

# YOUR AMERICAN WEST

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**Research  
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Adiós a las Misiones

## EVENTS

Full-Moon Hike

Arizona National Parks Festival

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Seaman

See America's Parks  
Water Bottle



Quarai Mission site in Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument (©Mariusz S. Jurgielewicz/Shutterstock).

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**We want to hear your thoughts! You can help us improve *Your American West* by following [this link](#) and completing a brief survey. It should take no more than five minutes, and your feedback is greatly appreciated!**

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Cover: Black Canyon of Gunnison National Park landscape (©Galyna Andrushko/Shutterstock).

**James E. Cook**  
Executive Director

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## Details

Western National Parks Association (WNPA) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit partner of the National Park Service, serving more than 70 national parks in the western United States.

The Home Office and The National Parks Store are located at 12880 N Vistoso Village Drive, Tucson, AZ 85755. Learn more by contacting [info@wnpa.org](mailto:info@wnpa.org) or visiting [www.wnpa.org](http://www.wnpa.org).

# Letter from the Executive Director

Autumn is a great time to visit our parks. There is a lot to do and learn! In this issue, as always, we feature events happening in the parks, and I hope you will take advantage of as many of those opportunities as you can.



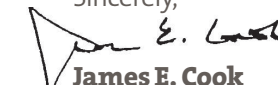
I'm happy to report the visitor center and WNPA park store reopened on August 16 and East Beach, the Shasta Divide Nature Trail, and Whiskey Creek boat launch/picnic area are also reopened. Restoration and recovery efforts through the NPS, WNPA, our staff, and volunteers will, over time, help restore the park to its natural beauty, a daunting task considering the extent of the damage.

As we wrap up this issue of *Your American West*, our thoughts are with our friends and colleagues at **Whiskeytown National Recreation Area**. More than one hundred thousand acres, including thirty-nine thousand acres of the park, were affected by the Carr Fire this summer, and more than one thousand residences were destroyed. Members of the park's staff—both National Park Service (NPS) and Western National Parks Association (WNPA)—lost their homes in the fire. Thankfully, all park employees are safe and unharmed.

We are grateful for the dedication and hard work of the team at Whiskeytown NRA through this incredibly challenging time. The forty-two-thousand-acre park is home to four waterfalls, numerous creeks, and an abundance of trails. Almost one million visitors enjoyed Whiskeytown last year. We encourage you to visit Whiskeytown this fall to show your support!

A Burned Area Emergency Response team surveyed the federal lands and ordered emergency treatments to minimize the threats to life, property, and other cultural or natural resources. Some of the efforts initiated include hazard assessment, hazardous tree removal, damage assessment of park infrastructure, restoration of access and utilities, and the assessment of natural resources affected by the fire.

Wishing you and yours a beautiful autumn and a happy holiday season!

Sincerely,  
  
**James E. Cook**  
Executive Director

# In Memoriam

On September 18, WNPA lost a dear friend and colleague when our chief operating officer, Pepe Marcos-Iga, passed away. Pepe was diagnosed with cancer earlier this year. He handled the diagnosis courageously and with integrity.



All of us at WNPA loved Pepe, and we were honored to have him on our team. While we all grieve his loss, we also keep his wife Tania, his son Jose, and his daughter Angela in our hearts.

Pepe loved his job. He cared for everyone on our team, and he worked hard to help us as an organization. We are a better organization thanks to Pepe and his steadfast devotion to his colleagues and our mission. In addition to his many contributions to WNPA and our NPS partners, he left a legacy with the environmental education movement in the United States and across many parts of the globe.

We will all miss Pepe for his joyful spirit and for being such an amazing colleague and friend.

Anyone wishing to support Pepe's family by contributing to an education fund for his children can follow [this link](#) to a GoFundMe campaign.

Please visit [this link](#) for a tribute to Pepe on the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) website.

# Research Matters

Since 1938, WNPA has funded scientific research to help advance the management, preservation, and interpretation of our national parks. WNPA has partnered with the University of Arizona School of Journalism to provide engaging stories about the research projects completed with the aid of WNPA funding. Your American West will feature one of these stories in each of the next few issues. Discover more of the historical, social, and environmental research projects WNPA has funded in recent years on our [website](#).

A multiyear research project at **Saguaro National Park** yielded important information about Gila monsters. These venomous reptiles spend a large portion of their lives underground, so researching their movements can be difficult. Thanks to staff photos, archived photos, and contributions from the public, researchers were able to identify 183 individual Gila monsters in the park. The markings on a Gila monster's pebbly back are unique to each animal, much like human fingerprints. Researchers also caught and collected DNA samples from one hundred Gila monsters to study the genetic diversity of the species within the park.

Read on for a summary of this research project. This article was originally published [online](#).

## From Photos to DNA: Citizen scientists focus on Gila monsters at Saguaro National Park

By Chris Stidley, pursuing a Master of Arts in journalism at the University of Arizona

Emma steps out often but stays close to home.

After almost drowning, Ward kept a low profile for 12 years.

King Tut likes to strut and has been spotted many times over the past several years.

This trio, along with another 180 Gila monsters (*Heloderma suspectum*), have been identified through a citizen science project conducted in the Rincon Mountain District of Saguaro National Park, east of Tucson, Arizona. Funded by Western National Parks Association, this study supports conservation efforts for the Gila monster through natural history and genetic studies. The project's researchers also see citizen involvement as a key factor, since it fosters appreciation for science and protection of the park.

These iconic Sonoran Desert lizards can provide a thrilling, and potentially bucket list, sight for park visitors. The only venomous lizards found in the United States, Gila monsters spend about 90 percent of their time underground and live about 20 years. The distinctive patterns on the beaded skin of adults are akin to human fingerprints, providing a method for unique identification.

The researchers capitalized on visitor interest in Gila monsters by requesting photographs. Using an app, citizen scientists upload their photos, along with the time and location of each sighting. Alternatively, they email or snail-mail them to the researchers. Trained volunteers pore over the photos, using the beaded patterns to identify individual animals.

Citizen scientists have contributed over 350 photographs. With the addition of staff and archived photos, researchers have reviewed more than 500 photos to identify 183 individual Gila monsters.

Photos help the researchers collect data about the lizards' home range. The homebody Emma, for example, was spotted seven times during 2013 and 2014, but all her photo shoots occurred within 100 yards of each other.

The reclusive Gila monster Ward was photographed in 2001 but not again until 2013 —12 years after his rescue. In 2001 Mike Ward, a park biotechnician, saved his namesake from death in one of the park's natural pools or tinajas. These rock depressions store water but can trap an animal when the water level recedes.

King Tut, on the other hand, seeks the limelight. Several photos of him adorn an office bulletin board at Saguaro National Park headquarters.

The scientists leading this study—Don E. Swann, a biologist at Saguaro National Park, and Kevin E. Bonine, a faculty member at the University of Arizona—have been collaborating on Gila monster research since 2008. Both strive to engage the public in science. “Ideally, science in a national park runs that whole spectrum from participation to peer-reviewed published results,” Swann said.

Swann has engaged volunteers, including citizen scientists, in park activities and research for years. He pairs people with positions that are rewarding for both the volunteer and the science. Students match Gila monster photos, hikers measure the height of saguaros and a retired physicist runs laboratory tests to assess water quality.

“Science is very important for protecting the resources in our national parks in the long run,” Swann said. “But I also think the greatest value of science in national parks is the fact that it answers the questions of visitors and that it instills an appreciation for the park by having a deeper knowledge of the resources.”

When people become more engaged with their surroundings, they are more likely to support measures to protect an area, Bonine said. “Part of my goal for the increased awareness and understanding has to do with mitigating the effects of urbanization.” With houses and roads expanding into the homeland of Gila monsters in the Rincon Mountains, the lizards may face threats to their survival.

To support conservation efforts for Gila monsters, the researchers collected and analyzed DNA from 100 animals. They concluded that the Gila monster population at Saguaro National Park is genetically robust, according to a paper published in *Amphibia-Reptilia*. With a sufficiently large breeding population, the lizards maintain a crucial diversity in their genetic makeup. These results showed the benefit of protection by both the park and state laws.



WNPA-funded research at Saguaro National Park focused on Gila monsters (courtesy of NPS Photo).

While Gila monsters are seldom seen, they are not rare, Bonine said. Their reclusive nature makes them an exciting find during a hike. So when Emma, Ward or King Tut venture out next for a stroll, citizen scientists may be on the alert, enjoying the rare sight and advancing science.

For more information on the Gila monster project at Saguaro National Park or to send in your Gila monster photographs, click [here](#).

# People & Happenings

## Happy Tails... Err, Trails!

On October 2, 1968, President Johnson signed the National Trails System Act of 1968, which protects 30 national scenic and historic trails along with more than one thousand regional or local national recreation trails. One of the most famous trails in the system is **Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail**, commemorating the 1804 expedition of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the National Trails System, five stuffed animal versions of Lewis' Newfoundland dog, Seaman, are traveling

the length of the historic trail (more than 3,700 miles!). Four of the stuffed pups—Keelie, Dakota, Rocky, and Harper—are covering the trail on paw, visiting sites like Giant Springs State Park, Council Bluff at Fort Atkinson, Pompeys Pillar National Monument, and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center in Great Falls, Montana, which has a real licensed therapy dog that visits the site twice a week to show visitors what Seaman was like.

All the pups are on astronomical undertakings of one kind or another, but one plush dog is taking a giant leap for plush-kind. In joint celebration of the anniversary of the National Trails System and the 60th anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the NPS and NASA have partnered to send one of the plush toys, named Seaman Jr., into space. On June 29 Seaman Jr. boarded a spacecraft at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station and started his journey to the International Space Station.

Seaman Jr. will stay at the space station at least through November, where he will assist astronauts with surveying and collecting information on the Lewis & Clark NHT as well as inspire camaraderie with his companionship and can-do attitude! This is not the first time the NPS and NASA have collaborated, but it is the first time the NPS has sent a plush park representative into space.

Readers are encouraged to follow the journeys of Seaman Jr. and the other pups on the NPS's



These plush Newfoundlands, named Keelie (left) and Harper (right), have em-bark-ed on a journey to walk the length of Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail (courtesy of NPS).

official website to help celebrate the anniversary of the trail system. The pups blog regularly about their journey on a page called "Newfie News," which can be found [here](#).

Seaman Jr. paw-sed a moment during his outer space exploration to write this letter just for WNPA readers:

*Greetings! Seaman Jr. here, reporting from space!*

*I've been up here for a couple of months now and things are a lot different in space than they are on Earth. For starters, my paws never touch the ground, and antigravity makes it so much easier to catch treats!*

*The astronauts and I have been busy mapping Lewis & Clark NHT. Did you know that two hundred and thirty million people live within 60 miles of a national trail? Pieces of the trail system can be found in 11 states, which means there are plenty of places and opportunities to put a foot (or a paw) forward and celebrate the anniversary of the National Trails System!*

*The trail looks beautiful (and much smaller) from space! It's hard to believe something that looks no bigger than my paw from all the way up here at the International Space Station could be about 4,000 miles long.*

*It is fun being in space, but I can't wait to get back home and get my paws dirty on the trail again. When Lewis' Seaman returned home, he was given a collar that said, "The greatest traveler of my species." I hope to grow into the giant pawprints my namesake left behind and become the greatest traveler of canine plush toys!*

*See you soon,*

*Seaman Jr.*



Courtesy of NASA/Ashley Moreno and Megan Sumner

## Special Commemorative Award Presented

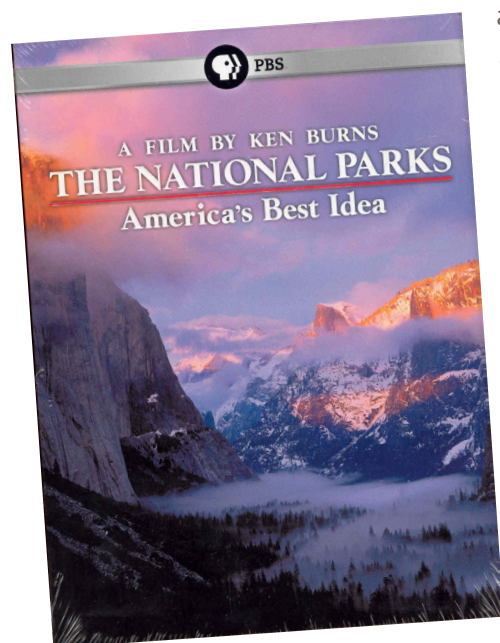
In honor of WNPA's 80th anniversary on July 22, our board of directors selected Dayton Duncan and Ken Burns, coproducers of the 2009 PBS documentary *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, to receive a special award, the WNPA 80th Anniversary Commemorative Stewart L. Udall Award. This is a one-time commemorative edition of WNPA's annual Udall Award, named in honor of Stewart L. Udall, who was secretary of the interior from 1960 to 1968. Udall later served on the WNPA Board of Directors from 1984 to 1994. The Udall Award, established in 2011, recognizes individuals whose work boosts park interpretation programs, carries the park message to diverse and popular audiences, and rallies broad public support for the parks. The 80th Anniversary Commemorative Udall Award was presented to Dayton and Ken in March and will be celebrated, along with the other WNPA annual award winners, at WNPA's board reception in November.



Dayton Duncan (left) and Ken Burns (right) pose with their special awards.

*The National Parks: America's Best Idea* won two Emmy Awards in 2010 for Outstanding Documentary or Nonfiction Series and Outstanding Writing for Nonfiction Programming. The series, directed by Ken and written by Dayton, took more than six years to film and features stunning footage of national parks.

In a 2016 *USA Today* interview, Dayton and Ken noted that national parks "have a way of connecting people not just to their soil but to their soul." The influence and importance of their documentary has been incalculable.



# New & Notable Releases

## Seaman and Seaman Jr.

No adventure is too "ruff" for these pups! In the early 1800s, explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark traveled thousands of miles across the western United States to map lands acquired in the Louisiana Purchase. While many accounts of this journey mention they were accompanied by a Shoshone interpreter named Sacagawea, fewer mention that Lewis' Newfoundland, Seaman, also completed the historic journey. These plush pups, a small, cuddly version of the legendary canine traveler, are ready to accompany you on your own adventures. Both [Seaman](#) and [Seaman Jr.](#) are available for purchase online.



## See America's Parks Water Bottle

The National Park system includes 417 units covering more than 84 million acres across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. The National Park Service acts as the guardian of our diverse nature, culture, and history. So get out there and See America's Parks while staying hydrated with this exclusive water bottle, available for purchase [online](#).

# In the Parks

## Guest Contributor

### Adiós a las Misiones

By **Alejandra Garza**, graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin and summer intern at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

This summer was an amazing experience and I could not have asked for a better park! I learned so much as the Multimedia Outreach Intern at **San Antonio Missions National Historical Park**. The Missions was the perfect place for me to spend my summer and the projects challenged me professionally. I enjoyed working at a park that has always been right in front of my face but I never truly looked at it. I walked away from this internship with a greater understanding of the National Park Service and the San Antonio Missions.

As a Tejana, I learned about the missions in grade school and their importance to Texas and its people. I was taught that Spaniards settled in Texas and “rescued” the native peoples of the land. However, as I grew older, I saw the missions as a reminder of an oppressive time in my state’s history. I was worried that the Missions were going to tell the same story that I grew up hearing and I didn’t know if I would fit in at my internship because my cynical view of them. Instead, I saw,



Alejandra in front of the church at Mission San José at the beginning of her internship (courtesy of Alejandra Garza).

and learned, how the park’s interpretive staff worked hard to tell a balanced story and make sure that all visitors, whether they were Texan or not, knew about the people who lived here 10,000 years ago, those who arrived 300 years ago, and those who still live around each mission site.

I participated in the San Antonio Pride Parade with my supervisor Justine.

I was able to connect those histories with my projects. I used my skills and learned more by researching, filming, and editing recipe videos. This allowed me to connect to the history of the missions in a different way than ever before. In addition, curating the social media for the park alongside my supervisor, Justine, was a fun experience. Surprisingly, I was always nervous about what I was going to post, but in the end, I enjoyed showing the park off through various posts and pictures. Lastly, I am glad I got the opportunity to leave a sort of legacy behind at the park through the Junior Ranger Activity Booklet. The park rangers and my supervisor could not have been more supportive in my crazy initiative to completely redesign the booklet in two-weeks’ time.

The interns from San Antonio Missions NHP visited **Padre Island National Seashore**.

In the end, I’m thankful for the connections I made through the park and LHIP. As a historian, I am often alone with my head in an archive, sifting through mounds of information. This internship allowed me to see an environment outside the academy, where I can thrive. I want to extend my gratitude to everyone at Hispanic Access Foundation and Latino Heritage Internship Program, as well as the interpretive staff at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park. Everyone from the other interns to the rangers to my supervisor made my summer so enjoyable and I can’t wait to see where my career takes me from here. I started the summer retracing my roots and ended it by planting more seeds in the National Park System.

The historical recipe videos I created can be found at: <https://www.nps.gov/saan/learn/photosmultimedia/video-gallery.htm>

Printing for the Junior Ranger Activity Booklet Alejandra designed was funded by WNPA annual aid. This article was republished with permission from [Latino Heritage Internship Program](#).



San Antonio Missions NHP interns Evadne Romero (AmeriCorps VISTA Community Volunteer ambassador) and Chantelle Ruidant-Hansen (Hispanic Access Foundation Community Outreach fellow) joined Alejandra on a visit to Padre Island NS (courtesy of Alejandra Garza).

# Featured Events & Activities

## Off-Trail Hikes

**Saturdays October 13, November 10, and December 8, 9 AM**

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument  
26 Jim Bradford Trail  
Mimbres, NM 88049

See the Gila Cliff Dwellings from a new perspective on an off-trail hike to the rim of Cliff Dweller Canyon, featuring a panoramic vista of the canyon and all seven caves. The moderately strenuous to strenuous route involves about four miles of trekking cross-country through rugged wilderness terrain. Dress in layers, wear hiking boots or sturdy shoes, prepare for all weather, bring food and water, and allow four hours for the journey. There is no fee for this event, but reservations are required and can be made by calling 575-536-9461.

## Full-Moon Hike

**Saturday, October 27, time given upon reservation**

Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument  
26 Jim Bradford Trail  
Mimbres, NM 88049

Visitors will have a rare opportunity to experience the Gila Cliff Dwellings under a full moon! The event includes a moderately strenuous climb on an unpaved trail and rough stone stairs, leading visitors to a viewpoint as high as an 18-story building. Come prepared for all weather, rain or (moon!) shine, with sturdy shoes or boots with gripping soles, water, and a flashlight (red lens is best). Allow one-and-a-half hours for completion. The fee for this event is \$10 per person for adults 16 and older and all Federal Land Passes are accepted. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 575-536-9461.



Full moon hikes offer the rare opportunity to see our parks at night (courtesy of David Velk).

## Arizona National Parks Festival

**Sunday, October 28, 9 AM–5 PM**

Gene C. Reid Park  
905 S Randolph Way  
Tucson, AZ 85716

Learn about all 22 of Arizona's national parks by speaking with park rangers, visiting information booths, and enjoying cultural demonstrations, music, activities for kids, and food trucks. This event is free and supported in part by WNPA. For more information, click [here](#).

## Fee-Free Day

**Sunday, November 11**

All NPS sites

Enjoy fee-free entrance to all NPS sites for Veterans Day!

## Lecture Series at Casa Grande Ruins

**Wednesdays, November 28, 2018–  
March 6, 2019, 12 PM–1 PM**

Casa Grande Ruins National Monument  
1100 W Ruins Dr.  
Coolidge, AZ 85228

This lecture series will cover a broad range of topics, from “Father Kino: Journey to Discovery” to “LGBTQ: An Arizona History” to “Historic Preservation.” For a full list of lectures and dates, click [here](#).

## La Fiesta de Tumacácori

**Saturday, December 1, 10 AM–5 PM &  
Sunday, December 2, 10 AM–4 PM**

Tumacácori National Historical Park  
1895 E Frontage Rd.  
Tumacácori, AZ 85640

Join us for the 48th annual Fiesta de Tumacácori! Local organizations will sell food and handmade items and provide demonstrations on how they're created. Guided and walking tours will explore the Santa Cruz River and the park's heritage orchard, while a hands-on corner will include activities for kids. At 10 AM on Sunday, follow the procession from the visitor center to the mission church, where there will be a multicultural Catholic Mass at 10:30 AM. For more information, call the visitor center at 520-370-5060.

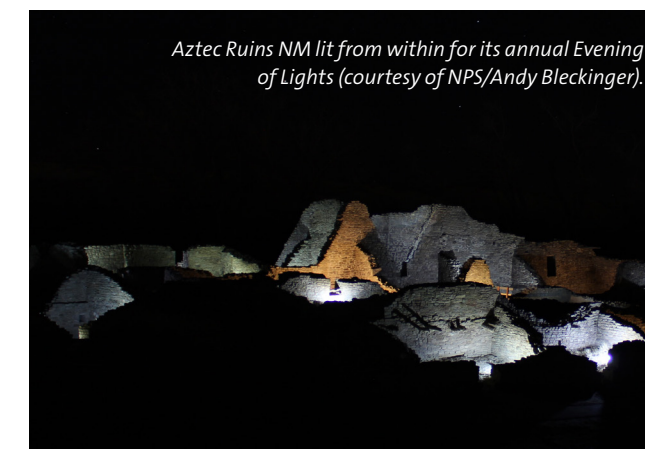
## Evening of Lights

**Thursday, December 6, 6 PM–8 PM**

Aztec Ruins National Monument  
725 Ruins Rd.  
Aztec, NM 87410

Communities throughout New Mexico celebrate the winter holiday season by illuminating town rooftops and rivers with traditional vigil fires. The park will have a display of beautiful *farolitos*, or lighted candles tucked into small bags, in front of the visitor center, and the nine-hundred-year-old ancestral Puebloan great house will be illuminated from within by colored lanterns. Musicians and artists will perform, and the WNPA park store will offer special discounts for holiday shopping.

Don't miss out on the cookies and cocoa provided by Friends of Aztec Ruins! More information will become available on the [park website](#).



## Las Posadas

**Monday, December 17, 5 PM–8 PM**

Pecos National Historical Park  
1 Peach Dr.  
Pecos, NM 87552

*Las Posadas* (“inns” or “shelters”) represents the journey of Joseph and Mary to Bethlehem and their search for shelter. The park, with assistance from WNPA, Friends of Pecos National Historical Park, and St. Anthony's



Parish in Pecos, preserves this popular northern New Mexico tradition, which begins with free horse-drawn wagon rides. The procession starts at the remnants of the 18th-century church and *convento* and winds down the trail, illuminated with more than thirty-five hundred *farolitos* (lighted candles inside bags), to the visitor center. Along the way the group will sing traditional hymns and holiday songs in both English and Spanish. For more information, [click here](#).

## ***For more events at national parks near you, check out their websites!***

[Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument](#)

[Aztec Ruins National Monument](#)

[Bandelier National Monument](#)

[Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site](#)

[Big Thicket National Preserve](#)

[Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area](#)

[Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park](#)

[Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site](#)

[Canyon de Chelly National Monument](#)

[Capulin Volcano National Monument](#)

[Carlsbad Caverns National Park](#)

[Casa Grande Ruins National Monument](#)

[Chaco Culture National Historical Park](#)

[Chamizal National Memorial](#)

[Channel Islands National Park](#)

[Chickasaw National Recreation Area](#)

[Chiricahua National Monument](#)

[Coronado National Memorial](#)

[Curecanti National Recreation Area](#)

[El Malpais National Monument](#)

[El Morro National Monument](#)

[Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site](#)

[Fort Bowie National Historic Site](#)

[Fort Davis National Historic Site](#)

[Fort Larned National Historic Site](#)

[Fort Scott National Historic Site](#)

[Fort Union National Monument](#)

[Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument](#)

[Golden Spike National Historic Site](#)

[Great Basin National Park](#)

[Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve](#)

[Guadalupe Mountains National Park](#)

[Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site](#)

[John Muir National Historic Site](#)

[Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail](#)

[Lake Mead National Recreation Area](#)

[Lake Meredith National Recreation Area](#)

[Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail](#)

[Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument](#)

[Lyndon B Johnson National Historical Park](#)

[Mojave National Preserve](#)

[Montezuma Castle National Monument](#)

[Navajo National Monument](#)

[Nicodemus National Historic Site](#)

[Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument](#)

[Padre Island National Seashore](#)

[Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park](#)

[Pecos National Historical Park](#)

[Petroglyph National Monument](#)

[Pinnacles National Park](#)

[Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Monument](#)

[Saguaro National Park](#)

[Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument](#)

[San Antonio Missions National Historical Park](#)

[San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park](#)

[Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site](#)

[Santa Fe National Historic Trail](#)

[Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area](#)

[Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument](#)

[Timpanogos Cave National Monument](#)

[The National Parks Store](#)

[Tonto National Monument](#)

[Trail of Tears National Historic Trail](#)

[Tumacácori National Historical Park](#)

[Tuzigoot National Monument](#)

[Walnut Canyon National Monument](#)

[Washita Battlefield National Historic Site](#)

[Whiskeytown National Recreation Area](#)

[White Sands National Monument](#)

[Wupatki National Monument](#)

# Special Recognition & Community Partners

## Special Recognition: The Mahoney Group

The Mahoney Group is Arizona's largest independent insurance agency, with over 90 years of service experience. The Mahoney Group is proud to be a WNPA community partner. The Mahoney Group believes strongly in providing opportunities for youth to explore, learn about, and become stewards of our public lands. Thank you to The Mahoney Group for their continued support of WNPA.

## Meet Your Team



Allison Sedore, WNPA park store manager at **Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site**, has loved being outdoors and exploring new places since she was a kid. Many of her favorite family vacations were to national parks! She is taking a trip to Mesa Verde National Park soon, which she remembers from one of the family vacations she took in her youth. Allison wrote, "I am super excited to see it again as an adult because I remember it being such an awesome place!" She has worked with WNPA for a little over one year and is energized to share the message of her park. "It is really important that the message be carried to any and all that will accept it. It's neat to see so many people from around the US and the world be exposed to this story," wrote Allison. Thank you for spreading the message and continuing to make our parks a place of education and exploration. We are so glad to have you as part of our team!

## Community Partners

Kiva Room Sponsor:  
Splendido at Rancho Vistoso



Bon Voyage Travel  
The Classic Cartridge Company  
Concept 360  
Impact Photographics  
The Mahoney Group  
Pigment and Hue, Inc.





Did you know?

1. The Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site preserves the legacy of the pivotal 1954 Supreme Court case of the same name.
2. The name of the case came from Oliver Brown, father of Linda Brown, who was a student at Monroe Elementary School in Topeka, Kansas.
3. Black parents in Kansas, Delaware, South Carolina, Virginia, and Washington, DC, filed suits against the boards of segregated schools, voicing their opposition.
4. Thurgood Marshall and a team of NAACP attorneys represented the many plaintiffs in the *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court case.
5. The *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling overturned the 1896 *Plessy v. Ferguson* ruling, which allowed “separate but equal” segregation of public accommodations.

# Membership Matters

## Update: \$80,000 for 80,000 Junior Rangers Campaign

Explore. Learn. Protect. The Junior Ranger program is an initiative introduced by the NPS encouraging kids to get outside and engage with their natural, cultural, and historical heritage. This program is free to participants, and every year thousands of kids become Junior Rangers. To achieve this rank, every kid must complete a Junior Ranger Activity Booklet during a park visit and share their answers with a park ranger.

This year WNPA chose to focus our fundraising efforts on the Junior Ranger program to highlight the need to encourage kids from all backgrounds to visit and connect with parks. WNPA supports the Junior Ranger program by producing the activity booklets as well as the certificates and badges Junior Rangers receive when they complete the booklet. WNPA also helps develop engaging Junior Ranger-themed products such as hats, vests, and water bottles, which can be purchased at the park store. The Junior Ranger program is not just about education; it's about a sense of accomplishment too. When our youth are taught the importance of parks, they become champions for our parks.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, we are very close to reaching our goal of “\$80,000 for 80,000 Junior Rangers.” As of July 31, 2018, we have raised \$70,816. If you have kids or grandkids, have an interest in preserving public lands for future generations, support outdoor education programs for youth, or just enjoy visiting our beautiful parks, please consider donating to our Junior Ranger program. To donate please visit [our website](#) or contact WNPA's Philanthropy Department at 520-789-7404 or [membership@wnpa.org](mailto:membership@wnpa.org).



Kids who visit WNPA's The National Park Experience Pavilion at the Tucson Festival of Books get to complete a special Junior Ranger activity.

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