

Joshua Tree National Park



Our Best Ideas to America's Best Idea

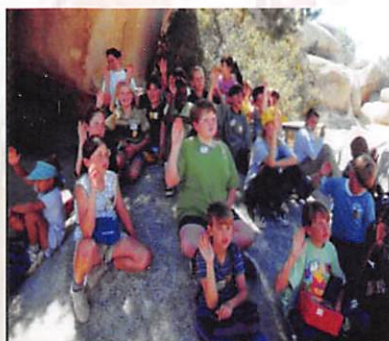
Coming September 27th to a PBS station near you: *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*, a six-episode series by filmmaker Ken Burns and writer Dayton Duncan. The poignant and inspiring documentary explores people of diverse backgrounds helping to save and protect the precious land they love. For more information on the series, please visit the PBS website at www.pbs.org/nationalparks and check in September for your local viewing schedule.

Our "Best Ideas" for You

The National Parks have been called *America's Best Idea*. These special places encompass parts of America's heritage and landscapes. With the opening of Ken Burns' new film in September 2009, you may be asking yourself- *How can I participate?*

Visit, Learn and Have Fun

Come visit Joshua Tree National Park. There is a variety of opportunities to help you visit, learn, explore, and have fun so that you get the most from your visit. Attend a ranger-led program through a talk on the patio at a visitor center, hike with a ranger, tour a historic site, or learn under the stars at an evening campfire program. Check the program listing at any visitor center, entrance station, or visit us on the web to see what is being offered. Still not sure what to do? Stop at any of the four visitor centers to learn about the different recreational opportunities at Joshua Tree. Rangers are available to help you plan your visit.



Become a Jr. Ranger

Traveling with children? Encourage them to become a Jr. Ranger. The new Jr. Ranger program will be unveiled in late fall of 2009. This is a great chance for children to learn about Joshua Tree with age appropriate activities. Ask at the visitor center or an entrance station for these FREE booklets. Complete them and return them to any visitor center, entrance station or ranger-led program and receive a Jr. Ranger badge. Check out the national program called Web Rangers at www.nps.gov/webrangers.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Volunteer and Be Involved: Make a Difference

Want to make a difference at Joshua Tree National Park then become a volunteer. There is a variety of opportunities available whether you are spending one day in the Park or will be in the area for an extended period. Volunteers help eradicate non-native plants, remove downed balloons before wildlife choke on them, work in the plant nursery, and much more. Contact Joshua Tree's volunteer office at 760-367-5524 or email the volunteer coordinator at lauren_lentz@nps.gov.

Support Our Environment

Did you know Joshua Tree National Park is known as a green park? Want to help our environment and not sure what to do? Pick up the family guide *Do Your Part - Be Desert Smart* at any visitor center. Inside the guide are checklists and activities to help your family be Air Smart, Earth Smart, Energy Smart, Recycling Smart and Water Smart. The guides are a great way for your family to explore ways to help our environment. It is also FREE and comes with a decal.



Enjoy Your Park Facilities

Thank you! Your entrance fees and tax dollars help make improvements to facilities at Joshua Tree National Park. Enjoy an evening campfire program with power being provided by solar panels. Been in the Oasis or Cottonwood Visitor Centers? They are powered by solar energy also. Explored the park on a trail that has good signage and easy to find your way? The trail crew with the help of youth corps has made great improvements to many of the main trails. Speaking of trails, have you enjoyed the wayside exhibit signs that tell you about the area you are hiking in? Those signs were completed within the last couple of years. Like the picnic tables? Many have been replaced to help them weather the desert environment. Expect great things, more improvements are in the works!

Donations

Want to donate money? Contact Marian Tremblay at Joshua Tree National Park Association at 760-367-5525 or email mail@joshuatree.org.

Experience Your America

There are 392 National Park sites across America for you to explore. You can learn more about them and plan a visit at www.nps.gov.

Sharing Your Thoughts and Experiences

We would love to have you share your thoughts and comments about your experience at Joshua Tree National Park. Please send comments to Curt Sauer, Superintendent, Joshua Tree National Park, 74485 National Park Dr, 29 Palms, California 92277 or pick up a visitor comment form at any visitor center or entrance station or email jotr_superintendent@nps.gov.



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