

# YOUR AMERICAN WEST

## PARKS

NPS App  
National Park Week  
New Ways to Connect

## EVENTS

Meet Helen Macdonald  
Independent Bookstore Day  
Anza Trail Virtual Fun Run

## PRODUCTS

Scarves, Scarves, Scarves!





Sandhill cranes spend their spring and fall each year in the San Luis Valley at **Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve**, part of their migration route (courtesy of NPS).

# Table of Contents

Letter from the Chief Executive Officer..... 3

Research Matters ..... 4

People & Happenings..... 7

In the Parks..... 11

Focus On ..... 13

New & Notable Releases..... 15

Featured Events & Activities ..... 16

Kids in Parks ..... 18

**James E. Cook**  
Chief Executive Officer

## Board of Directors

- Les Corey**, Chair
- Robert Shopneck**, Vice Chair
- Marilyn Alkire**, Secretary
- Claire Campbell**, Treasurer
- Patti Carocci**
- Linda Harvey**
- Dan B. Kimball**
- Stacy J. Lambatos**
- Kindley Walsh Lawlor**
- Howard Levitt**
- Rachel Ligtenberg**
- Tsianina Lomawaima**
- Chris Monson**
- Carol Schwalbe**

## 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 Chief Executive Officer

Spring has arrived, and with it comes warmer weather, blooming flora, and new beginnings for our 71 partner parks. In 2020, Western National Parks Association (WNPA) and our partner parks faced unprecedented challenges, from month-long closures to holds on financial and other forms of support, and we are ready for the fresh start of spring.

This issue of *Your American West* celebrates the recent achievements and exciting upcoming happenings of WNPA and our partner parks. As an official National Park Service (NPS) education partner since 1938, we are committed to creating deeper, more meaningful experiences for visitors in the parks, and we are making strides toward helping those worthwhile connections happen online and at home.

Recently, WNPA won a Strong Parks, Strong Communities grant from the National Park Foundation. With this grant, WNPA will expand our capabilities for providing information, programming, philanthropy, and education services digitally for everyone to enjoy. Along with our new website, we created a [blog](#) and [YouTube channel](#)—two new ways for you to get information and updates on WNPA and your favorite partner parks. We are committed to ensuring that park stories are told, and our new online spaces will allow us to do just that.

As we broaden our digital capacity, we are also developing an updated membership program. This program (coming soon!) will give anyone who loves national parks an easy, meaningful way of protecting and improving the educational, recreational, and scientific endeavors occurring in parks every year. Learn more about these new ways of connecting with national parks on [page 14](#).

While the seasons change, we know our national parks will be there for us, whether we choose to enjoy them in person or at home. We look forward to providing you with more opportunities to discover, explore, and support our national parks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James E. Cook". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

James E. Cook  
Chief Executive Officer

# Research Matters

In **Carlsbad Caverns National Park** in New Mexico, bats play an important role in the area's ecosystem by controlling insect populations, dispersing seeds for fruit production, and pollinating plants. Debbie C. Buecher, bat biologist and owner of Buecher Biological Consulting in Tucson, Arizona, has been surveying the bat population in Carlsbad Caverns NP for signs of white-nose syndrome (WNS), a disease that can be devastating to bats. Read on for a summary of this research project. This article was originally published [online](#).

*At right: Bats wing illuminated by black light to detect white-nose syndrome fungus (courtesy of NPS).*

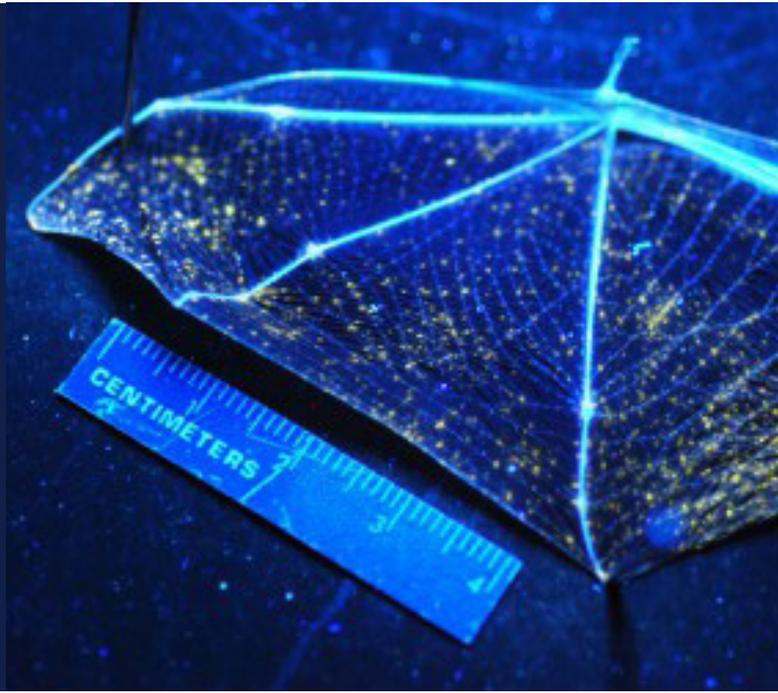


Photo courtesy of ricktravel/AdobeStock

# Biologists Monitor Carlsbad Caverns Bats for White-Nose Syndrome

By Susan E. Swanberg, assistant professor at the University of Arizona

## The Battle and the Battleground

Bats, those insect-eating mammals we see at dusk as they flutter over our heads seeking their prey, have been battling white-nose syndrome (WNS) in North America since at least 2006. The organism responsible for this devastating disease is a cold-loving fungus named *Pseudogymnoascus destructans*. Bats are often infected with the fungus during hibernation – when the furry flying creatures are at their most vulnerable.

Once infected with the fungal pathogen, bats frequently develop a fuzzy white growth on their muzzle, ears or wings – a characteristic feature of WNS. In addition to causing the white growth, the fungus can erode a bat's skin and trigger atypical behavior, including abnormal daytime flight, in its bat victims. Many afflicted bats suffer severe emaciation and death as a result of depleted stored fat reserves.

*P. destructans*, which thrives in cold caves with high humidity, threatens the lives of millions of bats across the American Southwest and beyond. WNS has been detected in Texas and more than 30 other states. In 2019, Western National Parks Association (WNPA) provided

funding to a pair of bat biologists to monitor Carlsbad Caverns National Park, located in southeastern New Mexico, for signs that the fungus might be spreading to Carlsbad Caverns NP bats.

## Enter the Bat Biologists

Debbie C. Buecher, bat biologist and owner of Buecher Biological Consulting in Tucson, Arizona, has been studying caves for more than 50 years and the bat inhabitants of those caves for more than 35 years. As part of their WNPA project, Buecher and her research collaborator, University of New Mexico biology professor, Diana E. Northup, surveyed Carlsbad Caverns NP bats for the presence of *P. destructans* and signs of WNS.

According to Buecher, 6 million bats have died from WNS already. That is six million fewer bats that would otherwise have eaten one half of their body weight in insects every evening. Buecher and Northup hope to reduce the spread of *P. destructans* through early detection of the pathogen.



View of the pool at Indian Shelter along Walnut Canyon.  
Inset: female fringed myotis captured at Iron Pool.

A first goal of the project, surveying backcountry caves for bat hibernacula\* and bats from which to collect samples, was undertaken by park personnel from Carlsbad Caverns NP. Few hibernacula were located initially, but in late May of 2019, Buecher, Northup and their team netted and took samples from bats that emerged from a tunnel within Carlsbad Cavern. Five nights of successful netting recovered 51 bats of various species.

Captured bats were examined for signs of WNS. Samples to be tested for *P. destructans* were taken from a subset of the captured bats with Q-tip-like tools. Buecher and Northup, wore personal protective equipment (PPE) when handling the bats to avoid transferring any fungus or other pathogens among or between the animals. The researchers also removed parasites from the bats prior to releasing them on site.

“They were clean as a whistle when we released them,” noted Buecher.



*Weighing a male hoary bat using a spring Pesola.*

### **Citizen Engagement and Collaboration with Park Personnel**

An added benefit of Buecher and Northup’s project was the robust program of citizen engagement at Carlsbad Caverns NP. For example, Buecher and Northup shared highlights of their work at public

**“Another benefit of the research project was the establishment of a close, collaborative relationship among members of the research team and Carlsbad Caverns NP interpretative and resources staff.”**

presentations. Park visitors were enthralled by two live bat “ambassadors” Buecher brought with her to these presentations – animals Buecher had rehabilitated but could not release to the wild.

Another benefit of the research project was the establishment of a close, collaborative relationship among members of the research team and Carlsbad Caverns NP interpretative and resources staff (rangers). Four or five rangers took notes and asked questions as Buecher and Northup conducted their field work. Buecher and Northup also conducted a day-long workshop for the rangers on how to communicate science to the public.

### **Hopeful Results**

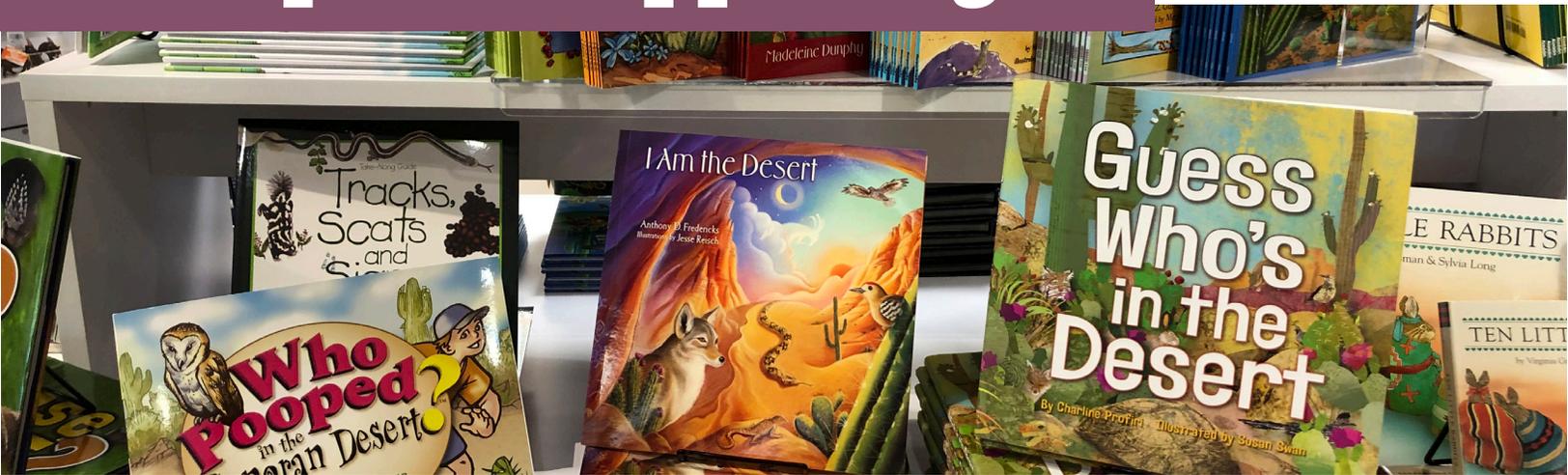
Buecher and Northup met all planned objectives during their 2019 field and research work. As a result Carlsbad Caverns NP personnel, including interpretative rangers, have additional information about the park’s bats – information that will aid in monitoring the animals for WNS and will provide added value to interpretative resources rangers share with the public.

Fortunately, all tests for *P. destructans* performed on the Carlsbad Caverns NP bats were negative. For the time being, Carlsbad Caverns NP bats appear to have been spared the devastating impact of white nose syndrome.

---

*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](#).*

# People & Happenings



## WNPA DONATES BOOKS TO LITERACY CONNECTS

Despite the challenging circumstances of 2020, WNPA still found ways of upholding our commitment to community engagement through our second annual holiday book drive. The book drive benefits [Literacy Connects](#), a fellow Tucson-based nonprofit which addresses the high levels of poverty in Southern Arizona by providing free, educational literacy and arts programming to both children and adults.

From November 27 to December 31, WNPA collected new and gently used books for babies, toddlers, children, and young adults through [The National Parks Store](#) and [online](#). Literacy Connects will use these books in programs that promote early literacy, school readiness, independent reading, and increased vocabulary and fluency for more than 55,000 Tucson students annually.

Over the past two years WNPA has donated 2,604 books to this wonderful organization. Violet Kennedy, library manager at Literacy Connects, said the book drive provided books for both adult students and children's programs. She added, "Thanks to ongoing supporters like WNPA, we're able to continue distributing books to all of our learners."

WNPA is proud to partner with Literacy Connects to promote literacy and learning within the Tucson

community. Our next book drive begins this November, so start saving your books!

## WNPA WINS CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT

WNPA is one of 36 organizations receiving a [Strong Parks, Strong Communities Capacity Building Grant](#) from the National Park Foundation. This grant enables park partners across the country to maximize their impact by building their own organizational capacity. WNPA will use the grant to develop a new website amplifying the visibility and promotion of more than 70 affiliated national parks.

The Strong Parks, Strong Communities Capacity Building Grant was created to increase the ability of park supporters to protect and preserve natural and cultural resources by allowing them to invest in themselves amid the COVID-19 pandemic. "The National Park Foundation is committed to increasing national park philanthropy across the board, and being responsive to current needs," said LaTresse Snead, chief program officer for the National Park Foundation. "The capacity-building grants help advance park partners' goals to preserve natural and cultural resources, increase access to public lands for all people, and develop innovative programming." As a collective



**National Park  
Foundation.**

effort to grow national park philanthropy, The National Park Foundation and the NPS enhance local philanthropic organizations like WNPA and elevate their capabilities and reach.

A new website is a major WNPA project that was put on hold because of the financial impact of COVID-19. After the pandemic placed a stronger emphasis on digital experiences, there was a growing need to move philanthropy, education, programming, and events online. This funding from the National Park Foundation will allow WNPA to build up these services, increase accessibility for everyone, and ultimately connect more people with America’s national parks.

We are so grateful for the support of the National Park Foundation’s Strong Parks, Strong Communities Capacity Building Grant. With these expanded online capabilities, WNPA can reach future park lovers and park visitors alike to engage and inspire them to visit and support our partner parks. We are committed to ensuring that these park stories are told, and that parks are welcoming and inviting to all.

## WNPA ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTED

For over 30 years, WNPA has recognized individuals and organizations who make remarkable contributions to national parks and increase awareness of WNPA’s mission. On November 5, 2020, WNPA announced the four outstanding recipients of its annual awards.

Dr. Jessica Thompson, professor, Northern Michigan University, and Dr. Ana Houseal, associate professor and



Thompson



Houseal

outreach science educator, University of Wyoming, received the Stewart L. Udall Award for editing America’s Largest Classroom: What We Learn from Our National Parks, published in April 2020 by University of

California Press. The book, recognized with a Silver Award from the National Nonfiction Book Competition in July, examines educational and interpretive programs

in national parks. Its 21 chapters—written by more than 40 authors—address powerful, experiential learning of STEM, social studies, history, and culture and emphasize inclusivity and reaching more diverse groups of students and educators.



VanLandingham

Monique VanLandingham, program manager for cooperating associations and partnerships, NPS, received the Edward B. Danson Award for her unwavering support of WNPA.

VanLandingham took the initiative in developing critical communication that provided ethics guidance to park leaders regarding ways parks can communicate about their cooperating association partners. In this time of COVID-19, she worked closely with the cooperating association community, especially WNPA, to understand the impacts of the virus, then created awareness across the NPS about the gravity of the situation faced by many cooperating associations.

Maya Tainatongo received the Ernest Quintana and Marty Sterkel Scholarship for her work at Saguaro National Park. Tainatongo has taught children about the park and its history through a variety of field trip programs, including programs about the plant species found in the park and the indigenous Hohokam people who lived on the land before it became a national park, and has participated in many studies of the plants within the park. Her goal is to foster awareness of the many people excluded from conversations regarding preservation, conversation, and culture and natural heritage, as many underrepresented groups hold spiritual and cultural connections to much of the land the parks currently occupy. This scholarship allows her to continue her education at the University of Arizona as she works toward a career within the park service, where she can create programs relative to underrepresented groups.



Tainatongo

We are proud to honor these individuals who work to ensure that the parks can be preserved, protected, and loved by all. To learn more about the recipients and their respective awards, please [visit WNPA's website](#).

## WNPA TAKES THE GOLD

We have a winner! WNPA-published book [Channel Islands National Park, Second Edition](#) received the Gold Award for Guide/Travel Book at the [PubWest Book Design Awards](#), which recognizes superior design and outstanding production quality of books. The award was announced during PubWest's annual conference in February.

Designed by Theresa Reindl Bingham and produced by WNPA's publishing manager Sara Maher, *Channel Islands National Park, Second Edition* features stunning photographs and illustrations from several photographers and artists, including National Park Service staff and renowned photographer [George H. H. Huey](#). This book continues WNPA's nearly 83-year-old legacy of publishing beautiful, educational books about national parks, American Indian culture and crafts, plant



life, wildlife, weather, geology, and history. Learn more about WNPA's publishing program at [wnpa.org/publishing](http://wnpa.org/publishing), or take a peek inside the book by visiting [WNPA's online store](#).

## BOOKS, BIRDS, AND BAD MOVIES WITH HELEN MACDONALD

The [Tucson Festival of Books](#) (TFOB) moved online for the first time. Instead of welcoming nearly 150,000 visitors to the University of Arizona campus, 164 authors and illustrators spent March 6 and 7 presenting virtually to book lovers worldwide.

WNPA's chief executive officer, Jim Cook, moderated a conversation with naturalist and best-selling author Helen Macdonald about her new book *Vesper Flights*. Like her award-winning memoir *H Is for Hawk*, essay collection *Vesper Flights* focuses on Macdonald's experiences with the natural world—especially birds—and what nature teaches us about ourselves. Macdonald said she thought of *Vesper Flights* as a way of “offering the natural world to the reader.” She promoted a scientific exploration of the world, affirming, “science doesn't detract from the wonder of the world, it only adds to it more.”



One of the book's themes is how literature connects people emotionally to complex issues, making literature a call to action. Macdonald said she tries to draw people's attention to the complexity and beauty of nature while also offering a source of hope about the future, because “when one's utterly despairing, one doesn't do anything.” Nature books tend to be narratives about the decline of the world and how everything is always getting worse, so she focuses instead on how to work toward a place of reciprocity. This goal of feeling like “the earth loves us back” is inspired by the writing of Robin Wall Kimmerer, a scientist, professor, and member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Macdonald said when you spend time in nature there are moments of revelation and wonder, and that “these moments can be deeply life-changing and they can really ground one in the sense that there is a gravity and solemnity to what we're doing to the planet and we need to step up.”

When asked what assisted her most in writing her books, Macdonald replied, “Coffee!” She also

# “Science doesn’t detract from the wonder of the world, it only adds to it more.”

—Helen Macdonald

encouraged aspiring writers by saying the most important thing was to just keep writing, as the words you write on your best days are “ultimately indistinguishable” from the words you write on your bad days. She’s discovered she really enjoys collaborating on her writing and finds that “editorial input is really exhilarating.”

For her favorite naturalist writers, Macdonald recommended J. Drew Lanham and R. F. Langley. She promoted Lanham’s book *The Home Place*—about being a Black ornithologist, the wonder of the natural world, and connections to place—because he “writes like an angel” and brings another voice into a field traditionally dominated by white men. Langley is best known as a poet but also wrote a series of journals about the natural world (appropriately titled *Journals*), which act as springboards for discussions on the nature of humanity.

Macdonald is currently working on her next book, about Midway Atoll, the island site of both Battle of Midway National Memorial and Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge is home to the world’s largest albatross colony but is facing threats from both rising sea levels and plastic pollution. Macdonald is “very excited about this book,” which will look at environmental guilt and shame about where we are now. The book is currently delayed; her scheduled trip to Midway Atoll in summer 2020 was canceled because of COVID-19, and it looks like the 2021 visit will be canceled as well. When asked how’s she’s coping with this challenging year, she openly

responded, “There’s been a lot of times I’ve really struggled, and I’ve been really lonely.” What has helped her through is “not what people want me to say.” She elaborated that while most picture her spending her days walking over the beautiful rolling fields of England, the things that have been the most beneficial are “friends on the Internet, pints of ice cream, and terrible action movies.”



*Laysan albatross (Diomedea immutabilis) adult with chick, Midway Atoll (courtesy of Kevin Schafer/Danita Delimont).*

A recording of “Take Wing with Helen Macdonald” is available on WNPA’s [YouTube channel](#). *Vesper Flights* can be purchased at [WNPA’s online store](#) along with other books about nature, natural history, and the outdoors.

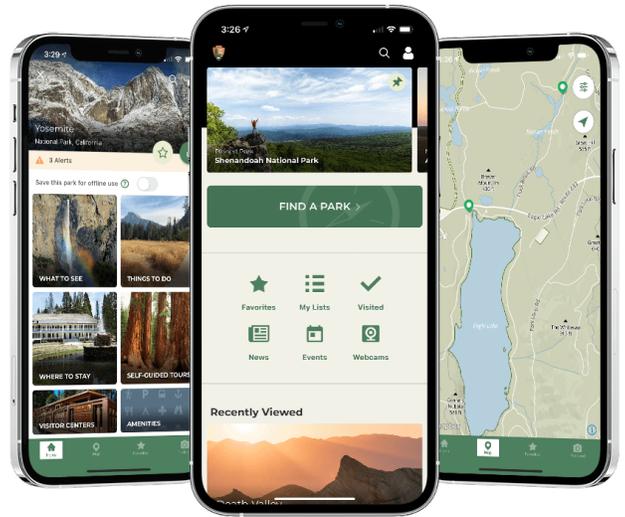
# In the Parks

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RELEASES NEW APP

In February, the NPS released a beta version of their all-encompassing app (appropriately called National Park Service), designed to make planning a trip to a national park easier than ever before. For all of the 423 national parks across America, information about accessibility, lodging, food, hikes, history, and more is available in one place, and visitors can easily access everything they need to thoroughly appreciate and enjoy national parks.

The app is free to download from the [NPS website](#) and features a multitude of different elements like audio tours, downloadable maps, and site recommendations, while offering an abundance of information about the history, flora and fauna, and structures that can be discovered at each national park. You can also customize your preferences to tailor your individual experience and easily access the information you need for the national park you want to learn more about.

Since the app is in its beta stage, it will be constantly improved, and more information about each individual national park will be updated and added to the app. [Download the app](#) today to spend less time planning your national park visit and more time learning, exploring, and appreciating America's most exciting locations.



## NATIONAL PARK WEEK

[National Park Week 2021](#) is just around the corner, so join WNPA in celebrating this long-standing national park tradition! From April 17 to April 25, the NPS will host themed days within the parks and online to commemorate the people, places, and animals that make our national park community whole. WNPA is also giving you 15% off all National Park Collectibles the entire week (online only); shop the deal [here](#).

Every year, National Park Week is recognized by presidential proclamation to encourage everyone to

discover America's natural and cultural resources. In 2021, there are many ways to participate in the celebrations, whether it be in a national park or at home. This year's themed days are below.

[Park Rx Day, April 17:](#) Celebrate Park Rx day by spending time outside in your backyard, neighborhood, or nearby parks or trails to appreciate the ways that the outdoors can stimulate your mind and body. Park Rx Day is also a fee-free day in the parks, but most of WNPA's partner parks are fee-free every day.





[Volunteer Sunday, April 18](#): Send a big thank you to those who dedicate their time to the careful preservation and protection of natural and cultural resources. More than 300,000 people across the nation devote their time and knowledge as volunteers in national parks.

[Military Monday, April 19](#): Recognize those who have served our country through the US military and appreciate their contributions to our national parks.

[Transformation Tuesday, April 20](#): National parks are always changing through partnerships, programs, and visitors like you. How have national parks transformed you?

[Wayback Wednesday, April 21](#): Learn more about the methods by which park historical and cultural heritage is maintained. Explore the history of the more than 400 national parks across the country at home by visiting their websites and social media channels. Share what you learn using official hashtags listed [here](#), and tag WNPA in your posts!

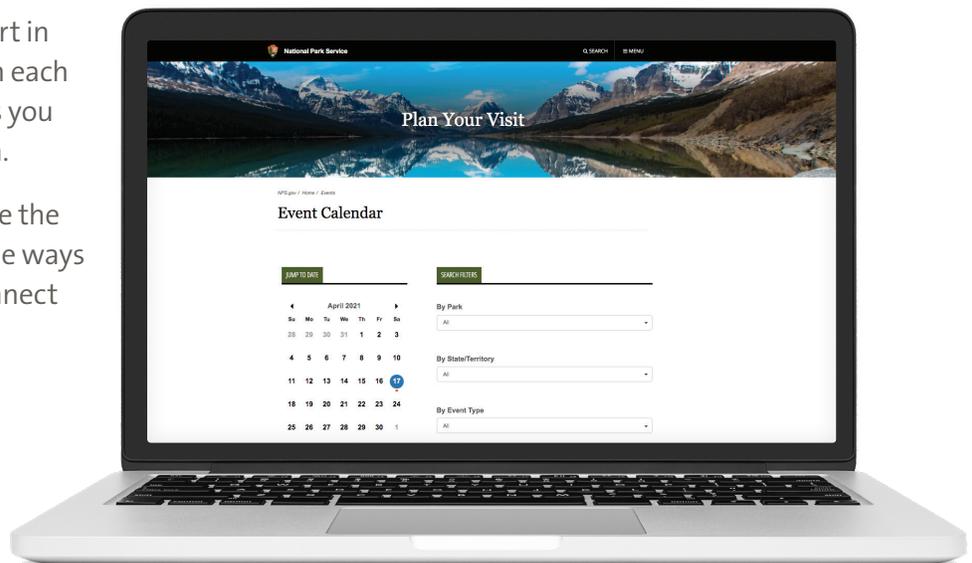
[Earth Day, April 22](#): Discover the NPS's part in preserving the natural resources found in each national park and learn more about ways you can contribute to the protection of Earth.

[Friendship Friday, April 23](#): Commemorate the friendships in your life by checking out the ways partners like WNPA help support and connect people with national parks.

[National Junior Ranger Day, April 24](#): Kids of all ages can become a Junior Ranger when they earn their badge through learning how to “explore, learn, and protect” national parks. This year, you can virtually participate in WNPA’s Junior Ranger Jamboree by visiting our [website](#) and shopping Junior Ranger gear [here](#).

[BARK Ranger Day, April 25](#): Any dog can become a BARK ranger in our national parks by being respectful of waste, staying on leashes, being considerate of wildlife, and knowing where to go in the parks. Make your pet an official BARK Ranger by purchasing WNPA’s BARK Ranger dog tag [here](#).

There are so many ways to commemorate [National Park Week 2021](#), whether you celebrate in the parks or from your own home. Observance of National Park Week begins April 17, so don’t miss out on all of the fun!



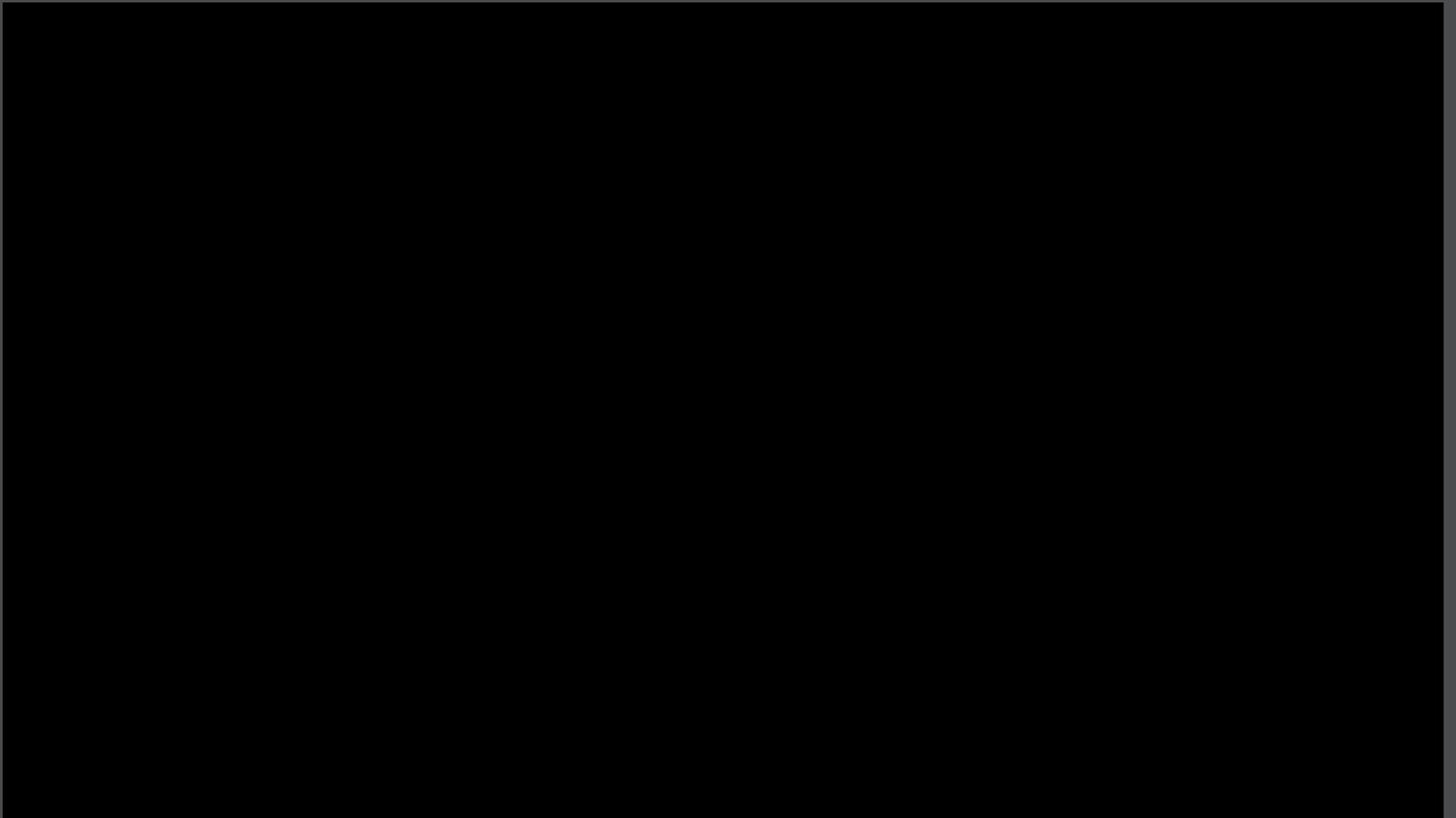
# Focus On

## **LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD**

The year 2020 was difficult for everyone. Offices closed, businesses shut down, and millions of people became sick or lost their lives. We were separated from our friends, coworkers, and loved ones without any idea of when we would see them in person again. We struggled with isolation, loss, and uncertainty as to what the future might hold.

WNPA has gone through all of this with you. When national parks closed, people everywhere lost a source of comfort, tranquility, inspiration, and recreation, and WNPA lost 95 percent of its organizational revenue—an estimated \$11 million between March 2020 and February 2021. This revenue is what provides research, education, recreation, and community engagement opportunities in national parks. Without this revenue, our more than 70 partner parks across 12 Western states have lost invaluable staff, programs, and other resources necessary for providing services to park visitors.

These losses have been devastating, but we at WNPA are so proud of what we were still able to accomplish. From October 1, 2019, through September 30, 2020, we provided nearly \$6.7 million in support to our partner parks, awarded more than \$50,000 in scientific research grants, shared 96 educational videos with national park lovers, and more. Please watch our fiscal year summary video for even more ways we supported national parks last year.



WNPA loves connecting people with parks—it is at the core of everything we do. In preparation for our second year of shutdowns and staying home, WNPA has been working on many new initiatives to keep people involved with the parks they love.



## NEW MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM!

Shhh . . . we have a secret! We're completely reworking our membership program to provide fellow park lovers with even more ways to help national parks (and get some great perks as well!). Sign up for [our mailing list](#) to receive the latest announcements.



## NEW SOCIAL MEDIA CONTENT!

We've been very busy on social media, providing fun facts, stunning photographs, and more to keep you involved with national park happenings. Follow us for more!



[Facebook @ Western.National.Parks.Association](#)



[Goodreads @ Western National Parks Association](#)



[Instagram @ wnpa\\_1938](#)



[Twitter @ wnpa1938](#)

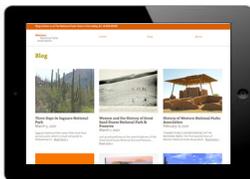


[YouTube @ Western National Parks Association](#)



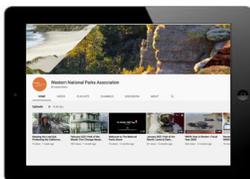
## NEW DIGITAL PROGRAMS!

To temporarily replace our weekly in-person programs at [The National Parks Store](#) in Tucson, we've started a mini newsletter full of online activities, including videos, presentations, and articles about national parks. View the most recent one [here](#); if you like what you see, you can receive them by signing up for our [email list](#) (be sure to check the "The National Parks Store" box on the signup form, in addition to anything else you're interested in hearing about).



## NEW BLOG!

We started a blog! Keep checking this [website](#) for WNPA organizational announcements, interesting articles about our partner parks, and more!



## NEW YOUTUBE CHANNEL!

We've been busy on YouTube! Keep up-to-date on all things WNPA, watch educational videos, and discover our Park of the Month by going to [our channel](#) and clicking the red "subscribe" button.

# New & Notable Releases



## INFINITY SCARVES

These stylish, lightweight infinity scarves effortlessly transition from trail to town, protecting your head or neck from sun and bugs whenever you're out and about. Check out these unique patterns inspired by [Saguaro National Park](#) in Arizona, [Petroglyph National Monument](#) in New Mexico, and [Lyndon B Johnson National Historical Park](#) in Texas.



# Featured Events & Activities

## Independent Bookstore Day

**Thursday, April 22–Monday, April 26**

The National Parks Store

12880 N Vistoso Village Dr, Tucson, AZ 85755

[store.wnpa.org](https://store.wnpa.org)

Join us [online](#) and at [The National Parks Store](#) for special sales and promotions celebrating independent bookstores. From April 22 to April 26, enjoy up to 50% off all books—both online and in-store—with even more happening on Independent Bookstore Day (April 24)! At The National Parks Store we'll offer 15% off everything (including handmade craft items), plus a gift with purchase and a chance to spin our prize wheel. Online you'll get a bonus gift with all orders placed on that day. Keep checking our [emails](#), [social media](#), and [website](#) for announcements of other exclusive giveaways and bundles!



## Virtual Anza Fun Run

**Saturday, April 17–Saturday, May 1**

[Facebook](#)

Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail invites you to join the first-ever Virtual Anza Fun Run. Get outside and run/hike/walk/bike from anywhere, then post your mileage and a picture of your excursion on the Facebook [event page](#) or by using the hashtag #AnzaFunRun. Check the Facebook page regularly to watch the total mileage advance a virtual expedition along the trail route, starting in Nogales, Arizona, and ending in San Francisco, California, and learn about the historic and modern-day sites along the way! To register, choose a package from WNPA's online store; the free [Participation Entry Pack](#) includes a trail map and welcome letter, while the [Fun Run Cache](#) gives you a t-shirt, bandanna, and additional trail information.



**FEE-FREE DAY**

**Saturday, April 17**

Enjoy fee-free entrance to all  
NPS sites in honor of National Park Week!

***For the most current event information at WNPA-affiliated sites near you, check out their websites. For events at The National Parks Store in Tucson, AZ visit [wnpa.org/events](https://wnpa.org/events).***

### **Arizona**

[Canyon de Chelly National Monument](#)  
[Casa Grande Ruins National Monument](#)  
[Chiricahua National Monument](#)  
[Coronado National Memorial](#)  
[Fort Bowie National Historic Site](#)  
[Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site](#)  
[Lake Mead National Recreation Area](#)  
[Montezuma Castle National Monument](#)  
[Navajo National Monument](#)  
[Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument](#)  
[Saguaro National Park](#)  
[Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument](#)  
[The National Parks Store](#)  
[Tonto National Monument](#)  
[Tumacácori National Historical Park](#)  
[Tuzigoot National Monument](#)  
[Walnut Canyon National Monument](#)  
[Wupatki National Monument](#)

### **California**

[Channel Islands National Park](#)  
[Eugene O'Neill National Historic Site](#)  
[John Muir National Historic Site](#)  
[Mojave National Preserve](#)  
[Pinnacles National Park](#)  
[Port Chicago Naval Magazine National Memorial](#)  
[San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park](#)  
[Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area](#)  
[Whiskeytown National Recreation Area](#)

### **Colorado**

[Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site](#)  
[Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park](#)  
[Curecanti National Recreation Area](#)  
[Great Sand Dunes National Park & Preserve](#)  
[Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site](#)

### **Kansas**

[Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site](#)  
[Fort Larned National Historic Site](#)  
[Fort Scott National Historic Site](#)  
[Nicodemus National Historic Site](#)

### **Montana & Wyoming**

[Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area](#)  
[Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument](#)

### **Nevada**

[Great Basin National Park](#)  
[Lake Mead National Recreation Area](#)

### **New Mexico**

[Aztec Ruins National Monument](#)  
[Bandelier National Monument](#)  
[Capulin Volcano National Monument](#)  
[Carlsbad Caverns National Park](#)  
[Chaco Culture National Historical Park](#)  
[El Malpais National Monument](#)  
[El Morro National Monument](#)  
[Fort Union National Monument](#)  
[Gila Cliff Dwellings National Monument](#)  
[Pecos National Historical Park](#)  
[Petroglyph National Monument](#)  
[Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument](#)  
[White Sands National Park](#)

### **Oklahoma**

[Chickasaw National Recreation Area](#)  
[Washita Battlefield National Historic Site](#)

### **Texas**

[Alibates Flint Quarries National Monument](#)  
[Big Thicket National Preserve](#)  
[Chamizal National Memorial](#)  
[Fort Davis National Historic Site](#)  
[Guadalupe Mountains National Park](#)  
[Lake Meredith National Recreation Area](#)  
[Lyndon B Johnson National Historical Park](#)  
[Padre Island National Seashore](#)  
[Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park](#)  
[San Antonio Missions National Historical Park](#)

### **Utah**

[Golden Spike National Historical Park](#)  
[Timpanogos Cave National Monument](#)

### **Trails**

[Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail](#)  
[Lewis & Clark National Historic Trail](#)  
[Santa Fe National Historic Trail](#)  
[Trail of Tears National Historic Trail](#)

# Kids in Parks

## Join the Junior Ranger Jamboree!

Become a Junior Ranger from anywhere! The Junior Ranger program was established to help kids learn more about a national park they are visiting, but WNPA knows not all kids have access to a national park, especially during COVID-19. Because of that we've expanded our Junior Ranger Jamboree from an activity available only at the Tucson Festival of Books to a [website](#) where kids can explore, learn about, and protect national parks from anywhere with Internet access, like their home, classroom, or a local library or recreation center. To participate, simply pick a park from the [Junior Ranger Jamboree website](#), download the activity booklet, and complete the activities to become a Junior Ranger at that park. If the child wants their Junior Ranger certificate, most Jamboree parks have a mail-in program; just send them the finished booklet to get a certificate mailed back for free.

If you're a teacher or home educator looking for an engaging way to teach kids about nature, culture, and history, Junior Ranger Activity Booklets are a great option! They can supplement a lesson about archaeology or anthropology, expand on concepts of conservation or ecology, or replace a canceled field trip. Junior Ranger booklets are labeled with an appropriate age group and often include activities for multiple age groups within the same booklet, so they can easily be used for a large classroom or a family with multiple children. And kids genuinely enjoy participating in the Junior Ranger program; here's a story about how being a Junior Ranger helped a child grow, both in academics and personally:

"Hi, my name is Naomie. I am 11 years old, and I have been doing Junior Ranger books for two years now. I started them in my house for extra help in reading and spelling. My grades improved, and so did my self-confidence. Last year I made a goal to complete 100 books, and I successfully did that. In fact, I am on book number 122!"

Thanks for being an amazing Junior Ranger, Naomie! Start your own Junior Ranger journey on the [Jamboree website](#).



# Support Our Mission

## Forging a Trail Forward—Together

As a nonprofit education partner of the NPS, WNPAs gives national parks funding and services they can't source on their own. **100% of our financial resources support this goal**, and your investment of **\$25 or more** is the only way for us to continue this critical work for national parks. Your gift ensures that we can continue to support scientific research and discovery, encourage people to engage with natural resources for peace and serenity, and help children learn, explore, and grow their minds and worlds.

If you have already donated, we thank you for your support. Stay happy and hopeful and **together, we will forge a trail forward.**

**SUPPORT  
PARKS NOW**



**Western**  
National Parks  
Association

