

Answers the Call to Action



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Pacific West Region employees,

May is a rejuvenating month, with many commemorations and the arrival of summer vacation season. It's a time when we celebrate Mexican heritage and pride on "Cinco de Mayo." It is also the month when we honor those who gave their all in the nation's service on Memorial Day. These themes resonate with the National Park Service and are both a part of our current foundation as well as keys to our future. We have many sites in our region dedicated to our nation's heritage and we are continually looking for new ways to reach diverse audiences.

Call to Action Item #3 "History Lesson" is all about providing opportunities for new audiences to learn more about their heritage by visiting our parks. This May, I challenge you to leverage the National Park Service's connection with these holidays to touch communities, hearts and lives in new ways and in so doing, to elevate public awareness of all the National Park Service has to offer.

While some of our desert parks are just coming off their busy season, most are just gearing up. How are you getting your staff excited, trained, committed to "safety first," and ready for the busy summer season? **How are you leveraging the diverse perspectives and extreme enthusiasm of seasonal employees to reach new people?**

As we all work together to set new directions for the National Park Service in its second century, I want to take a moment to personally thank all of you for your service. People come from all over the world to enjoy parks and they are amazed and inspired because of everything that you do! Your work really does matter and directly improves the quality of life for people around the world. Thank you for your continued service.

National Park Service Mission Statement

"...to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife 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."



Chris Lehnertz
Pacific West Regional Director

Submitting your C2A story

When are articles due?

first Friday of every month

What do you submit?

300 words

point of contact

multimedia

Who do you submit it to?

PWR C2A sharepoint site OR
a Relevancy Team member

Learn more about C2A

A Call to Action >>

Preparing for a second century of stewardship and engagement



#2 step by step

Lake Mead offers opportunities for youth

"It's not what you've done, it's what you overcome."

contact: Autumn Paulson, Autumn_Paulson@nps.gov 702-293-8908

Fumbling and nervous, the ten boys made their way out of two white suburbans and filed into Nevada's Red Rock Canyon parking lot. Blue skies, a biting wind chill, and a swift introduction to the staff welcomed them to Cadet Ranger Week spring 2012.

This is no ordinary week; developed in 2004 the program has made leaps and bounds to become what it encompasses today. The program started small with a simple one day tour of the Hoover Dam where the boys learned about U.S. History and government workforce opportunities. The curriculum has now expanded to a week's worth of invaluable search and rescue instruction that culminates in a mock search and rescue for two teams of five boys. Inspiration for the program started with Assistant Chief Randy Lavasseur and his childhood friend, Corrections Officer Marco Rafalovich; the two collaborated and designed the program to increase the self-worth of boys that made poor choices and often don't have the confidence or support to achieve their goals. Often, the young men have had negative interactions with authority figures and especially law enforcement officials; this program aimed to combat this negative outlook by actively engaging the boys in positive feedback and arming them with skills they can use for a productive future. Cadet Carter explains, "Ever since I met you all I have been happy to go on for the next day and try new things. I love how you know what you were doing and it really made a difference. You were also always complimenting us on our work. This was the best week I have had in months."

The ten boys receive rigorous instruction in the following areas: Navigation and GPS, radio procedures/terminology, basic first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and the use of rope rescue techniques to execute a search and



rescue. Throughout the week of instruction the young men truly shine when given the opportunity to make a difference; they are elated by the prospect that their CPR/First Aid Certification cards may give them a better chance at a summer job and many of them expressed a desire to assist with search and rescues in the future.

"I'm thinking about doing stuff like this when I get out so I won't always be in trouble. I've learned to trust my peers around me which is really hard to do sometimes."

-Cadet Abell, Class of 2012

The last day the boys once again filed out of two white suburban's and prepared for a mock search and rescue performed in Lake Mead NRA; warm and sunny, the weather complimented the overall morale. Ready for a long mission ahead, the boys fell into line and ultimately rescued and transported the injured patient out of the canyon. Although the mission ended with the transport of the injured patient, ultimately this experience will forever impact the young men and instructors of Cadet Ranger Week, spring 2012. ■

#5 parks for people

RTCA connects people to the LA River

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No stranger to the LA River

contact: Anne Dove, Anne_Dove@nps.gov 323-441-9307

Millions of people live within ten miles of the Los Angeles River, yet many do not know it is there. Many others only know the river through its use as a film location for movies featuring car races along its concrete banks. Despite these challenges, momentum for improving the river has steadily built through years of community-driven efforts, and now, the river is experiencing unprecedented attention as a pilot project of the Urban Waters Federal Partnership and America's Great Outdoors Initiative. NPS' Rivers, Trails & Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA) has been supporting these initiatives by working to connect locally-led river revitalization efforts with federal resources while also supporting NPS efforts to "Follow the Flow" (C2A #12); provide park connections "In My Back Yard" (C2A #4); and provide "Parks for People" (C2A #5).

Paddling--in the LA River?!

NPS is no stranger to the Los Angeles River. A portion of the river is designated as the recreation route for the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, and in the 1990s, RTCA supported the development of Los Angeles County's LA River Master Plan. Now, with this renewed effort, RTCA is partnering with the LA Conservation Corps (LACC), the largest urban conservation corps serving young people in the US, to secure Challenge Cost Share Program funds to support the "Paddle the LA River" program. Last year, a public-private partnership led by LACC launched this effort which provides guided kayak and canoe trips along the Sepulveda Basin reach of the river. Paddling trips targeted urban youth groups, with additional opportunities for the general public. Demand for this unprecedented opportunity was so high that reservations filled within ten minutes of opening on the program's website; more than one thousand others signing up to be



on a waiting list. This year, Challenge Cost Share Program (CCSP) funding will support purchase of equipment, including kayaks and paddles, and staffing of the program. More importantly, this modest support will help to sustain the momentum needed to permanently establish long term, non-motorized boating on the river.

Safe Routes to the River

Building on the CCSP award, Los Angeles staff was successful in securing RTCA program resources for the proposed "Safe Routes to the River" demonstration project for the LA River. The project seeks to facilitate community connections to the river by supporting both LACC's effort to enhance public access to the river via gateways, signage and interpretive facilities; and LA Unified School District's "River Project", an initiative to engage the district's 120 schools located within 1 mile of the river in citizen science, outdoor classrooms, river ambassador and river passport programs. RTCA will facilitate coordination and partnership development to develop a strategy for connecting the proposed river gateways to local LAUSD school sites via enhanced routing and targeted trail planning efforts. ■



#8 Eat Well and Prosper

Lewis and Clark is foraging at the George

What's in season along the north coast?

contact: David Szymanski, David_Szymanski@nps.gov 503-861-4401

The Coast Community Radio's Food Talk recently hosted another foraging feast at the Fort George Brewery. The Forage at the George panel featured guests Carla Cole, natural resource manager for Lewis and Clark National Historical Park and wild foods enthusiast and other local foraging friends in a conversation about what's in season now in the North Coast landscape.

Fiddlehead ferns, nettles, shellfish, salmon and more- spring is a great time to get outside and harvest some of the most flavorful wild foods of the year. The panel shared stories, harvesting and preparation tips, and provided guidance on how to forage responsibly and safely. Samples of some of the recipes being discussed were offered and attendees walked away with a new list of springtime ingredients. ■



Submit your C2A story to the

PWR >>

Answers the Call to Action Newsletter

featuring five C2A stories from the pacific west each month



Camassia quamash

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If you happen to visit Weippe Prairie, Idaho in the month of May, you just may see some citizen scientists in action! Nez Perce National Historical Park in collaboration with the Upper Columbia Basin Network Inventory and Monitoring Program (UCBN) are monitoring camas lilies (*Camassia quamash*) at the Weippe Prairie site with the help of citizen scientists. This May will be the eighth season that teachers and students from three local high schools have assisted in the collection of camas monitoring data, and have provided valuable information on the current status of this native wetland prairie plant species.

The main objective of this program is to record data about camas plants and other variables that may affect their growth. Learning components of the program are tied to state science standards, and students work alongside ecologists, natural resource managers, and interpretive rangers to learn about this important natural and cultural resource. This partnership allows the park and UCBN staff to develop a long-term and sustainable monitoring project and build a long-lasting relationship

#16 live and learn

Nez Perce monitors *Camassia quamash*

with the communities that are near the Weippe Prairie.

The program is divided into two parts, a pre-visit training and fieldwork. First, National Park Service staff visit the schools to provide information on camas ecology and its cultural importance, and to train students on the use of field equipment. Then, students visit the site and work with network and park staff to collect data, following scientific procedures from a peer-reviewed monitoring protocol. Data collected by these volunteers provides valuable information, which can later be used by park managers to make scientifically-informed management decisions.

This program connects people to parks by engaging gateway communities in a compelling way that not only exposes them to the NPS, but cultivates a sense of stewardship in the next generation of community leaders. For more information, please check the [UCBN camas monitoring video!](#) ■

#19 out with the old

Big Hole shares the voice of the people

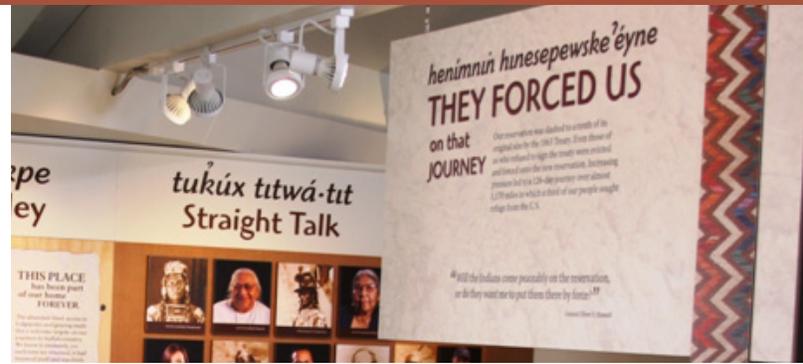
New Visitor Center Exhibits

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On June 2, 2012 Big Hole National Battlefield will have the official grand reopening of its Visitor Center. A new energy efficient roof was added and brand new exhibits were installed. The new exhibits were created to completely change the way the story was told.

Instead of battle and tactics, the park decided early on to tell the human side of the war and its effects then and today. To do this the park worked very closely with our tribal partners, the Nez Perce, Umatilla and Colville Tribes on every phase of the design and production of these new compelling exhibits.

Meetings were held at all three reservations to make sure that the voice of the people who were most affected by the events of 1877 would be heard and that when the exhibits were completed they would be something the NPS and the tribes could be proud of. This process took a lot of time and effort and longtime suspicions had to be overcome and be replaced with understanding and acknowledgement that the park was indeed headed in a new direction and that the tribal voice was very important to this process. In addition, the exhibits will be fully accessible in partnership with the University of Montana - Rural Institute Program.



Visitors who once quickly browsed through the old exhibits now take time to read and listen to what those who were here in 1877 had to say as well as the decedent's thoughts on the battle. The story told now is a complete one from Lewis and Clark to today and visitors who saw the old stale exhibits are very impressed with the new ones. Everyone who was involved in the process can say they made a difference in the way the story is told. ■

PWR Call to Action Relevancy Team

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