington office to develop a Service-wide Yount award program proposal.

WASHINGTON AWARD PLANNING

In Summer 1993, I went to Washington for a week to write the program proposal in the form of a briefing package for the NPS director. We wanted to do things correctly to avoid any of the controversies – however minor – that had nipped at the heels of other awards.

I spoke with numerous people involved with award programs, as well as people in Personnel, to solicit their advice about lessons learned and best practices.

In October 1993, upon the retirement of the legendary Weston P. "Wes" Kreis, I was detailed to WASO as the acting recreational fee program manager. During that assignment, Bill Halainen asked me what had happened to the NPS-wide Yount award proposal.

"I don't know," I replied. "I left it here with you guys (WASO Ranger Activities)."

We began to look for the missing proposal. It had fallen through the cracks, had been ignored, or, more realistically, had been "overtaken by events."

Such was the state of things until December, when Brady asked me to

compile an NPS-wide Yount award proposal for a meeting with the National Park Foundation to see if they would fund the award. With the help of Mary Davis, we soon fashioned a proposal and presentation package.

Brady and I then met with the Foundation to pitch the award and, hopefully, obtain underwriting.

As luck would have it, the Foundation was in the process of developing National Park Week, which was to include a significant kickoff event at the White House. A Yount award immediately became an essential part of planning for the event. The funds were committed and the Foundation agreed to find a donor to underwrite an award.

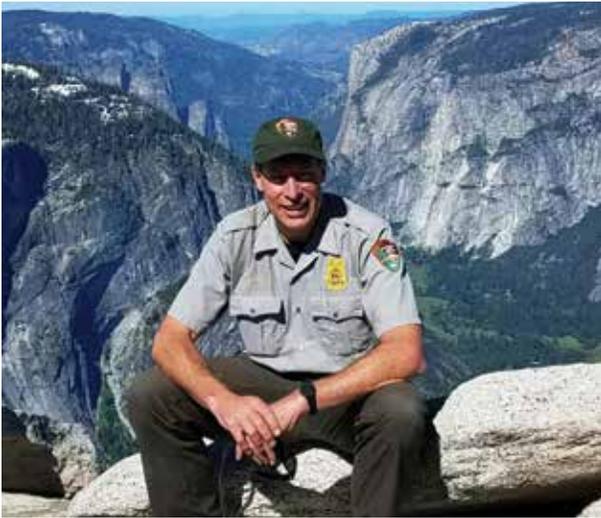
A LIFETIME AWARD AND AN NPS-WIDE AWARD

Still moving along a separate channel was the original award briefing package for the director. It eventually reached Acting Director John Reynolds, who issued a memo promulgating the Service-wide Harry Yount National Park Ranger Award on March 18, 1994.

While that was a good thing, it was also somewhat problematic. The National Park Foundation had secured funding from *The New York Times* for the award and had made its presentation a centerpiece of the White House event to occur in May. That left precious little time to solicit nominations for the regional awards, select them, and select a recipient of the Service-wide award.

Putting additional pressure on the process was the clear understanding that the Foundation wanted to showcase an "iconic" ranger – as did the National Park Service!

Faced with this challenge, the staff in WASO Ranger Activities met to determine how to make it all come together. After some discussion, the idea of honoring a Yount award recipient at the National Parks Week event for a *lifetime* of outstanding contributions in the art and science of rangers arose.



Ranger Jack J. Hoeflich from Yosemite National Park is the latest recipient of the National Harry Yount Award.
Photo: NPS.gov

The lifetime achievement aspect of the Yount award was born.

The staff of WASO Ranger Activities, most career rangers who'd come to Washington to take on problems facing the profession and the parks, had no trouble coming up with a unanimous choice. Richard T. "Rick" Gale was a motivated, talented, goal-centered ranger and the force behind many positive NPS changes, including advances in wildland firefighting manage-

ment, the adaptation of incident command system, and the development of national and regional incident management teams.

Gale later said that when he learned he was to receive the Harry Yount Lifetime Achievement Award, he thought it to be an elaborate practical joke. It was not.

JT Townsend is a 10th Century Life Member of ANPR. He retired from the National Park Service in 2004 after a 35-year career. He and his wife, Flo Six, live in Newman Lake, Washington.

WELCOME TO THE ANPR family

Here are the newest members of the Association of National Park Rangers
(updated 5/16/20)

- DBrett Gunderson, Benton Harbor, MI
- Eugene Moisa, Hurricane, UT
- Amy Ohman, Ajo, AZ
- Joelle Baird, Grand Canyon, AZ
- Bradley Block, Custer, SD
- Dave Brennan, Ashland, OR
- Colin Ward, Toquerville, UT
- Tif Small, Vernal, UT
- Mark Wolf, Denver, CO
- Marie Sauter, Las Cruces, NM
- Dr. Robert Juengling, Woodgate, NY
- Michaela Jarrell, Newark, OH
- Kent Taylor, Colorado Springs, CO
- Jon Pierce
- Mariah Brooke Gale

How the first plaque was designed



From the outset of discussions about the regional Yount award, we explored options for a tangible award that would recognize the achievement and serve as an inspiration to others. We did not want another arrowhead or certificate under plexiglass. We thought the award should include an image of Harry Yount and incorporate national parks history and National Park Service significance.

We decided to use William Henry Jackson's 1874 photo of Yount, "Berthoud Pass, looking North." Jackson's print is the only photo of Yount showing him in the field, "ranging." Described as having a call to adventure, Jackson's image got at the spirit of rangering.

Equally important was the association of Jackson to the national parks and NPS. Jackson's photographs for the Hayden survey of the Yellowstone in 1871 became part of the record that helped convince Congress to pass the Yellowstone Act. Jackson continued to serve with Hayden and photographed many areas that later became part of the National Park System – Grand Teton, Rocky Mountain, Mesa Verde and Canyon de Chelly.

We roughed out the plaque design, then with the help of Bryce Workman from Harpers Ferry Center, obtained a copy negative of Jackson's photograph from the National Archives, and worked with an award company to put the plaque together.

Regardless of the actual date of the award, the plaques are symbolically dated with the Park Service's birthday, August 25.

PROTECTION

A ranger is never bored

A few years ago, during a lull in visitation, a ranger made the mistake of complaining to me that he was bored and had nothing to do at work. I pulled out a map, found the longest, steepest, toughest trail snaking its way across our district, handed him a Pulaski and a bowsaw, and sent him on patrol. My orders: Clean out every water bar and cut every tree the saw could handle.

I can't remember that ranger complaining ever again about being bored.

Rangers should never be bored! Not even when our parks are closed to visitation, whether that be due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, a government shut-down, or any other cause. As protection rangers we are considered to be essential by our own government, and by virtue of that criterion alone, we should always have gainful work to keep us busy.

To be clear, the essential nature of our work – that element that mandates that we physically report to our duty stations – requires us to attend first and foremost to public safety. We protect the people from the park, the park from the people, and the people from the people. Even while our gates are shut, boundary trailheads are posted as closed and entrance stations are left unstaffed, we all know people will still try to enter – and sometimes succeed – in entering the park.

We must always maintain that vital function we all know as “patrol,” while remaining ever vigilant to prevent, detect and intercept crime and aid those who are in need, even if they're in the park illegally.

Having said that, I'm also sensitive to the fact that once we've reached a point during a given shift when we've appropri-

ately patrolled our areas of responsibilities, behind-the-scenes work will always be there and will always require our time, even during closures.

Hence my earlier declaration that rangers should never be bored! There is simply zero excuse for believing that there is no rangersing to be done.

MUCH TO BE DONE – AT ANY TIME

Here are some starter ideas on how to keep busy:

- Serve in a position on your park's incident management team, perhaps complete part of a position task book.
- Complete required online training, such as No Fear, aviation courses, IT security training or ICS courses.
- Complete elective online training, such as additional aviation and ICS courses.
- Make progress toward the completion of a wildland fire or all-hazards position task book, or initiate a new one.
- Finally get that EMS, SAR or LE needs assessment or plan written.
- Update MOUs, SOPs, EPAP standards and division guidelines.
- Prepare for the arrival of incoming seasons by getting their gear and vehicles ready, assembling their ALERT schedule and associated instructors, facilities, equipment and presentations.



A check on a boundary trailhead during the COVID-19 pandemic closure, April 2020. Photo by Kevin Moses

- Rehab beat-up equipment or complete other equipment maintenance such as sharpening chainsaws, cleaning weapons or working on that outboard motor that keeps sputtering.
- Clean out and organize your patrol rig.
- Get most of your purchasing done, if you have that authority.
- Go to the range and shoot, shoot, SHOOT! You can never do too much of this.
- Do PT! Use all three of the precious hours per week you're allotted.
- Hit your backcountry hard. Patrol trails, rivers, lakes, shoreline, fire roads and boundaries by foot, boat, ski, horse, mountain bike or 4x4. Go on climbing or dive patrols if your park has either of these awesome programs.
- Get creative with scheduling to accommodate resource protection actions, such as spotlighting enforcement, decoy operations, saturation patrols and other things.
- Forge relationships with personnel from cooperating agencies: Game and fish, state police, sheriff's offices, local PDs, ambulance services, fire departments and state forestry divisions.
- Conduct an overhaul cleaning and organization of your ranger station.

- Finally develop that cool training course, PowerPoint presentation, or build those training props you've been meaning to accomplish for years.
- Attend to collateral duties that you never seem to have enough time for: Evidence custodian, SAR or EMS coordinator, physical security, instructorships, fleet coordinator, horse patrol manager, wilderness program manager, collateral safety officer or fire duty officer tasks – this list within a list could go on and on.
- Re-read your FTR manual if you're a field training ranger.
- Apply for a national-level team, such as the Ranger Honor Guard, SET, a regional IMT, CISM team or technical rescue cadre.
- Log onto NREMT.org and update your NREMT recertification requirements.
- Build an individual development plan (IDP) for yourself and go over it with your supervisor. If you already have one, sit down with your boss and review it to see where you stand.
- Develop an equipment marking and organizational system for your

SAR cache, including ropes and other gear.

- Look your supervisor in the eye and ask, "What can I do to help our operation?"
- Ask personnel from your sister divisions if there's anything you can do for them while you're physically in the park. They will FOREVER appreciate you.
- Do something, anything, thoughtful for another person. Nominate a worthy co-worker for an award.

This list is hardly exhaustive. Rather, it's the product of one ranger typing away as he brainstorms while harkening back over a career's worth of, yep, you guessed it: Never being bored. There are hundreds of other activities that can keep rangers busy – even during closures.

If, after reading this, you still show up to work feeling bored, pull out your map, find the longest, steepest, toughest trail snaking its way across your district, and, well, you get the point.

— Kevin Moses
*Central District Ranger
 Shenandoah National Park,
 Virginia*

Rangers Foundation supports rangers' families

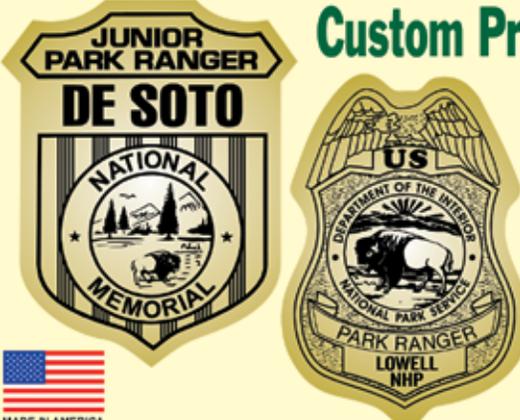
*By Mike Lynch,
 California State Park Rangers Association*

The Ranger Foundation of the California State Park Rangers Association has established a program to provide \$500 grants to the families of rangers in Latin America who perish due to COVID-19, regardless of whether the death was job related.

The program was started with donations from members of the California association. Each grant translates to one to two months of lost salary. Before *Ranger* magazine went to press, the Ranger Foundation had made grants to the families of Jenny Geddes Gomez, from Galapagos National Park in Ecuador, and Cristian Gonzales Tanchiva, from Pucacuro National Reserve in Peru.

The Ranger Foundation is an independent 501(c)(3) non-profit. ANPR is a major contributor to several Foundation programs. Information about the fund can be found at CSPRA.com under Ranger Foundation. Donation checks can be mailed to Ranger Foundation, Treasurer Tom Bernardo, 11426 Gold Country Blvd., Gold River, CA 95670.

Mike Lynch is president of the California State Parks Ranger Association and the Ranger Foundation. He can be reached at mike@cspira.com.



JUNIOR PARK RANGER
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US
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Custom Printed Junior Ranger Badge Stickers for Kids

Our custom printed badge stickers will bring a smile to a child's face. Our junior park ranger badge stickers are ideal for community events, school classroom visits or when children visit your battlefield, national park, heritage corridor, historic site, lakeshore, national monument, recreation area, scenic riverway, scenic trail or seashore. Badge stickers are printed on either shiny gold or silver foil. Customized for your location at no extra charge. Fast and reliable delivery.

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RESOURCES

Public policies continue to affect park resources

BALANCING THE CONSUMING REALITY OF COVID-19 WITH THE EVER-PRESENT NEED TO DEFEND BEDROCK ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS

We are living in unprecedented times, with COVID-19 threatening the health and well-being of our families, communities and economy.

As our country struggled to adjust to social distancing and stay-at-home orders, the administration continued moving full speed ahead with oil and gas lease sales, planning processes and rulemaking that affect parks. The National Park Conservation Association (NPCA) has requested extensions on comment periods and decision-making to allow for the public, appropriately preoccupied with the coronavirus, to meaningfully participate in these processes. However, at the time of this writing, there does not appear to be any plan to slow down.

Unfortunately, this isn't new. We've seen national parks and public lands threatened repeatedly in recent times. While resource extraction and energy development are important for our world and provide needed jobs and revenue to rural economies, NPCA believes they can and should be balanced with the conservation of our public lands and public health. Instead, we are witnessing the systematic dismantling of the bedrock environmental laws intended to protect our lands and communities.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) has been a foundation for environmental protection since Richard Nixon

signed it into law in 1970. NEPA requires the government to analyze the potential impacts of resource extraction or development activities on federal public lands. For 50 years the NEPA process has saved many parks from incompatible development within and near their borders.

The current administration's proposed changes to NEPA would 1) restrict or completely ignore public comments, 2) allow private industry to conduct their own environmental assessments (removing objectivity and impartiality), 3) ignore an activity's cumulative and indirect impacts (especially critical in the context of climate change and for communities living downstream or downwind), and 4) limit the scope of projects that require environmental review.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

The 1966 National Historic Preservation Act, which has helped preserve many of the world-class archaeological and cultural sites our southwestern parks are known for, is also under attack. The administration favors limiting the ability of tribes – who know these places so well – and state historic preservation offices to submit nominations for historic sites. Additionally, revisions to the act would give local landowners more discretion over nominations based on how much land they own, as opposed to the one-person, one-vote principle of our democracy.

These proposed changes to NEPA and the National Historic Preservation Act are

only the latest examples of why parks and public lands need the continued support of advocates now more than ever. To learn more about this please visit [NPCA.org](https://npca.org).

Together, we are stronger. Together, we can make a difference.

One only need look at the way we have rallied and supported one another during this time of COVID-19 to know the truth of that.

— Ernie Atencio
*Regional Director, Southwest Region
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Association | eatencio@npca.org*



Cedar Tree Tower, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado. Photo: NPS.gov

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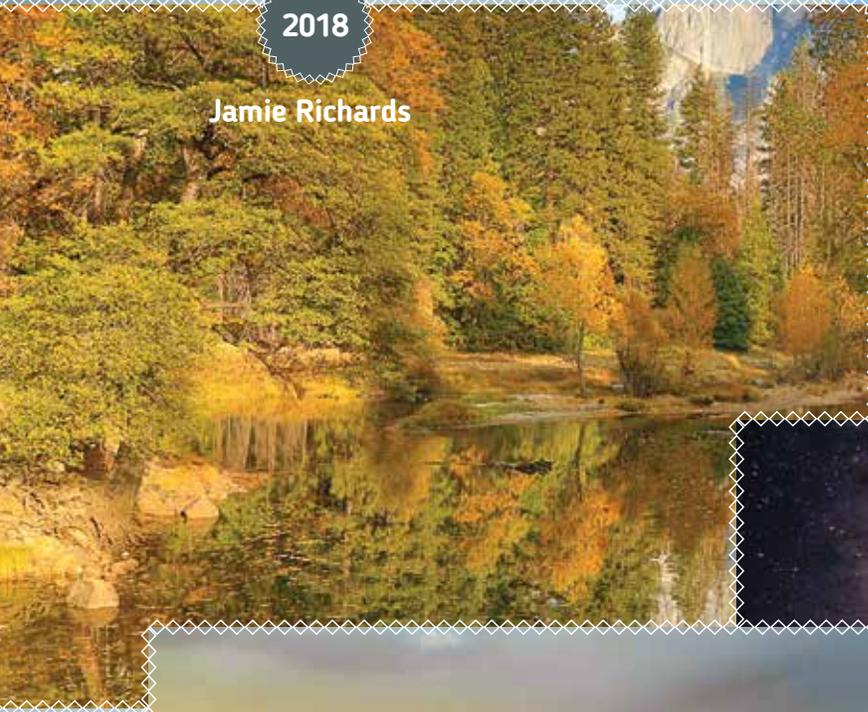
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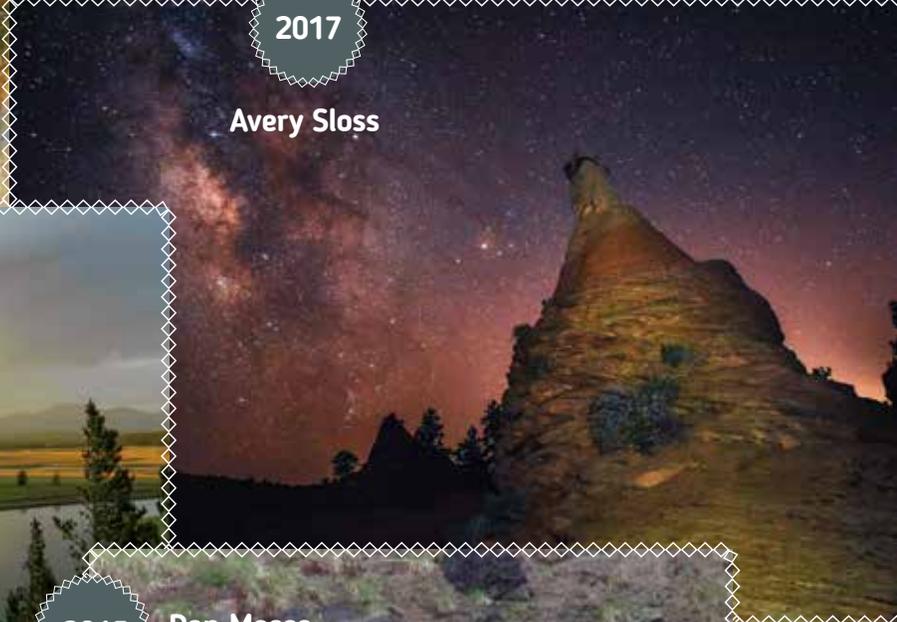
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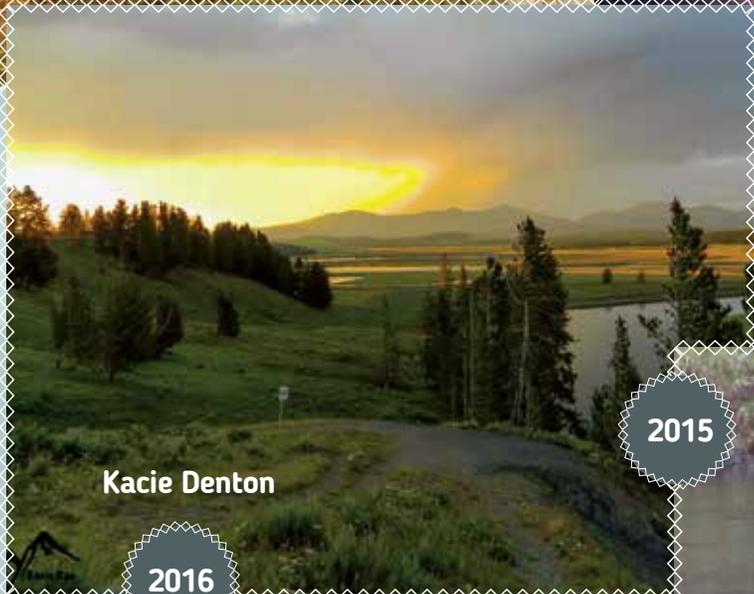
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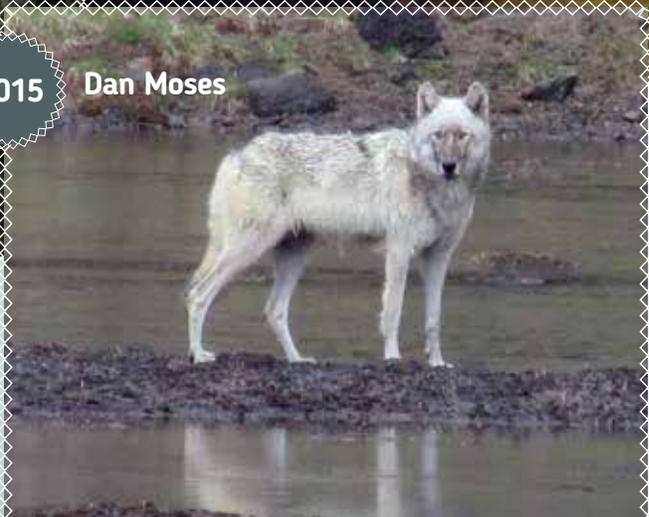
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