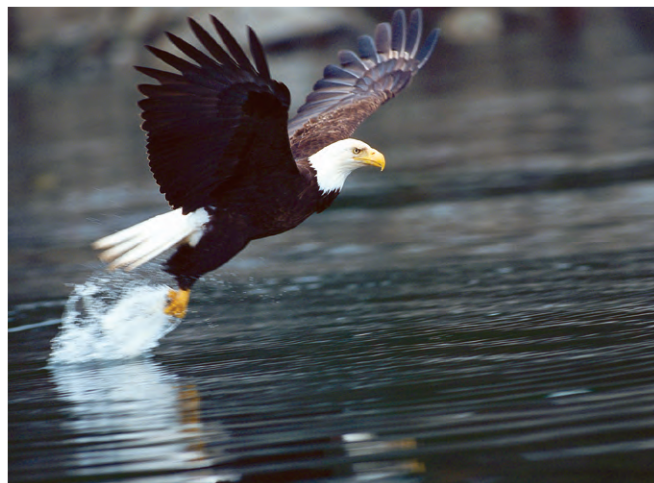




This Land Is Your Land





Melissa Blair, NPCA Alaska Field Representative, with a wild silver salmon. Kenai Fjords National Park.

Ponder the Parks:



1. Look at the map on pages 4 & 5 or visit the NPCA website www.npca.org to find the 28 different designations of national park sites. Select one site and develop a presentation explaining why this site is part of the National Park System and why it matters to your fellow citizens. How does its designation differ from others? What other sites share this designation? Do you think there should be fewer or more designations? Which ones and why?

2. Compare and contrast the mission statements of NPS and NPCA. In your own words explain the differences, and how they guarantee the continued upkeep and preservation of our national parks.

3. Look at a variety of ads and ad campaigns on the Sun Sentinel Digital Edition and other media. Note the elements that catch and keep your attention. Select one of NPCA's five goals and develop an advertising campaign to present to Congress. Be sure to include facts to back up your ad.

4. Compare and contrast the two logos of the organizations. What does each symbol represent, and how do the two organizations work together?

Sunshine State Standards: LA.(910.1112).6.1.2, LA.(910.1112).6.2.1, LA.(910.1112).6.2.3, LA.(910.1112).6.4.1, LA.(910.1112).6.4.2, LA.(910.1112).1.7.7, LA.(910.1112).4.2.3, LA.(910.1112).2.2.2, LA.(910.1112).4.3.1, LA.(910.1112).4.3.2, LA.(910.1112).1.7.7, LA.(910.1112).5.2.2, LA.(910.1112).5.2.5

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All photos courtesy of NPCA

A Mission to Preserve

You have inherited vast treasures. Some of these are close at hand, and others are located at the far corners of the country. These treasures are a link to your past and a legacy to leave for the future. Every fellow citizen shares them.

These treasures are your national parks—all 392 sites. They are gifts from earlier generations, set aside not for a privileged few, but for all Americans to enjoy. These varied lands hold stories that tell the tale of our nation's development and how we have evolved. Our national parks are part of a legacy that you, too, will pass on to future generations. Two groups are among those that can help you do this: the National Park Service and the National Parks Conservation Association.

The **National Park Service (NPS)** www.nps.gov is a government agency established in 1916 that operates under the Department of the Interior. Its purpose is to protect and preserve our National Park System.

The **National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)** www.npca.org is an independent voice outside of government. Established in 1919, NPCA works to protect and enhance America's national parks for current and future generations.

As you can see, the two organizations have similar missions.

"The mission of the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) is to conserve the scenery, the natural and historic objects, and the wildlife in the United States' national parks, and to provide for the public's enjoyment of these features in a manner that will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

National Parks Conservation Association's (NPCA) mission is *"To protect and enhance America's National Park System for present and future generations."*

More than 90 years ago, the first director of the National Park Service, Stephen Mather, saw the need for an independent voice to monitor the NPS. He wanted to ensure this new government agency would stay true to its mission regardless of shifts in political power. That voice is NPCA, America's only private, non-profit advocacy organization dedicated solely to protecting and enhancing our national parks.

The goals of NPCA and its 325,000 members are to:

- Advocate for national parks and the National Park Service
- Educate decision makers and the public about the importance of preserving national parks
- Help convince members of Congress to uphold laws that protect national parks and to support legislation to address threats to national parks
- Fight attempts to weaken these laws in the courts
- Assess the health of the parks and park management to better inform our advocacy work.

NPS needs groups like NPCA to help protect our treasures. NPS manages a system of 392 national park sites covering more than 84 million acres of land (much of it wilderness) in 49 states, the District of Columbia, and four U.S. Territories. National parks have 28 different designations including preserves, memorials, and monuments, to name a few. With 21,000 employees and 140,000 volunteers, NPS oversees every national park site within the National Park System, ensuring our history and heritage are protected, nurtured, cherished, and respected. Each year more than 285 million visitors flock to these unique places to experience and reconnect with a time, a culture, and an untamed environment that is different from our modern life.

These national treasures belong to each and every one of us – the citizens of the United States of America.

With this booklet, you will embark on a journey across our beautiful country to visit several national parks. As you travel you will learn about the parks' different designations, why national parks matter to you as an American, why they need continued protection, and how you can act to ensure these special places survive for us and the many generations to follow.

NOTE TO TEACHERS: As plentiful as our national parks are, so are the topics found in this tab. The only benchmark not listed specifically for each activity is LA.(910.1112).1.7.1 – The student will use background knowledge of subject, etc., because it is embedded throughout the entire booklet. Other standards satisfied include: The student uses a variety of strategies to comprehend grade level texts, the student develops and demonstrates expository writing that provides information related to real-world tasks, the student uses a systematic process for the collection, processing, and presentation of information, the student comprehends the wide array of informational text that is part of our day-to-day experiences, the student develops the essential technology skills for using and understanding conventional and current tools, materials, and processes, and the student uses research and inquiry skills to analyze American history using primary and secondary sources.

About the Sun Sentinel News In Education program:

Throughout the school year, the Sun Sentinel NIE program provides newspapers, both digital and print, to South Florida schools at no charge. Our goal has been to help teachers help their students, promote literacy, encourage hands-on learning using the newspaper, and assist students in staying up-to-date on the world around them. Another key focus of our program is providing curriculum materials, like *This Land Is Your Land*, to enhance lessons in the classroom across all subject areas. These complimentary booklets are aligned with the Sunshine State Standards.

For more information about Sun Sentinel News in Education and to download educational materials, visit our website at: www.SunSentinel.com/nie



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Left: Trail winding through Redwood National Park, California. **Middle:** Yosemite Falls, Yosemite National Park, California. **Right:** Living coral reef at Biscayne National Park, Florida.

Learning From Our Natural World

The first leg of your journey takes you to several parks that play an important role in science and the conservation of our natural resources.

Begin along the Tennessee-North Carolina border to visit some of the oldest mountains in the world at Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Established in 1934, this national park site is renowned for its incredible beauty and diversity of plant and animal life. There are so many different types of species here that the park is recognized as an International Biosphere Reserve and is home to the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory project. This project seeks to collect and identify more than 100,000 species that scientists believe are living within the park's boundaries. Scientists and volunteers from all over the globe come here to learn about the natural world since they can study so many species within one 800-square-mile area. So far, almost 900 species totally new to science have been discovered, including 600 species not previously known to live in the park.

By understanding the different types of species living within the varied habitat of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, scientists can better understand how these species interact with each other and the larger ecosystem. This information is invaluable to inform and guide us about how we are to maintain, conserve, and restore the diversity of plants, animals, and micro-organisms that make up our natural areas, ecosystems, and biospheres.

National parks are living laboratories that allow study of the natural world, and the impact humans have on these natural resources. As an example, head south to the warm waters of Florida's Biscayne National Park. Established in 1968, it is the largest marine park in the National Park System. Here, you will find the beginning of the third largest coral reef in the world.

Among the most biologically diverse ecosystems on earth, coral reefs are bustling with life. Reefs are made up of tiny coral animals, called polyps. These coral animals form limestone skeletons from calcium in the seawater and slowly grow into colonies. When various colonies are living close together, they create coral reefs that provide critical habitat for an abundance of fish and other marine life.

The coral reefs at Biscayne National Park are the world's most accessible, located a few miles from a major metropolitan area and millions of Florida residents and tourists. For this reason, they are also among the world's most vulnerable.

Corals face numerous threats. Some are biological, and others are directly related to human impact. Corals and the reefs they create live close to the surface in shallow waters and are easily damaged by careless boaters who collide with them – breaking off pieces of coral that die on the ocean floor. To help these threatened species, Biscayne National Park created the Coral Reef Nursery where park scientists bring broken pieces of coral. These are attached to rods with the hopes of re-growing and later transplanting the corals

back to the damaged reef. If this plan succeeds the replanted corals will help the larger coral reef continue to thrive.

From developing ways to conserve our natural resources, discovering new and valuable species of plants and animals, and finding ways to renew and restore our national treasures, scientists have a huge laboratory right here in the United States. Their discoveries can and will make a difference worldwide and to our future.



© iStockphoto

Baby Black Bear in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Ponder the Parks:



1. Search the NPS website to find some of the new species discovered in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Select one or two species and write a report to Congress explaining how these new discoveries will benefit mankind and provide for future generations.
2. Compare and contrast the effects of climate change on national park sites located in each of the four major regions of the country. Select one park site from each region to research. Write a letter to NPCA's "National Parks" magazine to report your findings.
3. Locate Biscayne National Park on the web or through another reference resource and research its natural habitat. Define ocean acidification and explain in your own words the effects this has on the coral reef. Create a presentation linking carbon to the health of the reef.
4. Check your Sun Sentinel or the Sun Sentinel Digital Edition for stories about other national park sites in Florida besides Biscayne National Park. Specifically, look for information about invasive species and how they have affected the parks. Report your findings to the class.
5. Go to www.preservetheparks.com to find information about a new partnership between Nature Valley and NPCA. Note how Nature Valley is supporting NPCA and lending a hand to protect and preserve our national parks. Research which parks are currently benefiting from the partnership between NPCA and Nature Valley.

Divide the class into three groups to become experts on one of the three preservation projects. Create a multimedia presentation including visuals to present orally to the other two groups.

Sunshine State Standards: LA.(910.112).6.2.1, LA.(910.112).6.2.2, LA.(910.112).6.2.3, LA.(910.112).1.7.7, LA.(910.112).6.2.1, LA.(910.112).6.2.3, LA.(910.112).4.2.4, SC.912.E.7.4, LA.(910.112).6.2.1, LA.(910.112).6.2.3, LA.(910.112).6.3.3, LA.(910.112).6.4.1, LA.(910.112).6.4.2, LA.(910.112).1.6.5, LA.(910.112).6.2.1, LA.(910.112).6.2.3, LA.(910.112).6.3.3, LA.(910.112).5.2.2, LA.(910.112).5.2.4, LA.(910.112).5.2.5, LA.(910.112).6.2.1, LA.(910.112).6.2.3, LA.(910.112).6.3.3, LA.(910.112).5.2.2, LA.(910.112).5.2.4, LA.(910.112).5.2.5, SC.912.L.17.8, LA.(910.112).6.4.1, LA.(910.112).6.4.2, LA.(910.112).5.2.2, LA.(910.112).5.2.4, LA.(910.112).5.2.5



Abbreviations for National Park System Areas

IHS International Historic Site	NL National Lakeshore	N PRES National Preserve	NS National Seashore
NB National Battlefield	NM National Monument	NR National River	NSR National Scenic River/Riverway
NBP National Battlefield Park	NM & PRES National Monument and Preserve	NRA National Recreation Area	NST National Scenic Trail
NBS National Battlefield Site	NMP National Memorial	NRR National Recreational River	PKWY Parkway
NHP National Historical Park	N MEM National Memorial	SRR Scenic and Recreational River	
NHP & PRES National Historical Park and Preserve	NP National Park	WR Wild River	
NH RES National Historical Reserve	NP & PRES National Park and Preserve	WSR Wild and Scenic River	
NHS National Historic Site			



Ponder the Parks:

1. You have decided to visit Civil War battlefields from South Carolina through Virginia over spring break. Using this map, locate the battlefields and then create your own map listing them and showing the route you will take to visit them all. (Make sure you look at the Abbreviations Key carefully).
2. Use the map to locate all national parks in Alaska. Research to determine why some are designated a NP and other are designated a NP & PRES. Write an essay explaining the rationale for this difference in designation.
3. In which direction would you travel to get from Mount Rushmore National Memorial to the John D. Rockefeller, Jr. Memorial Parkway? How many miles would you have to travel? Could you accomplish this in one day?
4. Using the map, prepare to embark on a four-day road trip to visit at least four separate National Memorials, National Scenic Trails, and/or National Historic Sites. List the sites you will see and the direction(s) you will travel. Make sure you can accomplish this trip successfully within the four days.
5. Using the Abbreviations Key for National Park System Areas, select one designation from each of the four columns and then challenge your friends to a scavenger hunt. Find at least one national park site with that designation in each of the eleven regions of NPSA (where we work tab at www.npsa.org).
6. Do you have an idea for a new national park site? Write a letter to your U.S. senator explaining what the site is, its significance to the natural and cultural history of our country, and what type of designation of national park it should be.
7. Go to the "where we work" section of the NPSA website and use the map to locate NPSA's regional offices and national headquarters. Find two regional offices that oversee park sites outside the continental U.S. What other areas do these regional offices protect?

Which two regional offices oversee park sites outside the continental United States? What other areas do they protect?

4
Sunshine State Standards: SS.912.A.1.4, LA.(910,1112).6.1.1, LA.(910,1112).6.1.3, SS.912.A.1.4, LA.(910,1112).6.2.1, LA.(910,1112).6.2.3, LA.(910,1112).4.2.3, LA.(910,1112).6.1.1, SS.912.A.1.4, SS.912.A.1.4, LA.(910,1112).4.2.2, SS.912.A.1.4, LA.(910,1112).6.1.1, LA.(910,1112).6.1.1, LA.(910,1112).4.2.4, LA.(910,1112).6.2.1, LA.(910,1112).6.2.3, SS.912.A.1.4, LA.(910,1112).6.1.1

Map from National Park Service

Stories that Form Our Nation

We all know our country is made up of 50 independent states, but we sometimes forget that our country is also populated by 308 million individuals representing a multitude of cultures, races, and histories. Our national parks represent the totality of these diverse cultures in our society and tell the story of our historical development. They tell of our successes and also of mistakes we have made as a nation.

Public history is no different from personal history in that we have to learn from our mistakes in order to move forward in a positive way. The shocking attack on Pearl Harbor by Japanese forces in 1941 led the U.S. to formally declare war on Japan and enter the Second World War. This international declaration was followed by a domestic policy that forced the relocation of American citizens of Japanese descent into internment camps. Whole families were uprooted from their lives and held or “interned” in one of ten military-style camps throughout the country. This discriminatory policy marks a troubling time in our national history, which must be remembered and from which we must learn. In honor of the Japanese-Americans forced from their homes and livelihoods, the internment camp at Manzanar in California was designated as the Manzanar National Historic Site by Congress in 1992.

Individual Americans who made a major impact on our lives and civil laws also are honored within our national parks. The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Georgia was established in 1980 to interpret the life experiences and significance of one of the most influential Americans of the 20th century. This site includes Martin Luther King’s birth home, his church, and a memorial site.

Another, possibly lesser-known, national park site celebrating African-American contributions to our national history is the Nicodemus National Historic Site in Kansas. Established in 1996, this national park site is a testament to freedom and self-determination and chronicles the stories of African Americans who built a prosperous black frontier town during the Reconstruction Era following the Civil War.

Further north along the Missouri River in North Dakota is the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. This site was established by Congress in 1974 to preserve the culture and agricultural lifestyles of the Plains Indians. This area’s rich soil and lush wooded banks have long supported human habitation. Once a main trading center of North America, many Northern Plains tribes either settled or passed through this area, including Sacagawea, the famed Native American woman translator who worked for explorers Lewis and Clark. This site is named for a type of local flint used for tool making by American Indians for thousands of years. Widely traded, archeologists have found Knife River flint as far away as western Canada.

Each national park site represents a time that has passed but still informs our present day. These parks symbolize our culture and history and remind us of how we interacted with nature and each other.



1943 Obelisk at Manzanar NHS reading “Soul Consoling Tower,” California.



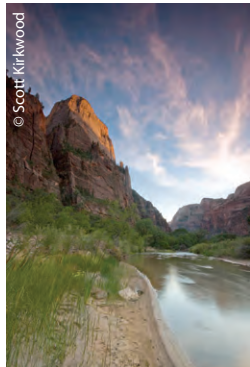
Ponder the Parks:



1. Select one of the park sites discussed in this section. Research its history, discover the people who were involved, develop a timeline, and follow its path towards becoming part of the National Park System. Develop a multimedia presentation of your findings to share with your class or a local historical society.
2. Based on the research you completed for Ponder the Parks question one, explain in an essay whether you feel this site should be a unit of the National Park System.
3. Go to the NPS website www.nps.gov to locate other national monuments and historical sites representing the diverse cultures that settled and developed the United States. Select one and create a brochure for travelers who wish to study the various groups of people who are the backbone of our country.
4. Think of a special place you have visited or read about that is not recognized as a national park site but you think should be considered. Write a letter to your representative in Congress persuading him/her to propose your suggestion as the next national park site. Be sure to include details that will help qualify this place for such an honor.

Top: Cliff Palace, the largest cliff dwelling in Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado. **Bottom:** The hallowed grounds of Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland.

Parks Are Political Creations, Too



Zion National Park, Utah.

Our national parks are symbols of America that help to define our national identity. They are also political creations that require funding and constant vigilance to ensure the laws established to protect them remain strong.

A tug of war exists between those who see our national parks as a potential revenue source whose commodities – timber, minerals, water – should be exploited, and those who share the view of the National Park Service mission that declares parks must be preserved unimpaired for future generations. These opposing views are at the core of the struggle for park protection.

As a park advocate, this is where NPCA does some of its best work. NPCA helps park activists educate themselves and the public on the issues most concerning our national parks. NPCA speaks out on behalf of the land and the right of future generations to experience these national treasures.

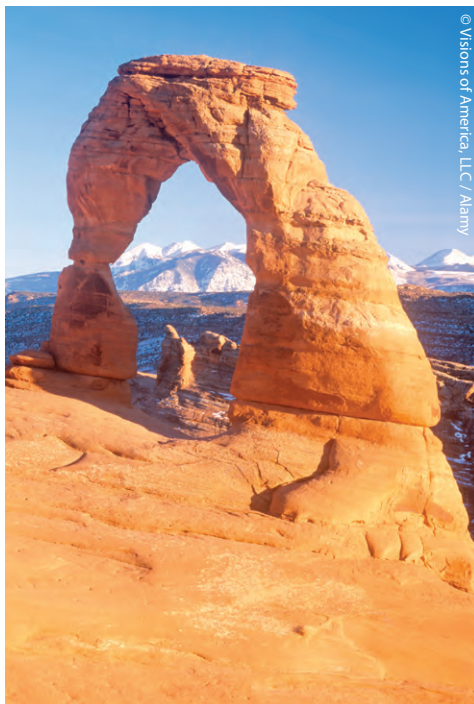
Every national park site belongs to you. Ownership brings with it a responsibility to make sure our parks are well-maintained; receive necessary funding for their upkeep and survival; and are respected, cherished, and protected. You, too, have a role as a citizen activist. By making your voice heard, you can take part in building a park community that speaks up and clearly states to our leaders in government that our national parks matter to us.

To better understand the importance of your role, let's consider the power structure—the individual leaders who make decisions on how to manage our national parks. Look at the flowchart and see the paths your national park message can take—from the individual citizen all the way to the President!

DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

AMERICAN CITIZENS

- ➔ President of the United States
- ➔ U.S. Congress
- ➔ Secretary of the Interior
- ➔ Director of the National Park Service
- ➔ Park Superintendents
- ➔ Park Rangers



Arches National Park, Utah.

Every park has a story. Each park's creation faced a political struggle that took the determination, communication, and organization of citizens to make a difference.

However, once a park is designated, its continued protection does not happen without a fight. While parks have specific boundaries, changes to land, water, and air quality outside of a park directly impact these natural resources inside a park.

These external threats are serious and come in many forms. Some threats NPCA is fighting include: plans for the world's largest gold and copper mines by the Bristol Bay watershed—a important site for salmon next to Lake Clark; a proposed shopping mall next to Gettysburg; air pollution shrouding Shenandoah; clear-cutting next to Olympic; drilling for oil, gas and geothermal energy adjacent to Yellowstone. A fatal noose of development is being drawn tighter around our national parks, our wildlife, and the rights of future generations to experience these special places.

In the deserts of southern California we find another park threatened. Joshua Tree National Park is a fragile desert landscape established in 1936. Its 800,000 acres include three ecosystems that are home to the desert kit fox, Desert bighorn sheep, and the desert tortoise—all of which are now threatened by plans for the nation's largest garbage dump that would collect up to 20,000 tons of trash per day for more than a century. Thanks to the hard work of citizen activists, NPCA and partner environmental groups, this plan was recently defeated in the courts. This was a good victory, but the fight will likely continue.

To make a difference in our parks, we must learn what is threatening them and join our voice to groups advocating for our parks' protection both inside their boundaries and beyond. We must then take this national park message to our representatives and encourage them to protect our national parks with their votes.



Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado.

Ponder the Parks:



1. Research the names of the people who constitute layers of the flowchart. Write a letter to each (President, Secretary of the Interior, NPS Director) encouraging them to continue protecting our national parks.

2. The influence of citizens play a major role in both the establishment and continued protection of our national parks. One specific park with a very interesting history is Biscayne National Park. Go to the park's website for the story behind the park's establishment. Write a human interest story for your school newspaper about the unique family who played such a vital role to this park.

3. In order to fight for the protection of Joshua Tree National Park, NPCA had to produce a multitude of facts supporting their cause. The result was a document called a "white paper." Research to better understand what this is and how it is developed. Continue to search to find the white paper developed for the Joshua Tree case. Read a portion and summarize it in your own words.



Left: Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado. Middle: Students visiting Jamaica Bay, Gateway National Recreational Area, New York. Right: Biscayne National Park, Florida.

All Things Are Connected

Head back east to the Ocmulgee National Monument in Georgia. This national park site was created as a memorial to the relationship people have with the natural environment. This deep and evolving relationship is clearly exemplified at the park and has led its staff to embrace the idea that “all things are connected.” It is an idea that reminds us of our personal connection to our planet and to all of the people who have created societies back through time. At Ocmulgee there is evidence of 17,000 years of human habitation. Burial mounds and meeting spaces, among many other components of life, are preserved as part of a continuous record of life in the southeastern part of our country.

Our national parks help preserve these stories for us and for our children and grandchildren. Help make sure these stories and special places will be preserved and enjoyed. You can protect your national parks in many ways, including:

1. Visit Your National Parks! By experiencing these amazing places for yourself, you'll better understand why they need to be protected now and for future generations. This could be the beginning of a lifelong journey of discovery. Where would you begin? Where would you go to next? During your visit, follow the principals of Leave No Trace.

2. Spread the Word! Encourage younger children to become junior rangers by participating in the Junior Ranger Program at www.nps.gov. Friend NPCA on Facebook. Go to www.npca.org and click on the “Explore the Parks” tab, select a state and park and tell others about your park experiences in the Visitor Feedback section. Share news about your favorite spot in your favorite park and learn about others.

3. Get Involved! Visit www.nps.gov and click on the “get involved” tab for a list ways to get active in your parks. Become one of the 140,000 volunteers that keep our national parks beautiful.

4. Go Native! Create a healthy habitat for wildlife by planting native species. Join fellow citizens at Fairchild Tropical Garden www.fairchildgarden.org who are reintroducing the Miami Blue butterfly back to south Florida by planting native plants that serve as host plants for this endangered insect. By working to protect and enhance native habitat and the wildlife it supports, you are helping your national parks.

5. Make a Career of Protecting Our Parks!

Become a park ranger at the National Park Service or work for environmental advocacy organizations like NPCA. From scientists and artists, law professionals to mechanics, there are many different types of jobs throughout NPS and throughout the conservation community.

Play the Web Ranger game at the NPS website to virtually experience the life of a park ranger.

6. Vote Green! Beginning at age 18 you can vote for politicians who value our natural and cultural resources. Use the Sun Sentinel and other media to find out which politicians value our environment and whose records demonstrate actions towards preserving and respecting our national treasures. If you are too young to vote you can still volunteer to work and help spread their national park message. Encourage government leaders to make sure our national parks have enough funds and protection to maintain and improve these special places.

Owning 392 national park sites is a privilege and a big responsibility. When you look at a list of national parks you realize how wealthy you are as a citizen. Taking action to support your parks' continued enhancement, care, and protection can fill you with a sense of pride and purpose. You can also be assured the people enjoying these national parks generations from now will be grateful for the work you did to protect their right to enjoy our national treasures.



Ponder the Parks:



1. Select a national park site. Become an expert on the park, its uniqueness, what it has to offer to the public, and what it needs. Develop a fundraising campaign to either support an ongoing project in your park or create an original project you think will enhance the park even more.
2. Read through the Digital Edition of the Sun Sentinel to find an environmental problem that is affecting a national park site. Write a letter to your state and U.S. senators, suggesting ideas on how to remedy the situation. Be proactive and positive by offering solutions rather than just stating the problem.
3. Create a brochure encouraging your peers to spend their summer as volunteers at a specific national park site. Be sure to include the types of volunteer opportunities at that park, where they can find the necessary information to apply for a volunteer position, and pictures of the park itself.
4. Look at the Classified ads in the Sun Sentinel Digital Edition for jobs at local, state, or national park, recreation, and environmental sites. What are the requirements asked for? Do you think you would like these kinds of jobs? Why or why not? How could these jobs help make a difference?

Sunshine State Standards: LA.(910,1112).6.2.1, LA.(910,1112).6.2.3, LA.(910,1112).4.1.1, LA.(910,1112).4.1.2, LA.(910,1112).4.2.4, LA.(910,1112).4.1.1, LA.(910,1112).4.1.2, LA.(910,1112).4.2.1, LA.(910,1112).6.2.1, LA.(910,1112).6.2.3, LA.(910,1112).4.2.3

Throughout this booklet we have been commenting on the mission of NPCA and NPS: to preserve our cultural and natural treasures for present and future generations. History is made every day, and there are new parks being designated to capture historic moments. One major example is the Flight 93 National Memorial, which is dedicated to the brave citizens who sacrificed their lives to thwart an attack on our nation's capitol on September 11, 2001. The anniversary of this tragedy was commemorated with the opening of a visitor center for this new national park site.

Our national parks are living history books that provide us with a real life look into the people and places that made that history. Our parks are a generous gift from our past, and we have a responsibility to make sure we pass this gift on to the future of our country. We must be stewards of our national parks and remember, as the famous folk singer Woody Guthrie sang, “This land is your land. This land is my land. This land was made for you and me.”