



Minnesota's National Park Legacy



**Grand Portage National
Monument**

**Mississippi National River
& Recreation Area**

**North Country National
Scenic Trail**

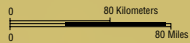
**Pipestone National
Monument**

**Rivers, Trails &
Conservation
Assistance Program**

**St. Croix National Scenic
Riverway**

Voyageurs National Park

National Parks intertwine history and environment with a hands-on learning approach that gives students an educational experience they will never forget.



Minnesota's National Parks

- Grand Portage National Monument
- Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
- North Country National Scenic Trail
- Pipestone National Monument
- Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program
- St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
- Voyageurs National Park

Map and photos: The National Park Service.
 Mississippi NRRRA GIS
 Source Data: ESRI, NPS
 August 2009

MINNESOTA'S NATIONAL PARK SITES

Minnesota's National Park Legacy

Minnesota is home to a treasure of National Park System (NPS) sites — all of them are “crown jewels” of unique cultural, historic, and natural significance that merit national status.

Together, they represent a wide variety of cultures and landscapes, from the scenic waterways of the **Mississippi** and **St. Croix** Rivers, to the historic sites steeped in American Indian history at **Grand Portage** and **Pipestone**, to the vast waters of **Voyageurs**. With the **North Country Trail** weaving across the state, there is a National Park “right outside our front door” just about everywhere you go. There is also an NPS-led **Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program** that helps local communities complete conservation projects and build trails.

Minnesota's National Parks provide spaces for youth and adults to explore, learn, and grow in our nation's greatest outdoor classrooms. Their boundaries define critical habitat for diverse native species that characterize the Minnesotan outdoor experience: tall pines, howling wolves, freshwater fish, and open prairies. In return, the parks' dynamic futures depend on citizen stewardship through visitation, volunteerism, and active engagement.

This is **Minnesota's National Park Legacy** — it is a network of histories that continue to shape our future, a vast playground for generations of today and tomorrow, a promise upheld by the American community to preserve precious resources shared and cared for by all of us.



The National Park Service

The concept of the National Park is a uniquely American invention. It was an idea spurred in the mid-19th century by the painter George Catlin who aspired for, “a nation’s park, containing man and beast, in all the wild and freshness of their nature’s beauty,” preserved “by some great protecting policy of government.” Catlin’s idea took root, and in 1916, the Organic Act established the National Park Service as the organization that oversees the operation of all National Park System units—nearly 400 sites are now mapped across the United States.

“...to promote and regulate the use of the...national parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

National Park Service Organic Act, 16 U.S.C.1.

Day in and day out, the National Park Service works to preserve the resources we have recognized as communally significant to the American people. Park rangers and staff don the legendary hat and set out to work, fighting fires, restoring historic structures, rescuing people in danger, conducting environmental and cultural research, and maintaining visitor resources.

But one of the most exceptional values that the National Park Service practices every day is an emphasis on education and interpretation. Their interpretive goal is to increase each visitor’s enjoyment and understanding of the parks, and provide visitors with an opportunity to personally connect with a place in a meaningful way.

Minnesota is home to seven National Park System sites and programs that you will see and learn about in *Minnesota’s National Park Legacy*. Each one is unique, but they are all alike in their purpose: “for the benefit and inspiration of all people of the United States.” *From the General Authorities Act of 1970.*



THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ARROWHEAD

The arrowhead was authorized as the official emblem of the National Park Service in 1951. The Sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.



Educational Resources for Educators

National Parks intertwine history and environment with a hands-on learning approach that gives students an educational experience they will never forget. On-site field trips offer curriculum-based instruction with trained Park rangers and naturalists. Students engage in the diverse educational themes unique to each Park in pristine or urban environments with historic context.

Aside from site visits, there are many resources available for educators to build National Park lesson plans. The following websites have downloadable activities, but one of the most helpful resources is Park interpretive staff. Contact individuals at each Park site to learn more about the free tools available for educational use.

To learn more about the *Minnesota's National Park Legacy* film, provide feedback, or request educator copies, contact:

Voyageurs National Park Association

126 N. 3rd St. Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55401

(612) 333-5424

vnpa@voyageurs.org

www.voyageurs.org

The National Park Service: www.nps.gov

NPS Education and Interpretation www.nps.gov/learn/

Field Trips

Bring a classroom to one of Minnesota's National Park sites for curriculum-based outdoor learning.

www.nps.gov/learn/fieldtrips.htm

Junior Ranger Program

Kids explore the parks, complete a series of interactive activities, and share their experiences with a Park Ranger.

www.nps.gov/learn/juniorranger.htm

Teacher-to-Ranger-to-Teacher Program

Teachers spend a summer as a park ranger, and bring their curriculum-based experiences back to the classroom.

www.nps.gov/learn/trt/

Traveling Trunks

Bring the parks into your classroom with a case filled with fun park-themed activities and artifacts.

www.nps.gov/learn/trunks.htm

Other Teacher Tools:

NPS Teaching with Historic Places www.nps.gov/nr/twhp/index.htm

NPS Nature and Science www.nature.nps.gov/

The History of the National Park Service www.nps.gov/history/history/



The National Parks: America's Best Idea for Educators

The Ken Burns documentary series from PBS offers online lesson plans and activities for teaching about the National Parks. www.pbs.org/nationalparks/for-educators/



Educational Resources at this site:

- On-site curriculum-based school programs
- Classroom visits from park naturalists
- Junior Ranger program
- Teacher-to-Ranger-to-Teacher program
- Traveling Education Trunks
- Field Trip Travel Grants
- Visitor Centers and exhibits
- Volunteer opportunities

VOYAGEURS NATIONAL PARK

Voyageurs National Park is a land and water environment of great beauty, exceptional natural and cultural resources, and abundant recreation opportunities. Located in the lake-country of northeast Minnesota, the park's northern boundary is the international border between the United States and Canada. More than 218,000 acres are protected within Voyageurs National Park, an extensive landscape of lakes and islands. Wildlife thrives here in a transition zone where the southern boreal forest meets and mixes with the northern hardwood forest.

The park's complex system of waterways includes an important segment of the "transcontinental highway" traversed by French-Canadian voyageurs. Although the park is named for the voyageurs and their role in the North American fur trade, there are other human stories here – from the native peoples who lived on this land beginning 10,000 years ago, to the gold miners and settlers of the past century. However, it is the ancient rocks in Voyageurs that tell the oldest story. Glaciers scoured the geologic features, revealing some of the world's oldest exposed rock dating back hundreds of millions of years.

Contact

Voyageurs National Park
3131 Highway 53
International Falls, MN 56649
(218) 283-6600
www.nps.gov/voya

Partner Organizations

**Voyageurs National Park
Association**
(612) 333-5424
www.voyageurs.org

**Jefferson National
Parks Association**
(314) 678-1500
www.jnpa.com

Friends of Voyageurs National Park

(218) 283-6612
[www.nps.gov/voya/
supportyourpark/friends-of-
voyageurs-national-park.htm](http://www.nps.gov/voya/supportyourpark/friends-of-voyageurs-national-park.htm)



GRAND PORTAGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

In the eighteenth century, Grand Portage was well known on the world stage. Busy shoppers on the streets of Montreal, London, and Paris had heard of the famous “Carrying Place”, inland headquarters of the North West Company. Accounts of the storied North West Co. during the fur trade era are full of amazing tales of trade with American Indians, adventurous exploits of traders and voyageurs, the rising and falling of magnificent fortunes as the North West Co. and its rival, Hudson’s Bay Company competed for the domination of the trade, and grand explorations resulting in the opening of a continent. Much of this history unfolded right here at Grand Portage!

Fast forward over two hundred years and Grand Portage is still a thriving American Indian community, home to the Grand Portage Ojibwe. The North West Company’s famed headquarters, including the 8-1/2 mile Grand Portage Trail, is commemorated at the Grand Portage National Monument, entirely situated within the Grand Portage Indian Reservation. The Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa is a full partner in the operation of this unique unit of the National Park System.

Educational Resources at this site:

- On-site programming for school field trips
- Video and film loan for educators
- Junior Ranger Program
- Library Resources
- Heritage Center and exhibits
- Volunteer opportunities

Contact

Grand Portage National Monument

P.O. Box 426
170 Mile Creek Rd.
Grand Portage, MN 55605
(218) 475-0123
GRPO_Interpretation@nps.gov
www.nps.gov/grpo

Partner Organizations

Fort William Historical Park
(807) 577-8461
www.fwhp.ca

**North West Company Fur Post
A Minnesota Historical
Society Site**
(320) 629-6356
[http://www.mnhs.org/places/
sites/nwcfp/index.htm](http://www.mnhs.org/places/sites/nwcfp/index.htm)



Photo: Ron Strickland



NORTH COUNTRY NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL

The North Country National Scenic Trail traverses outstanding scenic, natural, cultural, and recreational landscapes in seven northern-tier states. It connects historic Crown Point, New York with Pick City, North Dakota, made possible only with the help of volunteers. The trail enters Minnesota at Jay Cooke State Park, and weaves west through numerous national, state, and local parks and forests, as well as many cities and smaller communities, exiting the state at Breckenridge. When completed, the North Country Trail will be the longest hiking trail in the nation – 4,600 miles. Approximately half of the trail has been developed and is open to public use in segments varying from 1 to 200 miles in length.

Educational Resources at this site:

- Attractions and points of interest along trails
- Opportunities for nature study and history education
- 4 National Park sites are along the trail, and 8 National Park sites are near it, all of which have regionally-specific educational resources
- Explore trails and resources by state at www.northcountrytrail.org
- Volunteer opportunities

Contact

North Country National Scenic Trail
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, WI 53711
(608) 441-5610
www.nps.gov/noco

Partner Organizations

North Country Trail Association
(616) 897-5987
www.northcountrytrail.org



ST. CROIX NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY

As one of the first eight rivers protected under the Wild & Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, the St. Croix National Scenic Riverway serves as an example of the revolutionary change from river exploitation to river protection. Through thousands of years of human use, the St. Croix and Namekagon rivers persevere today as two of the cleanest rivers in the Midwest. Biological diversity and high quality, accessible recreational activities are highlights of the unrivaled combination of natural, scenic, aesthetic, cultural, and recreational resources along this 255-mile Riverway.

Educational Resources at this site:

- On-site curriculum-based school programs
- Classroom visits from park rangers
- Teacher workshops
- Junior Ranger program
- Teacher-to-Ranger-to-Teacher program
- Visitor Centers and exhibits
- Volunteer opportunities

Contact

St. Croix National Scenic Riverway

401 North Hamilton Street
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
(715) 483-2274

SACN_Interpretation@nps.gov
www.nps.gov/sacn

Partner Organizations

St. Croix Valley Foundation

(715) 386-9490
www.scvfoundation.org

St. Croix River Association

(715) 483-2292
<http://stcroixriverassociation.org>



PIPESTONE NATIONAL MONUMENT

“Behold this pipe! Always remember how sacred it is...” Black Elk.

For the past 3,000 years the pipestone quarries at Pipestone National Monument have been an important and sacred place to many American Indian cultures. Countless generations of American Indians have quarried the soft red pipestone found at this site. The quarries are sacred ground to many American Indians because the pipestone quarried here is carved into pipes used for prayer. The traditions of quarrying and pipemaking continue here today as in the past, and the pipes made from red pipestone remain essential to the ceremonial and spiritual practices of the American Indian.

Educational Resources at this site:

- Visitor center and exhibits
- American Indian Demonstrator
- Summer ranger programs
- Quarry Trail and Nature Trail
- Junior Ranger program
- Volunteer opportunities

Contact

Pipestone National Monument
36 Reservation Avenue
Pipestone, MN 56164
(507) 825-5464
www.nps.gov/pipe

Partner Organizations

**Pipestone Indian Shrine
Association**
(507) 825-5463
www.authenticpipestone.com

**Friends of Pipestone National
Monument**
friendsofnpnm@yahoo.com



RIVERS, TRAILS AND CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CASEY JONES TRAIL)

The Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. The mission of the program is to support community-led natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation projects that are outside of the National Park Service boundaries.

Rivers & Trails provides technical assistance to cities, counties, state agencies, tribes, nonprofit organizations and other groups so they can conserve rivers, preserve open space and develop trails and greenways. Rivers & Trails staff members often act as a catalyst to help achieve on-the-ground conservation success, identify resources, navigate the planning process, and convert ideas into actions. The program seeks to realize a network of national, state and local green spaces that link people to the natural world and promote quality of life. Visit the Rivers & Trails website to learn more about applying for project assistance.

Educational Resources with this program:

- Community project assistance
- Online project planning materials

Contact

Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program

National Park Service,
Midwest Region
111 East Kellogg Blvd., Suite 105
St. Paul, MN 55101-1256
(651) 290-3003 or 3004
www.nps.gov/rtca

Partner Organizations

The Rivers & Trails Program works with many organizations as partners. The primary partners for the two project examples depicted in the film are:

Casey Jones Trail

Friends of the Casey Jones Trail Association
(800) 336-6125
www.caseyjonestrail.org
Windom Area Trails & Waterways

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

(507) 831-2900
www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_trails/casey_jones

Swedish Immigrant Trail

Chisago County Parks and Trails Foundation
(651) 674-2345
www.ccbiketrail.org
www.swedishimmigrantrail.blogspot.com



Photo: Wilderness Inquiry

MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL RIVER & RECREATION AREA

The nation's largest river is celebrated and protected by a unique National Park—the Mississippi National River & Recreation Area. The park runs through the most incomparable and diverse 72-mile stretch of the Mississippi River from Ramsey to Hastings, Minnesota.

The Mississippi River is fundamental to the life and character of the Twin Cities and its neighboring communities. It is the source of our history, remains essential to our diverse economy, and serves as the primary water source for millions of area residents.

The park's many scenic vistas, historic landmarks, and recreation opportunities are managed by a web of municipalities, city and county parks, and cultural institutions. In order to achieve a healthier river, the park provides leadership among these groups and agencies to create a common vision for river stewardship.

Contact

Mississippi National River & Recreation Area

111 Kellogg Blvd. E., Suite 105
Saint Paul, MN 55101
(651) 291-3030
www.nps.gov/miss

Partner Organization

Mississippi River Fund

(651) 291-8161
www.missriverfund.org

Educational Resources at this site:

- GoogleEarth maps and Geocaches
- Curriculum-based school programs
- Teacher workshops
- On-the-river programs, including canoeing, fishing, and camping
- Junior Ranger program
- Teacher-to-Ranger-to-Teacher program
- Visitor Center and exhibits
- Volunteer opportunities



Become a Steward For the Parks

Natural and historic areas remain today because past generations envisioned the protection of these resources. Let us continue this legacy and preserve these important sites for future generations—encourage stewardship of your local National Parks!

Visit your National Parks

Take a walk along the North Country trail and listen to the sounds of nature. Hop in a canoe and paddle your way down the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers. Learn about American Indian history and cultures at Grand Portage and Pipestone. Camp under the stars on a secluded island at Voyageurs.

Volunteer at your National Parks

Plant native trees, maintain hiking trails, clean up rivers and campsites, host a presentation about a special topic, staff visitor centers, or conduct park research. There are many other ways volunteers can help, and opportunities vary at each site.

Involve your community

Get a public green space project on the ground running with help from the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program.

Follow the issues

National Parks constantly have unmet needs, and face threats to their natural,

cultural, or historic resources. You can help protect park resources by engaging in the issues unique to each park, and writing letters to your elected officials. Contact a park or park partner directly to learn more.

Teach about the National Parks

Encourage the growth of a new generation of stewards! The National Parks are our nation's greatest outdoor classrooms. Many educator resources are available: see pages 4-5.

Support National Park partners

Each Minnesota National Park site works closely with partners to achieve their goals. Partners help in many ways. They may provide direct financial support for programs, protect resources through advocacy and public engagement, organize volunteers, or provide educational materials. Much of the work that these organizations do is supported by financial donations and volunteer work from community members.



MINNESOTA'S NATIONAL PARK LEGACY SPONSORS

Minnesota's National Park Legacy is a co-production of:

- Twin Cities Public Television's Minnesota Channel
- The National Park Service units and programs in Minnesota:
 - Grand Portage National Monument
 - Mississippi National River and Recreation Area
 - North Country National Scenic Trail
 - Pipestone National Monument
 - Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program
 - St. Croix National Scenic Riverway
 - Voyageurs National Park

Major supporters: film production, promotion and distribution

- Northeast Minnesota Sustainable Development Partnership of the University of Minnesota
- Donald Weesner Foundation
- Mississippi River Fund
- St. Croix Valley Foundation
- Voyageurs National Park Association

Additional supporters: film production, promotion and distribution

- Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
- Friends of Casey Jones Trail Association
- Friends of the Mississippi River
- Friends of Pipestone National Monument
- St. Croix River Association





Minnesota's *National Park Legacy*

Voyageurs National Park Association

126 N. 3rd St. Suite 400

Minneapolis, MN 55401

Minnesota's National Parks provide spaces for youth and adults to explore, learn, and grow in our nation's greatest outdoor classrooms.

Bring the parks to life in your classroom with the enclosed DVD.

Find a National Park in your backyard. Explore online at www.nps.gov