

# Charles Young Buffalo Soldiers National Monument



National African American Museum & Cultural Center

# Charles Young

# Colonel Charles Young

## Civil Rights & Military Pioneer

**1864 - 1922**

Charles Young's work ethic, academic leadership, and devotion to duty provided a strong base for his achievements in the face of racism and oppression. His long and distinguished career as a commissioned officer in the United States Army made him a popular figure of his time and a role model for generations of new leaders.

In 1889 he became the third African American to graduate from West Point. He led the Buffalo Soldiers in the Philippines, Western Frontier and in Mexico. He helped establish the first Military Tactics & Sciences curriculum at Wilberforce University where his legacy is still revered. Young became the first African American Superintendent of a National Park in 1903 when he and his 9<sup>th</sup> Cavalry troopers deployed to Sequoia National Park for the summer. Throughout his career, Young would fight for African American equality and social acceptance.

**To learn more, visit: [www.nps.gov/chyo](http://www.nps.gov/chyo)**

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**