

YOUR AMERICAN WEST

A photograph of a man from behind, jumping over the ocean. He is wearing colorful, patterned swim trunks and has his arms raised in a 'V' shape. The background shows a vast blue ocean under a bright sky with scattered white clouds. The man's feet are visible at the bottom of the frame, just above the water.

What's in a name?

Within the 417 National Park Service (NPS) units, there are national parks, national monuments, national historic sites, national historical parks, national seashores, and more—but what do these titles mean? How are they decided? And really, what's the difference? There are more than 28 different designations in the NPS system, but they're all considered national parks and have the same legal protections. Here at WNPA, we refer to our partner locations as “parks” no matter the official designation.

National parks, perhaps the most well-known of the NPS units, tend to be large areas of land that protect natural resources. Sometimes, a national monument is re-designated to become a national park, such as Saguaro National Park in 1994. These parks are created by an act of Congress.

National monuments “protect a specific natural, cultural or historic feature” ([doi.gov](https://www.doi.gov)) and can be created by a Presidential Proclamation, thanks

to the Antiquities Act of 1906. Since the Act was passed, more than 120 national monuments have been created.

National historic sites and national historical parks are very similar, but with some key distinctions. Historic sites preserve a location that commemorates important events, activities, and/or people, and generally contain one historical feature. Historical parks serve the same purpose, but are home to more than one feature.

Here at WNPA, we have 71 park partners in 12 western states, and we love them all the same! If you're looking for places to visit this summer, consider one of the hidden gems of the NPS system—monuments, historic sites, and historical parks—that are ripe for discovery.



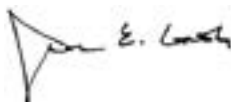
Chiricahua National Monument, shutterstock.com/Paul B. Moore

Letter from the Executive Director

Summer is here, and with children out of school and the weather heating up, many of us are planning summer getaways. We at WNPA encourage everyone to take this summer of the 101st year of the National Park Service to explore a park you've never visited before. With over 400 units of the National Park Service, our country has many lesser-known sites that are worth a visit. Reflect on the rich history of our country at a national monument or national historic site this summer, and learn something new.

As we venture into the next 100 years of the National Park Service, I implore you to connect, or re-connect, with the national parks—and be sure to take your kids and grandkids! There is

something for everyone at our park locations, and a little exploration can help you find it. It has been said that “the world is a book, and those who do not travel read only one page.” This summer, do not let the pages of your life go unread. Visit a park, far or near, to further your understanding and appreciation of all that they have to offer.



James E. Cook
Executive Director



Special Recognition + Community Partners

Community Support

CliftonLarsonAllen

Western National Parks Association thanks CliftonLarsonAllen (CLA), a community partner since 2014, for their enthusiastic sponsorship of programs that connect kids with parks. Says Amanda Jefferson of CLA, “We’re proud to support WNPA and the important role they play in the Tucson community, supporting and enriching the experience of national park visitors.” CLA is committed to serving clients of all sizes in a wide variety of locations. Just like we at WNPA care for our park partners, CLA is there to help businesses meet their needs every step of the way. Their professionals practice in specific industries to deliver audit, tax, consulting, and outsourcing capabilities.

Community Partners



[Bon Voyage Travel](#)

[CliftonLarsonAllen](#)

[HF Coors](#)

[The Mahoney Group](#)

[AdventureKeen](#)

[Enchantment Resort](#)

[Holualoa Companies](#)

[Impact Photographics](#)

[Splendido](#)

[Sunday Afternoons](#)

Special Recognition – Gerard Baker

Gerard Baker is one of WNPA's newest additions to its Board of Directors. Gerard, an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes, Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara of the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation, is the highest-ranking American Indian in NPS history. He was born and raised in North Dakota and grew up in a traditional Indian home on his father's cattle ranch. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and sociology from Southern Oregon State University in 1979, and was awarded an honorary doctorate in public service from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in 2007.

Gerard began working for the NPS in 1974 and served in several capacities until his retirement in 2010. He is a widely-recognized figure for American Indians, thanks in part to his work as a mediator between the NPS and tribal governments. He has appeared in two Ken Burns films, *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* and *Lewis and Clark: The Journey of the Corps of Discovery*. WNPA is delighted to welcome him to the Board.



Western

National Parks
Association

Featured Events & Activities

Whiskeytown National Recreation Area

Summer is Whiskeytown National Recreation Area's busy season! Located in Northern California, Whiskeytown has many lake-based activities for everyone to enjoy. This summer, they're also having a few special events that you won't want to miss.

- Perseid meteor shower viewing event:
Saturday, August 12, 8 PM–Midnight
- Partial solar eclipse event:
Monday, August 21, 9–11:30 AM
- Friends of Whiskeytown Luau:
Saturday, September 9, 5:30 PM

In addition to these, there are several recurring ranger-led programs, June 10th–September 5th:

- Junior Ranger kayak program:
Thursdays, 9:30 AM. Ages 3–6 with parent/adult
- Moonlight kayak program:
July 4–8 at 8 PM; August 2–5 at 7:30 PM;
September 1–5 at 7:30 PM
- Stand-up paddle board program:
Fridays–Mondays at 2 PM; Wednesdays at 2 PM
- Junior Firefighter program:
Saturdays, 11 AM

For more information about these events, visit www.nps.gov/whis



Featured Events & Activities

Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site

Navajo Rug Trunk Show at Bandelier National Monument, Los Alamos, New Mexico: August 18-20, 9 AM–5 PM each day. The historic Hubbell Trading Post will be hosted by Bandelier National Monument for the first time ever! Rug talks with Navajo weavers will be at 10 AM and 2 PM each day, and Tonita Yazzie will be holding weaving demonstrations throughout the event. Also in the area is the Santa Fe Indian Market, August 19–20. Be sure to attend both!

For more information about the rug show, visit hubbelltradingpost.org



Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Dawn of the Bats at Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Carlsbad, New Mexico: July 15. Beginning at 5:30 AM, visitors will be able to see hundreds of Brazilian free-tailed bats return to their cave after a night of foraging for food. Other activities at this event include a guided nature walk and bat-themed programs and lectures in the visitor center.

For more information, visit www.nps.gov/cave



Peter Jones, National Park Service

People & Happenings

Hubbell Rug Show Sedona

Hubbell Trading Post held a great event at Sedona Arts Center on June 2 and 3. Hundreds of handmade Native crafts, including exquisite silver jewelry and Navajo rugs, were available for sale. A wine and cheese reception was held on the evening of June 2 as part of Sedona's much-loved "First Friday" celebration. The event continued the next day with rug talks and demonstrations by Edison Eskeets and Tonita Yazzie.



Full Van Fun Heads to WNPA Home Office

Have kids, will travel! The family behind the travel, food, and music blog fullvanfun.com — Tom, Elizabeth, and their seven children — have traveled over 20,000 miles in the past two years, exploring the country and sharing their experiences via blog, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. In late May, they stopped by the WNPA Home Office in Tucson. They've traveled as far south as the Florida Keys and as far north as Canada, visiting more than 100 parks. Junior Ranger programs are a big draw for them, and a primary reason why they give to Western National Parks Association. We had a great time meeting them and wish them the best on their summer trip around the West. Learn more about their adventures by visiting their website fullvanfun.com or following [@fullvanfun](https://www.facebook.com/fullvanfun) on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



People & Happenings

WNPA Board Meeting in El Paso

For our May Board meeting, the WNPA Board of Directors, along with several field and Home Office staff members, traveled to Chamizal National Memorial in El Paso, Texas. After convening and strategizing, they all took a field trip to recent WNPA partner park additions Carlsbad Caverns National Park and Guadalupe Mountains National Park. There, they got together with NPS rangers and Carlsbad Caverns superintendent Doug Neighbor. They even got a chance to meet Guadalupe Mountains' new mascot Lupe the ringtail and Chamizal's mascot Chami the ground squirrel. Visiting our partner parks enables the Board of Directors to see the parks and park stores in action, learn more about our operations, and better support WNPA and our mission.



Dennis Hernandez, Board Member

NPS 101

English 101, Psychology 101, NPS 101... it's not a college class—it's how NPS and the National Park Foundation are celebrating the start of the second century of national parks. These organizations are going back to basics to ensure everyone gets involved in the parks. Take this 101st year of the NPS to learn about—and visit!—a park you've never experienced. You can take the first step by learning more about this program [here](#).

New & Notable Releases

National Park Geek Mugs

WNPA collaborated with National Park Geek and Deneen Pottery to produce a limited edition run of 500 hand-thrown, hand-glazed ceramic mugs emblazoned with the National Park Geek logo and individually numbered. These mugs positively flew off the shelves and created quite a buzz on social media.



Daniel Gross, National Park Geek

Solar Eclipse Glasses

August 21 marks the first total solar eclipse viewable from the continental US since 1979! To celebrate, many parks are holding viewing events. Select WNPA partner park stores will be selling special solar eclipse glasses, which are necessary to protect your eyes during the event. Glasses are available for purchase in 31 of our partner parks, including Aztec Ruins National Monument, the Gateway to Nature Center, Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, and Whiskeytown National Recreation Area. Check the website of a park near you to see if they're hosting a viewing event.



In The Parks

Junior Ranger Day

April 15, the first day of National Park Week 2017 (April 15–23), was Junior Ranger Day and many parks held special events to celebrate. The Junior Ranger program encourages kids to get involved with parks, become stewards of the land, and earn badges for their efforts. San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park held a Junior Ranger Day celebration with lots of fun activities—arts and crafts, temporary tattoos, toy boat races, and more. NPS Park Rangers were on hand to teach children about the park and guide activities. WNPA’s Kingspoko Maritime Store also had a “selfie station” where children took pictures with signs such as “Future Captain,” “Ahoy Matey!” and “I live between the wind and the waves.” The day was a smashing success and all who attended had a great time!



Lizzie Mortola, National Park Service

In The Parks

Naturalization Ceremony at Fort Union



Welcome, new citizens! On May 12, Fort Union National Monument in Watrous, New Mexico held a naturalization ceremony. The first special event of the year at Fort Union, this naturalization ceremony was an incredible opportunity for individuals to take the Oath of Allegiance and thereby earn their American Citizenship at a location steeped in American history. Fort Union is the largest 19th century military fort in the region. For 40 years, 1851–1891, Fort Union functioned as an agent of political and cultural change, whether desired or not, in New Mexico and throughout the Southwest. This year, the immigrants who became naturalized originally hailed from China, Colombia, Cuba, France, Germany, Israel, Mexico, Peru, Philippines, and South Korea.

Fun for All at Gateway to Nature

Blessed are the animals—literally. The Saturday before Easter, the annual Blessing of the Animals took place on Olvera Street and the Gateway to Nature Center participated. Dogs, snakes, a cow, and even a llama were present to be blessed by

Archbishop Jose Gomez. This event has been held on Olvera Street every year since 1930, but the tradition dates back to the fourth century. San Antonio de Abad, patron saint of the animal kingdom, is credited with the creation of the tradition.

On May 21, El Pueblo de Los Ángeles Historic Monument hosted a Multicultural Children’s Literacy Day to encourage children of all ages and ethnicities to get more involved with reading. Disney stars Kamil McFadden and Tammy Townsend joined in the fun by reading to attendees. More than 700 children came to Gateway to Nature, where a shadow puppet show of the popular book *Stellaluna*, written by Janell Cannon, was a huge success. The book tells the story of a young fruit bat who is separated from her mother.



Western
National Parks
Association

Call for Volunteers

Want to volunteer for WNPA? We'd love your help! Our wonderful volunteers provide aid in numerous ways, from assisting in park stores, to educational outreach, fundraising, and more. The Home Office in Tucson and the Gateway to Nature Center in Los Angeles are looking for volunteers.

For more information about volunteering at the Home Office, please contact Caroline Lochner, Program and Development Coordinator, at 520-789-7325 or caroline.lochner@wnpa.org.

If you would like to volunteer at the Gateway to Nature Center, please e-mail gatewaytonature@wnpa.org.



Membership Matters

“WNPA does [a] great job; haven’t been west of [the] Mississippi River in 9 years, so WNPA emails and newsletters keep me up to date.”

- Ranz Ebenshade, WNPA Member since 2005

In April, nearly 300 of our members shared their advice and ideas with WNPA in our membership survey. Our members value transformational educational programs, park interpretive efforts, connecting young people to our parks, and park preservation. They also cherish learning more about our parks through park products, events, and WNPA’s newsletter. WNPA is very grateful to those who took the time to complete the survey and provide their input. The survey helped us learn more about our dedicated members and

helped to ensure that we continue to meet—and exceed—expectations.

When you become a member of WNPA, your gift helps provide important educational programming, outreach, and research. For more information about membership and charitable giving, visit wnpa.org or contact Amy Reichgott, Development Manager, at 520-789-7406 or amy.reichgott@wnpa.org.



Western National Parks Association headquarters in Tucson, Arizona