2014 A Call to Action
Collaborating Beyond our Boundaries Into the Next Century
**A Call to Action Defined**

Nearly 100 years ago, America called on the National Park Service (NPS) to preserve our past and promote enjoyment of our national treasures through the 1916 Organic Act. Our country may have changed since then, but not the role of the NPS as the caretaker of America’s most important places. A Call to Action is the strategic action plan of the NPS to advance our collaborative mission of stewardship and engagement into the next century. The plan describes specific goals and measurable actions that plot a new direction for the NPS as it nears its second century.

*Explore A Call to Action goals here*

Cover photo: Children place flowers on a stone wall at a special commemoration during the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fredericksburg.

This page: A reenactor portraying a bugler sergeant of the U.S. Army Signal Corps proudly waves the colors.
2014 Park Statistics

50
formal park partners working on behalf of national parks in the Northeast Region

3,185
school districts reside within the Northeast Region

10
parks participated in the Artist-in-Residence program

330
million dollars have been appropriated by the U.S. Congress in 15 separate programs toward Hurricane Sandy recovery

51,000
volunteers contributed almost 1.4 million hours of labor

10
webcams provide 24/7 viewing within the Northeast Region, from the Statue of Liberty to Shenandoah
Table of Contents

Why a Call to Action?
A Call to Action Defined
Northeast Region Map
Introduction
Our Partners from Eastern National

Featured a Call to Action Stories
Commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War
Immersive Education on the East Coast
Engaging Our Youth and Communities
The Schuylkill River Valley Connects People, Recreation, and Culture
Honoring Our Remarkable River and Trail Advocates
Innovation and Imagination Attract New Audiences
Enlisting Our Citizen-Scientists
Resource Recovery and Resiliency
A Star-Spangled Celebration
Enhancing the Tools in our Toolbox

Acknowledgements
About the Editors
About the Photographs

Addendum
2014 A Call to Action Addendum
Introduction
Connecting People to Parks
Advancing the NPS Education Mission
Preserving America's Special Places
Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence
Northeast Region 2014 Share Your Stories
I am pleased to share the Northeast Region’s 2014 Call to Action report: Collaborating Beyond our Boundaries Into the Next Century. In 2016, the National Park Service enters our second century, and our mission is clear: connect with and create the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates. The Northeast Region has a strong tradition of engaging in partnerships and working across diverse landscapes. Parks and program areas have achieved great success through community and youth engagement, innovative education, resource preservation and stewardship, and professional development. This success is directly attributed to the teamwork of partners, volunteers, and employees cooperating across park and program boundaries.

In the past year, commemorative anniversaries surrounding The War of 1812, the Battle of Gettysburg, and other significant events, illustrated that when we work together we create extraordinary visitor experiences that are relevant to our constituents and valued by our patrons. These quality experiences leave lasting impressions for visitors across the demographic spectrum, which generates life-long appreciation for national parks.

National parks and National Heritage Areas leverage federal funds to carry out projects that improve the quality of life for local communities through job growth, neighborhood revitalization, and heritage tourism. New methods of interpretation, immersive education, and distance learning broaden our audience appeal and inspire young people to get involved in their national parks. Cooperative programs provide educational and volunteer opportunities and foster stewardship of our natural and cultural resources. Joint initiatives like the Stephen T. Mather Building Arts & Craftsmanship High School in New York City demonstrate our commitment to creating the next generation of historic building and landscape preservation professionals. In doing so, they not only preserve buildings, they breathe new life into a lasting legacy, where places come alive and tell the history of America.

Employees, volunteers, and partners are some of our most valuable resources in the National Park Service. Regard for each other is expressed in the new methods of risk management that insure that safety is a key component of our activities. Our people are enthusiastic about, and committed to, the National Park Service mission. In this year’s report, you will read “Share Your Story” vignettes that showcase the personal side of each event and project we highlight. As our Director Jon Jarvis said, “we are an organization of storytellers and we should share our stories more broadly with each other.”

This is an exciting time for the National Park Service. Only by embracing partnerships that leverage the expertise and flexibility of other organizations, will we be ready for the challenges and opportunities we will face over the course of the next century. We have much to celebrate from the accomplishments of 2014, and even more that we can accomplish in the years ahead if we work together to care for your national parks.

Michael A. Caldwell
Regional Director, Northeast Region
Eastern National is a non-profit association that works closely with 150 national parks to further the educational and interpretive mission of the National Park Service (NPS).

Eastern National has a good working relationship with everyone in the service. The Northeast Region (NER) is proactive in their approach to adapting to the future as it changes. We are pleased that they have accepted that life today is not the same as yesterday, but that doesn’t mean that the dream goes away, it just means that the vision changes to meet the needs of the public. Regional Director Mike Caldwell realizes that the NPS must remain relevant to the public, and that means adapting to new audiences, methods, and ideas.

The Call to Action is an initiative of Director Jarvis, with the NER at the front. The NPS is taking a critical look at themselves in the mirror, and changing to stay relevant to the public. There is an emphasis in the Call To Action, like in Go Digital, to use technology to engage with audiences. We are already fulfilling a lot of these goals, like using social media and improving communications. We continue to upgrade and streamline our business operations to better serve the public. From where we sit, we accept all these changes. We cooperate fully with the direction that the NPS is heading.

Eastern National has assisted the National Park Service (NPS) in a variety of projects. The youth career program was one of our more successful events. Eastern National worked with another nonprofit and the National Parks of New York Harbor to provide internships to traditionally underserved urban youth. We hosted career opportunity days in the spring, where we brought them to the Statue of Liberty to learn about careers with the National Park Service. Then they competed for six-week summer internships working a variety of occupations in interpretation, concessions, law enforcement, public affairs and communications. The program introduced them to careers – not just jobs. They don’t see this kind of thing in their environment. It was inspirational to kids that had never travelled outside of their zip code, let alone to the Statue of Liberty.

We look forward to continued collaboration with the Northeast Region in the next century.
Commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War

Lincoln Portrayer James Getty signs an autograph for a visitor during the 150th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address.
In preparing for a second century of stewardship and engagement, parks in the Northeast Region undertook collaborative projects to invite people to experience their America in rewarding new ways. These projects crossed boundaries to fulfill the Department of Interior youth initiative: **Play, Learn, Serve, Work.**

The 2014 **Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Civil War** (the 150th anniversary) was a momentous undertaking all across the region that connected people to their parks and their heritage. National Park Service (NPS) staff teamed up with partners, volunteers, and communities to make this year a fitting remembrance.

Three thousand Boy Scouts converged on **Gettysburg National Military Park** (GETT) for a summer weekend to camp, learn, and serve. The event was made possible by a partnership with the **New Birth of Freedom Council** of the **Boy Scouts of America**, and the event sold out in less than 30 minutes. “We want them to understand the sacrifice. Battles aren't just video games. Real people died,” said Scout Executive and Chief Executive Officer Ron Gardner of the New Birth of Freedom Council.

In November 2013, the anniversary of the dedication of the **Soldier's National Cemetery** was commemorated. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia gave the speech. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia gave the

Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia congratulate new citizens after the 150th anniversary ceremony for president Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.

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The 1864 Overland Campaign was the main focus of Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (FRSP), Richmond National Battlefield Park (RICH) and Petersburg National Battlefield (PETE). These parks jointly produced programs that helped reconnect communities to the Virginia fields where their ancestors fought in the Civil War.

Coinciding park programs from Maine to South Carolina marked battlefields with luminaries for each life lost, while “Taps” played at a designated time. This event was live-streamed to those unable to attend and through social media reached an even larger global audience. These activities, under the community outreach program Reverberations at RICH, linked its battlefields to communities across the nation.

The Overland Campaign was also observed at PETE with a real-time tour of the battlefield. Almost 1,000 visitors found themselves swept up in battlefield roles. They even participated as soldiers when the men of the Liberty Rifles reenactment unit recruited visitors to become front-line troops.

Partnerships were vital to the success of the Sesquicentennial. Months of planning and partner contributions led to a meaningful commemoration for participants. Park rangers from FRSP, RICH, and PETE were deployed to support activities in eight separate communities. Site manager for Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park Amy Bracewell noted, “Thousands of visitors connected to this place through our ranger programs and activities. We

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are delighted with the outpouring of support and interest by our visitors and community.”

Additional guidance and personnel support came from Harpers Ferry National Historical Park, Antietam National Battlefield, Shenandoah National Park, George Washington Birthplace National Monument, and the NPS Civil War 150th Social Media Team. Cooperation throughout the region proved essential for the success of the Sesquicentennial Commemoration of the Civil War.

A Call to Action: Step by Step, History Lesson, In My Back Yard, Keep the Dream Alive and Live and Learn

Civil War Reenactors line up for inspection at sunrise at the Belle Grove Plantation.

Share your story

Zack Bolitho
Resource Management Chief
Gettysburg National Military Park

I have had the honor to help plan, and attend, several NPS signature events as a part of the Eastern Incident Management Team. We’ve successfully delivered programs such as the 200th Anniversary of Defenders’ Day at Fort McHenry, where I witnessed a hand stitched 19th century replica of our nation’s star spangled banner unfurl over the fort. I coordinated service projects for 3,000 Boy Scouts at Gettysburg, where my daughter and I commemorated the 150th Anniversary of the Gettysburg Address with thousands of other citizens. I anticipate the successful anniversary of Lee’s surrender at Appomattox Court House. These are humbling moments that ground me, and remind me that we have amazing responsibilities as stewards of America’s history and lands.
Immersive Education on the East Coast

The Northeast Region partnered with educational institutions to create educational programming that used new technologies and social media to promote parks as places of learning that foster civic values, engagement, and stewardship. These programs embodied the Call To Action items: Live and Learn, History Lesson, A Class Act, and In My Back Yard. Saugus Ironworks National Historic Site (SAIR), Salem Maritime National Historic Site (SAMA) and Essex National Heritage Area (ESSE) collaborated on four history and education programs and events that advanced the education mission of the National Park Service (NPS) as well as local communities.

Staff from SAIR and ESSE partnered with the Massachusetts Archaeology Education Consortium to provide a free one-day professional development workshop for Haverhill, Massachusetts social studies teachers. The teachers learned how to best utilize local resources to enhance their curriculum. They role-played as 17th century iron workers, Puritans, Scottish indentured servants, and Pawtucket Native Americans. They learned how to foster connections between their students and their local history.

This summer, teachers throughout the 22 counties inside ESSE were immersed in a week-long workshop as part of the partnership’s Park For Every Classroom (PEC) program. The teachers became the “students” in a curriculum that instilled the value and practices of place-based education and service learning. They learned interpretative techniques that improved their own skillsets. The program provided the participants with a model of how to form their own intellectual and emotional connections while exploring place.

This year was the fourth anniversary of “Salem Sets Sail,” a partnership between SAMA and Schooner Fame. Fifth-graders in Salem Public Schools engaged in a collaborative program that integrated curriculum-based

English language learning students from Lynn Classical High School visit SAMA to explore past and present connections in global trade.

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education with place-based learning. Aboard SAMA’s tall-ship, the Friendship, students explored the replica merchant vessel and examined authentic sailing artifacts. Afterwards, aboard the ship-of-the-line Fame, the students learned the ropes of operating a sailing ship and sailed around Salem Harbor. “No child in Salem should be allowed to grow up without spending some time on the water,” said Captain Mike Rutstein, owner and operator of Fame. “Unless we get these kids down to the waterfront, into the Custom House, onto the Friendship of Salem, and out on the water on board Fame, how can we expect them to understand what makes their town special? How can we expect them to feel a connection to Salem?”

ESSE Education Coordinator Beth Beringer and SAMA Education Specialist Maryann Zujewski presented the new Salem and Global Trade program to three classes of English Language Learner students. Twenty-five students followed up the classroom presentation with a visit to SAMA. The students from Lynn Classical High School, who had been in the United States for three years or less, had ties to Africa, Central and South America, Asia, Nepal and Iraq. For many of them, the trip to SAMA was their first visit to a national park.

Staff from ESSE and SAMA also went to University of Massachusetts - Lowell students to explore public history interpretation. The university students used the administrative history of SAMA as an interpretive tool to explore the impact of modern interpretation of the park by asking questions such as: How do we know what we know about the site? Whose voices are heard and whose are missing? Can new perspectives help us see the site in a way that speaks to our audiences today? Students responded to the ideas presented, and made connections to their own academic work in historical inquiry.

Zujewski explained that partnerships have allowed them to “tell more inclusive stories that acknowledge changing meanings and multiple perspectives.” In 2014 she won the Freeman Tilden Award for the Northeast Region due to her innovative interpretative programming. Her work “is exactly what has been articulated in the interpretation, education and volunteer national strategy—moving us toward education leadership,” shared the Northeast Region’s Chief of Interpretation, Education and Partnerships Barbara Pollarine. Collaborative accomplishments like these connect people to parks and advance the NPS education mission.

A Call to Action: History Lesson, In My Back Yard, A Class Act and Live and Learn
Engaging Our Youth and Communities

Park Ranger Resi Polixa speaks with some of the 1300 Lowell 3rd graders during Civics Day.
The Northeast Region is making great strides in advancing the Department of Interior youth initiative: Play, Learn, Serve, Work. Two National Historical Parks in New England led the way in youth and community engagement in 2014. Partnerships at Lowell (LOWE) and New Bedford Whaling (NEBE) National Historical Parks showed how cooperation between the National Park Service (NPS) and local organizations can advance the NPS mission and enhance quality of life for society.

Now in its 20th year, Lowell Kids Week is a popular city-wide event organized collaboratively with the NPS, local museums, social service organizations, city agencies, and local businesses. The collaboration has paid off, with family attendance up 22 percent this year despite harsh winter weather. Park Ranger Emily Levine said that “Kids Week filled a real need for local families and community groups who sought affordable options for spending time together during the school vacation week.” This event has helped people to find their national park. Families were “amazed by how much their city really has to offer, and they were excited to take part in it,” Levine added.

The Lowell Spindle City Corps (SCC) represents a series of long-standing

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youth engagement partnership programs focused at LOWE and in the community. Teams painted fences, cut weeds, removed brush, washed windows and mulched sites throughout the park. SCC team members also provided support for the Lowell Folk Festival during which they contributed over 1,000 hours of service to the community. Youth engaged in projects that taught occupational skills and instilled citizenship values. “I learned how to approach a project step by step: for example looking at a project, figuring out what needs to be done, what we need and how to do it,” said SCC participant Vasiliki Baoutis.

Students in carpentry, painting, and electrical trades from the Greater Lowell Regional Vocational Technical High School participated in a job skills co-op training program sponsored by LOWE. Students in the coveted positions worked every other week and alternated between projects at the park and classes at the school. Working closely with a mentor, students learned NPS historic preservation and cultural resource management practices and learned valuable vocational skills. The Trade Skills Program received the 2014 Community Award for Student Excellence in Historic Preservation from LOWE and the Lowell Heritage Partnership.

Local culturally diverse high school and college students brought Lowell’s past and present to life through the Spindle City Stars Youth Theater Program. They developed a theater program that compared youth experiences in Lowell in their historical and contemporary contexts. The students had the freedom to choose the subject area of their interest, which gave them a stake in the success of the project. With the help of NPS interpretive staff, they researched and created historically accurate theatrical vignettes that they presented for visitors throughout the summer.

The Youth Ambassador Program (YAPI) at NEBE, a partnership project between the NPS and 3rd Eye Youth Empowerment, Inc. allowed teens to communicate national park themes through hip-hop culture, live events, and social media. “The North Star Journey” is a documentary that showcased the YAPI creative process as participants researched, wrote, recorded, and performed a new song about the Underground Railroad. The Youth Leadership Academy group members and adult advisors at Earthdance for a “spring build” retreat

Alycia Chuney
NPS Academy intern
Lowell National Historical Site

My National Park Service (NPS) Academy internship has been absolutely wonderful. I’ve had the opportunity to work with people from a variety of different parks and I’ve loved every moment of it. The most important takeaway from my NPS Academy experience is that the NPS is a government agency that is invested in engaging with diverse communities. Most minorities don’t visit national parks, but the NPS is making a true effort to change that and being involved in this program has helped me see that. That’s really great because I can go home and tell my family that it’s not just a one-sided story that you’re going to hear when you go to a national park.
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YAP! Teacher’s Online Resource Guide was published, bringing YAP! digitally to students with accompanying lesson plans.

The Junior Ranger Service Corps at NEBE, a group of 4th through 8th graders, learned park history while performing community service. Participants used the 1851 city directory to make a list of all the people who lived or worked on South Water Street. Each member dressed in period clothing and wrote a statement about the person they portrayed in a public presentation of “South Water Street Project.” The group received the regional Hartzog Award for Volunteer Service in the youth group category for this enterprise.

The Youth Leadership Academy, a multi-year program for high school students in the greater New Bedford area, was funded by project partners and the NPS Youth Partnerships Program. Participants served their community and actively learned skills in team building, public speaking, and civic and national park pride. The curriculum also developed positive civic engagement and preparation for college and employment.

The 2014 Massachusetts Parks Youth Summit was held at Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area (BOHA) and partner site Thompson Island Outward Bound Education Center. Over 180 youth, mentors, park, and partner staff from 16 different youth employment programs met to get to know each other and share their summer experiences.

The annual event offered peer-to-peer engagement, celebrated the efforts of young people, and solicited youth perspectives on the NPS. Listening to their ideas will help the NPS address issues associated with engaging the next generation. The event was a tangible representation of how Boston-area youth coordinators work together to provide engagement opportunities for youth in a supportive environment beyond individual programs.

Youth program opportunities have led to adult career opportunities. Some youth took their experiences in these youth programs and returned the favor to the park in kind. Resi Polixa, a Mass Parks Student Career Intake Program (SCIP) participant, found a home in public service with the NPS. She began her NPS career in 2007 with the Youth Conservation Corps at Thomas Edison National Historical Park, and later became an interpretive park ranger at LOWE. Saoran Roeuth from the 2009 SCIP cohort, now an administrative assistant at LOWE, led the way as the first of six SCIP interns, and recently received recognition for five years of federal service.

Successful programs like Junior Ranger Service Corps, YAP!, SCC, the Youth Summit, and SCIP captivate the interests of young people and develop new generations of citizen-stewards. Our youth have responded to the call, and stand ready to advance the NPS mission forward.

A Call to Action: Step by Step, History Lesson, In My Back Yard, Parks for People, Next Generation Stewards, Arts Afire, Value Added, A Class Act, Live and Learn, Go Digital and Home Grown

Top: Closing session of Youth Summit at Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area
The Schuylkill River Valley Connects People, Recreation, and Culture

The Schuylkill River Valley in southeastern Pennsylvania is home to the Schuylkill River, the Washington-Rochambeau National Historic Trail (WARO), and three other national park units: Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site (HOFU), Valley Forge National Historical Park (VAFO), and Independence National Historic Park (INDE) in Philadelphia, PA. Northeast Region staff, volunteers, and partners connect people of diverse backgrounds to their parks. Pedaling for Parks and two Schuylkill River Sojourn programs offered opportunities in the valley that combined outdoor recreation with environmental stewardship and cultural interpretation. These annual events promote natural resource conservation, encourage outdoor recreation, and they connect people to the region’s rich history and culture.

The Schuylkill River Trail Bike Tour Series and the Schuylkill River Sojourn encouraged visitors to connect with their parks in ways that allowed for better recreation and learning experiences. Both events were hosted by the Schuylkill River National Heritage Area (SCRV), in collaboration with the National Park Service (NPS) and diverse community groups and public agencies.

In September, “Pedaling Through Our National Parks” brought 100 cyclists through five national park and heritage areas on a two-day, 60-mile bicycle tour of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Bikers averaged 30 miles per day from Morgantown to Philadelphia, with stops at HOFU, VAFO, and INDE. The “Pedaling Pioneers” began at HOFU with a tour, breakfast, and a safety briefing. Riders cycled along the Schuylkill River Trail, making stops at VAFO, SCRV headquarters in Pottstown, and WARO. Partners and staff provided food, water, interpretative programs, and checked their bikes at each stop. Ranger-led programs at VAFO included a musket demonstration and a campfire presentation on how the British used...
the river to capture Philadelphia. The riders’ journey ended at INDE with a tour of Independence Hall.

NPS staff, interns, and volunteers from the three national historical parks and the WARO, partner staff from SCRV, and external sponsors all collaborated for the river bike trail event. Americorps/Vista volunteer Rachel Rush was responsible for coordinating the event with all the parks, partners, and sponsors. Excited by the success, she exclaimed, “Everything went smooth and according to plan!” Superintendent Joe DiBello was involved in the planning since its inception and raved, “This was just a line on a map when I first got started.”

The SCRV also provided wheels for people to tour southeastern Pennsylvania. Their free bicycle sharing program, “Bike Schuylkill,” is available to anyone aged 16 or over for daily use. Patrons borrowed bicycles more than 1,200 times last year, according to Communications Director Laura Catalano of the Schuylkill River Greenway Association. This popular program has enabled more people to access national park sites by using bikes for transportation and recreation.

In June, the SCRV hosted their 16th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn, celebrating the Schuylkill as “Pennsylvania’s 2014 River of the Year.”
Over 200 enthusiasts took a week-long guided canoe/kayak trip 112 miles down the Schuylkill River. Interpretative programs along the way advanced the region’s public education mission by teaching participants about the river’s history, its environment and recreational features, and the importance of a healthy watershed. Highlights included paddling through restored Lock 60, learning about a new pedestrian bridge at VAFO, and the restoration of shad to the watershed. Biologist Josh Tryninewski released 20,000 baby shad—nothing more than “two eyes and a wiggle”—into the waters. Interpretation synthesized with practical boating experience allows visitors to “establish a meaningful connection for years to come,” said SCRV’s Catalano.

The Schuylkill River, WARO, and other trails and local bike paths throughout the valley connect people together with three national park units: HOFU, VAFO, and INDE, in ways that allow the NPS to engage new and diverse audiences outside of park boundaries. Year after year, NPS employees strengthen the working relationships we have with our allies, volunteers, and visitors. We look forward to continued successful partnerships that connect people with their environment and cultural heritage.

_A Call to Action: Parks for People, Take a Hike, Call Me in the Morning, Follow the Flow_
Honoring Our Remarkable River and Trail Advocates

Successful partnerships are the glue that connects people to parks and encourages and supports stewardship of our sacred places. The immense conservation work on our rivers and trails this year is owed to the eager and passionate volunteers who keep resources safe and enjoyable.

For 25 years, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) and Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River (UPDE) have come together for the annual Delaware River Clean Up. The event is sponsored by Kittatinny Canoes, the oldest and largest canoe livery operator in the country. Through this partnership, park staff and volunteers have pulled an immense amount of trash and discarded items from the river. Kittatinny Canoes Owner Ruth Jones commented on the annual event saying, “You can’t keep taking away from a resource without giving something back.” To date, they have removed 8,547 tires, 8,544 pounds of aluminum cans, 440 tons of trash, and a long list of odd items including a 1962 pickup truck, 18 sticks of dynamite, an exercise bike, safes, and a hood to a 1960 Ford Falcon.

Volunteers represent all age groups and donated hours of service to parks and programs in this region. For example, New River Gorge

National River (NERI) partnered with the Appalachian Coal Country Team to host a National Civilian Community Corps (NCCC) team at Camp Brookside, WV. NCCC teams consist of young men and women, 18-24 years old. At Camp Brookside, the NCCC team assisted in a variety of projects that included invasive species removal, painting cabins, clearing

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Debris from the buildings, sanding and finishing floors, and more.

Two specially dedicated groups of volunteers had a busy year building and maintaining trails. The West Side Trail volunteers returned to clear and build trails on the West Side Trail in Yarmouth, ME, a trail that will ultimately span 12 miles of the Central Maine Power corridor. The Groundwork Richmond Virginia team assisted staff at Richmond National Battlefield Park with invasive species removal and maintenance of historic earthworks and fortifications. At Shenandoah National Park, they rehabilitated trails, built new pathways, and recorded forest sounds for the park’s new program, “Wild Soundscapes.”

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RCTA) program played a pivotal role for many diverse projects that encouraged young people to play, learn, serve, and work outdoors. A nonprofit organization, Teens To Trails out of Maine, was just one partner organization honored by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell as a “Champion of Change” for engaging the next generation of conservation leaders. Teens To Trails joined with RTCA and high school outing clubs across the state to help young adults access safe, healthy, and fun outdoor experiences.

The nonprofit organization, Wilderness Inquiry, operates a roving Canoemobile fleet of six, 24-foot Voyageur canoes that deliver place-based education on urban rivers and waterways across the country. As part of its national tour, the Canoemobile spent 13 days along the Lower Delaware and its tributaries, engaging over 2,000 minority and underserved youth and community members in Camden, NJ; Philadelphia, PA; Chester, PA; Reading, PA; and Wilmington, DE. In addition to safely navigating their local waterways, participants conquered their fears, worked in...
teams, tested water quality, observed local wildlife, practiced fishing and rowing, studied watershed models, and learned about the cultural history of their rivers. An initiative of the Delaware River Urban Waters Federal Partnership, the collaborative program was coordinated by the RTCA, funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Urban Waters Small Grant Program, hosted by local city agencies and parks departments, and implemented by Wilderness Inquiry among more than 25 community-based organizations.

The Great Egg Harbor Wild and Scenic River received an education grant from DisneyNature for their floating classroom program. Local middle school children traded their usual classrooms for a pontoon boat, where they learned water chemistry sampling, marine life identification, and biology lessons. The Kestrel Land Trust, through the Massachusetts Landscape Partnership, was awarded a $1.5 million grant to protect nearly 1200 acres on the Mount Holyoke Range, part of the New England National Scenic Trail.

David Lange, conservation and recreation division chief for the Northeast Region, summed the past year for RTCA programs by saying, “As we move towards the National Park Service Centennial in 2016, we place a high value on our community partnerships for nature-based recreation and conservation. Achieving a vision of an interconnected system of local, state, and national parks, trails and greenways will be successful only with strong and effective community partners.”
Innovation and Imagination
Attract New Audiences

A haunting image peers out at visitors to the UNFRAMED art installation at the Ellis Island hospital.
Park landscapes have a great opportunity to inspire visitors to connect with their parks in new and creative ways. The Arts Afire Call to Action item has been a Northeast Region favorite in creating meaningful activities for the public through artistic engagement. This year, innovative projects inspired young and old alike to enjoy their parks through exciting exhibits and conversations.

Saratoga National Historical Park (SARA) tailored their annual photo contest, which they use for the park’s annual pass, to art classes in local elementary schools. Park Ranger Megan Stevens encouraged the students to send in drawings of the battlefield. Over 130 creative submissions made it difficult for park staff to narrow down the outstanding field. The top ten finalists brought in over 880 votes through social media. The artwork of Gianna L. from Stillwater Central School rose to the top and was chosen as this year’s annual pass cover photo. “Megan found a great way to tap into our community, with a strong emphasis on our park’s future support” commented Superintendent Joe Finan. “We’re confident that this will be a park program that will continue to grow.”

Creativity was also the theme at Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site (ELRO) this summer. The park’s partner, Stillwater Elementary School, 2014

Right: Winning picture by Gianna L. Stillwater Elementary School, 2014

Above: Detail from picture by Aubrey F. Schuylerville Elementary School, 2014

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the Woodstock School of Art, held three drawing and watercolor painting classes. The park also hosted local middle school students for the Hudson Valley Writing Project. The students explored the Roosevelt-Vanderbilt sites for a week through creative writing. The young writers’ week culminated in an oral performance of their work.

At Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site (SAGA), park staff engaged in a bold experiment called “Raiders of the Lost ART.” They asked their online community to help design the next exhibit for an empty museum case in the visitor center. Together, park staff and the Facebook community brainstormed ideas for a theme, then, after selecting the theme for the exhibit, carefully chose the museum objects to be included in the exhibit—the very first crowd-sourced exhibit in a national park.

“The Hairstyle Files: Hirsute Gentlemen and Coiffured Ladies of the Gilded Age,” presented a time capsule of hairstyles depicted in the artwork of sculptor Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The term “Gilded Age” was coined to describe the opulent lifestyle adopted by the upper class in America during the late 1800s and early 1900s. However, the era could have just as easily been characterized as the “Golden Age of Hair.” The exhibit featured some works that had never been displayed in public before.

Staff at Springfield Armory National Historic Site (SPAR) put an innovative spin on their collections with their exhibit, “Steampunk Springfield Armory: Reimagining Our Nation’s Weaponry.” The Steampunk movement was inspired by the literary works of science fiction writers like Jules Verne, H.G. Wells, and Hugo Gernsback. Steampunk design attempts to repurpose and marry form and function with the combination of history, art, and technology.

I feel blessed to be able to creatively contribute my personal experiences into the work I do each and every day. The Steampunk exhibit was the first opportunity I had to work with contemporary artists within the historical context of Springfield Armory National Historic Site. The juxtaposition was an inspiring departure for us that truly embodied the preparations we are all making to prepare our world for a second century of stewardship and engagement in our national parks.
“The purpose of the space,” explained Curator Alex MacKenzie, “was to create an opportunity for park staff to begin rotating objects out of the Armory’s permanent collection while simultaneously expanding our capacity to tell new and exciting stories.” The pairing of modern pieces with historic objects within the exhibit allowed staff and visitors to see the collection from a different perspective. Bruce Rosenbaum, an artist recently dubbed the “Steampunk Guru” by the Wall Street Journal, noted, “By ‘Steampunking’ and repurposing objects, we create meaningful connections to our past, present and future—all in one place, at the same moment in time.”

Visitors also experienced a meaningful connection to past, present, and future at Weir Farm National Historic Site (WEFA). The newly restored Weir House, Weir Studio, and Young Studio were opened to the public for the first time in the park’s 24-year history. Visitors were treated to an unforgettable glimpse into Weir’s life, as they explored historic buildings for hours—complete with original furniture, decorative arts, and paintings from three generations of influential American artists. With free reign of the park’s 60 acres of cultural landscape, which contains over 250 historic painting sites, visitors helped themselves to the park’s free-to-use watercolor supplies. Many even stepped into Weir’s most famous scenes while posing in giant picture frames and shared their photographs from the day on social media using #WeirOpen.

At the Statue of Liberty National Monument and Ellis Island, the UNFRAMED project on Ellis Island, by the French artist JR, used historic Ellis Island photographs to cast a light on the forgotten stories of the immigrant hospital. JR reinterpreted the photographs by enlarging them and pasting them on the buildings to illustrate the significance of the hospital. Ellis Island was one of the largest public health

My proudest moment is happening right now. I will always remember the grand opening of the Weir House and studios (May 2014). I’m proud that I had a direct part in helping the park fulfill its promise—to our mission, to the public, to our partners and to each other.
undertakings in United States history, and a place of heartbreak and hope, sickness and recovery.

The contrast between the subjects in the photographs and their new physical environment stimulated deeper thought and reflection. JR proposed Ellis Island as a venue because of its nature as a potent symbol of immigration. Many of the photographs can be observed on site during public tours, conducted by Save Ellis Island, the sponsor of this project.

The highlighted artistic activities and public exhibitions invited visitors to experience a different side of their park, and to explore different perspectives of interpreting park resources. By showcasing that a park can embody many meanings for our diverse visitors through visual arts, music, writing and social media, our parks will continue to appeal to new audiences.

A Call to Action: History Lesson, In My Back Yard, Take a Hike, Call Me in the Morning, Keep the Dream Alive, Arts Afire, Value Added, Live and Learn, What’s Old is New and Starry, Starry Night
Enlisting Our Citizen-Scientists

The Northeast Region advanced the educational and stewardship missions of the National Park Service by connecting visitors to nature through scientific outreach. Parks and programs fostered environmental and scientific stewardship beyond their boundaries in cooperation with partners and communities.

**Thomas Stone National Historic Site** worked closely with the **Southern Maryland Astronomical Society** to bring the cosmos a little bit closer to visitors. The “Star Party” began before sunset as the clouds and the weather behaved to create a rare moment free of bright city lights. Not to be outdone, **Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site** also held their annual StarFest.

In the spring **New River Gorge National River** visitors enjoyed an April that culminated in a **Wildflower Weekend**. Events included the removal of invasive garlic mustard plants by volunteers, nature walks, and a month-long celebration of young local artists. The capstone was a **gallery exhibition** held in partnership with **Tamarack** artist retail center located in West Virginia and local schools. Three hundred and eighty-three students participated, and 55 art pieces were showcased at Tamarack from April 1st-28th.

In partnership with the **Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University**, **Valley Forge National Historical Park** conducted **Summer of Bugs** over the summer. Over 200 volunteers helped identify more than 400 different species of insects. Visitors used the hashtag #summerofbugs to share their discoveries on social media, and submitted photographs to iNaturalist.org to be cataloged. The Summer of Bugs consisted of monthly butterfly searches, a continuous PhotoBlitz, and two 24-hour BugBlitzes. Visitors to the park got closer to the insect world in their own backyard by participating in insect hikes, exploration stations and a nocturnal bug hunt. One young citizen-scientist exclaimed, “I never knew all these bugs were under our feet the whole time!”

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This citizen scientist is holding up one of the many terrestrial invertebrates found on the trail, a Pompilid, or Spider Wasp.
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The Atlantic Research and Learning Center, a part of the Cape Cod National Seashore, hosted the 4th annual Science in the Seashore Symposium in partnership with the Friends of the Cape Cod National Seashore. A diverse group of scientists and scholars shared the natural and cultural research projects being conducted at the national seashore to a standing room only crowd. Presentations highlighted park support for science advancement and science support for park management, both primary mission elements for the 19 National Park Research Learning Centers in parks across the country.

These activities made national parks the center of scientific sharing, experiential learning, and discovery for people of all ages across our region. The National Park Service is a place where learning happens; a link between educational institutions, partnership groups and the people of surrounding communities. Scholastic interaction helps build and maintain a path of life-long learning for our citizen-scientists.

A Call to Action: In My Back Yard, Next Generation Stewards, Scholarly Pursuits and Park Pulse

One of my favorite memories of the Summer of Bugs was during the second BugBlitz in August. I was stationed at the insect lab assisting researchers and coordinating volunteers when suddenly a loud buzzing started outside the room. Everyone in the room went silent and looked at each other for a moment until the front door burst open and a group of youngsters rushed into the room, triumphantly holding a cicada they found while out in the field with one of the entomologists.

Visitors and researchers alike crowded around as the group excitedly retold the story of how they found, chased, and captured the cicada, while the researcher helped them place the buzzing insect into a container for observation.
Resource Recovery and Resiliency

Hurricane Sandy, one of the most powerful and devastating hurricanes ever to hit the Atlantic Coast, severely damaged many National Park Service (NPS) sites in the northeast. Gateway National Recreation Area (GATE), Fire Island National Seashore (FIIS), and the Statue of Liberty National Monument (STLI) invited the public to participate in their recovery process. The aftermath of the 2012 storm provided a unique opportunity for scientific research on the dynamics of urban parks that are also waterfront resources and wildlife refuges.

Staff at GATE and FIIS held public events that encouraged their communities to play an active role in the management of park resources. GATE hosted the “After Sandy” lecture series that focused on the impacts within the park, particularly Jamaica Bay’s ecosystem and shoreline communities. Diamondback Terrapin turtles were the focus of one lecture, looking at the relocation of nesting areas due to the storm’s effect on this species and its habitat.

FIIS held its Ninth Biennial Science Conference in March with presentations focused on how the barrier island has changed since the storm. Dr. Henry Art, a professor of biology and environmental studies at Williams College and the keynote speaker for the conference, has conducted more than 40 years of ecological research at FIIS. “While the island appears to be staying put,” he reminded the audience, “it is moving on all sides.” The park’s efforts in communicating post-Sandy science went beyond the conference. Digital and continued
print media were used to convey the science of how the storm changed Fire Island, and the natural recovery process currently taking place. New interpretive programs included “The Storm Beach” and “Beach to Breach Hike,” were offered at community engagement events and a teacher workshop on shoreline dynamics was presented to local educators.

It was an uphill battle to prepare Liberty Island and Ellis Island for the return of visitors. The winds and floods from the storm destroyed most of the infrastructure on both islands. Walkways were stripped of brickwork and railings, and docks suffered serious damage. The NPS restored services and utilities to both islands with emergency funding from the United States Congress. Liberty Island reopened to the public on July 4, 2013, and Ellis Island partially reopened to the public on October 28, 2013. STLI created an exhibit, “Weathering the Storm: Hurricane Sandy and its Effect on the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island” to educate visitors about Sandy’s impacts and NPS recovery efforts. This exhibit engaged visitors in conversations about creating a more disaster resilient city, and not only rebuilding, but rebuilding in smart, sustainable ways.

In late 2013, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced that $162 million would be invested in 45 restoration and research projects to better protect Atlantic Coast communities from future powerful storms like Sandy. Projects included an elevation study that will produce high resolution topographic data from above and below the waterline, and submerged mapping and inventories. The latter will assist in developing strategies to enhance marine ecosystems so they can withstand major coastal storms. Federal funding will help parks from Cape Cod National Seashore to Assateague Island National

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Seashore find solutions to better withstand natural disasters in the future. Above all, we found that with a collaborative approach to funding, agreements, and research with national and state agencies and local partners and neighbors, our coastal parks are better prepared for the effects of storms on our resources.

A Call to Action: Scaling Up, Follow the Flow, History Lesson, Parks for People, Posterity Partners, Next Generation Stewards, Stop Talking and Listen, What’s Old is New, In My Back Yard, Tools of the Trade, Destination Innovation, Step by Step

Wildlife Biologist Lindsay Ries (Right) assists another scientist with post-Sandy research on Piping Plovers at Fire Island National Seashore.
A Star-Spangled Celebration
In September, National Park Service (NPS) staff collaborated with partners, volunteers, and local, state, and federal agencies to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore and the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner. Preparation for the eight-day celebration took over two years, with more than 85 special programs and events at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (FOMC).

The NPS Eastern Incident Management Team (EIMT), a skilled team that was developed to respond to the increasing number of events and incidents in parks, managed the complex operation. The EIMT consists of more than 200 NPS employees representing 41 parks across the National Capital, Northeast, and Southeast regions, in addition to the Washington Support Office. The EIMT provided comprehensive planning, communication, operational and logistical support for staff, partners, and more than 800 volunteers. They oversaw critical contracts and coordination with numerous participating agencies.

Fire Program Manager Mark Musitano, one of two NPS incident commanders (IC) on the East Coast qualified to lead complex events of this magnitude, served as the IC for this operation. “We win as a team and lose as a team,” Musitano said. “We worked as a team and the NPS hit a home run here.”

On September 9, more than 6,700 students from across Maryland donned red, white and blue ponchos to form the largest 15-stars-and-stripes living flag ever assembled for the Star-Spangled Banner Living Flag program. “We realized this could be an important legacy piece,” said FOMC Chief of Interpretation Vince Vaise. “We reached out to the Friends of Fort McHenry, FOMC’s non-profit partner.” Lisa Hansen, the director of the Friends group, said they joined with NPS, city and state officials. They recruited education partners and marketed the program. During the events, they worked with the EIMT to coordinate the program. The opportunity to be involved in the commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Baltimore and the writing of the Star-Spangled Banner was a tremendous honor. I would have participated without being paid. We, the park, had a duty to make the Bicentennial impressive and meaningful, and to leave a legacy. We reached thousands of schools on-site and virtually; that’s planting the seeds for the next generation. We did that, and no one person can claim all the credit.

I began my career in the National Park Service (NPS) while in high school as a volunteer-in-parks in the living history program. I portrayed a young recruit from the War of 1812 as a member of the Fort McHenry (FOMC) Guard.

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arrival of 133 school buses. “Since all the elements and team members were in place, everything went incredibly smooth!”

According to Vaise, recreating this event helped connect what happened to celebrate the 1914 centennial and the 2014 bicentennial events. Distance learning took the event beyond the borders of the park to over 1,000 schools, both nationally and internationally.

The state of Maryland invited international tall ships to sail into the harbor to connect with the maritime history of the fort. The General Society of the War of 1812 and the U.S. Daughters of 1812 purchased two new 24-pound naval cannons to salute the ships as they entered the harbor.

FOMC also worked with the 9/11 Memorial Museum in New York City to highlight modern relevance between the British attacks on the fort and the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and Flight 93, by bringing the National 9/11 Flag, this generation’s Star-Spangled Banner, to display during the events.

Vice President Joe Biden spoke before the largest fireworks display in Baltimore’s history opened over the fort. The colorful display featured a pixel-by-pixel pyrotechnic display of Old Glory in the sky above, a 21st-century reimagining of the sights and sounds that inspired

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“The Star-Spangled Banner.” American Idol winner Jordin Sparks sang the National Anthem.

For Defenders Day, a Maryland state holiday, the FOMC fife and drum corps performed at the Maryland Science Center, Baltimore’s Inner Harbor, and the Baltimore Battle Monument as an outreach to urban youth. Park Ranger Tim Ertel worked for two years to create three fife and drum corps for urban youth groups. The senior group was all in their early twenties, the same age as those who would have been in the fort in 1812. The corps played at many of the anniversary events and recruited some younger enthusiasts.

The marquee event, “By Dawn’s Early Light,” was held at 9 a.m. on September 14, the exact moment that the fort’s 30-foot by 42-foot garrison flag was raised on September 14, 1814. The 3rd U.S. Infantry (the Old Guard) raised a modern reproduction of the garrison flag over Fort McHenry as the U.S. Army Presidential Salute Battery fired a 21-gun salute. The hand-stitched flag was provided by the Maryland Historical Society and was created by volunteers using the same techniques, materials and dimensions from 200 years ago. Visitors rubbed elbows with living history reenactors encamped inside the fort. Keynote speaker General Colin Powell was accompanied by U.S. Olympian and Baltimore native Franchon Crews, 13-year old volunteer Caroline Christensen, and Baltimore County Detective Ken Nacke, who lost his brother on 9/11 in the Flight 93 crash. They each recited a verse of the Star-Spangled Banner at the televised event.

Several notable organizations and dignitary visits required coordination between the EIMT and multiple agencies. The U.S. Navy Blue Angels air shows attracted thousands on September 13 and 14. President Obama came to view Francis Scott Key’s original handwritten manuscript of The Star-Spangled Banner, which was on loan from the Maryland Historical Society.

The park’s law enforcement division partnered with the city of Baltimore, the state of Maryland, and multiple state and federal agencies, to provide order and security, which included everything from bomb-sniffing dogs to high-tech scanning and bomb-detection devices.

More than 63,000 visitors attended the events, while traditional and social media greatly expanded programming reach. The NPS conducted their first-ever Twitter scavenger hunt, which connected the larger War of 1812 story with the NPS and Parks Canada. Articles published in newspapers, online venues and broadcast television reached more than 260 million individuals, while FOMC’s Facebook page connected with more than 2.5 million online users.

Vaise was ecstatic when asked to reflect on the events. “We were hoping we’d be successful, but once everyone recovered, we realized we surpassed what we set out to do. The feedback was overwhelming.”

A Call to Action: History Lesson, In My Back Yard and Posterity Partners

Lisa Hansen
Director, Friends of Fort McHenry

The Friends of Fort McHenry has seen an increase in support and membership due to the event. Our Facebook following grew exponentially from 34 followers and to now approaching 1,500. Most significantly, our growing relationships with the city and state school systems will help continue our mission as an organization and “friend” to the park.

Collaboration is mission critical. When you work as a team, more ideas come to light and programs succeed. This has been a very rewarding experience, knowing that I helped create a memorable experience for more than 6,000 participants, as well as the thousands who experienced it on the web or television. Working with the Eastern Incident Management Team (EIMT) was outstanding.
Over the past year the region has implemented initiatives that enhanced our technical proficiencies and our communications skills. Focused projects with developmental opportunities allowed employees to grow professionally, and to continue to reach their full career potential.

Maintenance and preservation programs worked together on many projects as a direct result of good communication and innovative collaboration. “The facility management profession has grown tremendously,” noted Northeast Region’s Chief of Facility Management Steven Sims. He continued, “It has grown in a way that requires new managers to be smart and technically savvy, because facility management truly has a part in all aspects of NPS—we’re interpreters, resource protectors, and we secure millions of dollars for complex funding—it’s a very fluid type of environment.”

Sims saw the need to create a singular place for maintenance divisions across the region to share and access information, so the Maintenance Advisory Group (MAG) launched a new website early in the fiscal year that transformed how facility management leadership communicates internally. The website is a library of relevant forms and project documents that
connects maintenance colleagues and promotes information sharing and communication. Jason Huart, chief of facility management at Saratoga National Historical Park, observed during the early phases of site design that “We focused on questions like ‘What can we do for the regional chiefs of maintenance to make our work more efficient?’”

While MAG provided an online collaboration “space” many parks provided training development in the field for their employees. The “Wooden Window Repair Methods” workshop, held at the Blow-Me-Down Farm at Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site (SAGA), used the existing historic structures as a learning laboratory for historic preservation. Shortly after SAGA accepted the 42-acre property donation in 2010, they worked with the region’s Learning and Development Office, and in partnership with the Preservation Education Institute, to capitalize on the “classroom” opportunity. The partners involved in the training wanted the course to reach as wide an audience as possible. With that in mind, Shaun Curtis, an intern at the Historic Preservation Training Center in Maryland, created a video that was broadcast on YouTube.

In May, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area (DEWA) hosted the first-ever “Enjoy the View” scenery conservation program. The goal of this Call to Action item is to protect clean, clear air and spectacular scenery within the National Park Service. Attaining this goal requires park staff to train in scenic resource inventories, collection and interpretation of park air quality conditions, and to provide tools designed to engage stakeholders in collaborative efforts to protect park air and scenic resources.

About 25 participants attended the workshop that included: NPS staff from DEWA and Upper Delaware Scenic and Recreational River; Orange and Sullivan Counties in New York; Pike and Monroe Counties in Pennsylvania; Stokes and

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I think the region is pushing boundaries in “Tools of the Trade” because the NER Learning and Development (L&D) team focused on an important tool last year in the regional office—the Individual Development Plan (IDP). Through webinars, training sessions, and incentives like the NER IDP fulfillment grants, the L&D team guided employees through the creation and management of their IDPs.

The pilot year of the IDPs resulted with 70% of staff submitting forms. This year the digital IDP form was disbursed region-wide. The IDP initiative supports the Call to Action because it provides employees the chance to identify the tools and development opportunities needed to reach their full potential.
Worthington State Forests in New Jersey; Highpoint and Swartzwood State Parks in New Jersey; the Upper Delaware Council; East Stroudsburg University; and the Northeast Regional Office’s Resource and Wild and Scenic Rivers Program. The workshop included both classroom training and practical field inventories. The session concluded with a discussion on how joint efforts will help maintain and protect scenic views, and how the workshop will play an important role in laying the foundation for the NPS scenery conservation program.

Teamwork proved invaluable to improvements in professional development and workplace efficiency. The Northeast Region is committed to fostering growth for employees, providing a safe work environment, and encouraging everyone to see themselves in the mission as we approach our Centennial.

A Call to Action: Go Digital, Invest Wisely, Enjoy the View and Destination Innovation

Participants in DEWA’s Enjoy the View workshop spend time in the field evaluating the scenic values and landscape quality at Tri-State Overlook in the park.
Acknowledgements

The Northeast Region 21st Century Ranger Unit (21CRU) would like to extend a thank you to the people who helped us showcase the great work done by our employees to further the mission of the National Park Service and the ideals of A Call to Action. We are indebted to all those without whom Collaborating Beyond our Boundaries Into the Next Century would not have been possible.

About the Editors

As an Eagle Scout, I’ve always been drawn to public service; I always wanted to do more with my life than to just have a job. I learned a lot from my 12 years in the U.S. Army working with different people in difficult situations. I thrived in the professional team environment where we hold mission first and people “always.” My exposure to different cultures and climes helped develop my personal growth and maturity. After I completed my military service, I finished my degree in urban planning and history, and looked for a new way to serve my country.

My chance to prove myself came with the opportunity to be a park ranger based in the Northeast Region Office in Philadelphia. Although I had never been there before, I was excited to help the National Park Service (NPS) achieve relevancy in its second century.

I’m impressed with the NPS mission to protect, educate, and serve. To me, the NPS is the caretaker of the place where America learns, plays, and continually redefines itself.

I spent every summer until I was 15 years old in Cape May, New Jersey. It had been home to my grandmother’s family for a long time and we were lucky to have a shore house in the Victorian town.

I was always around, and intrigued by, historic homes and buildings. I love the smell that greets you when opening a heavy door into a room that hasn’t seen sunlight or a summer breeze. For me, there’s no experience like walking through a historic structure and feeling the “soul” of the building.

After asking enough questions about “those plaques” outside the historic structures and why certain buildings get preserved, my parents educated me on National Historic Landmarks program and its association with the National Park Service.

To me, the NPS ... means “caretaker;” we serve something we think is greater than us, in a very nerdy and passionate way.

continued
I've always thrived in a team environment. After a nine-year career in the U.S. Army and a five-year career coaching college baseball, I sought out a position in the National Park Service (NPS). It's been an awesome ride so far.

Beginning with the 21st Century Ranger Unit (21CRU) was a great start. I've been a member of a team that has trained together to learn the ropes of what it means to be a member of the NPS. We've been able to lean upon each other to learn from our joint experiences and work on projects together.

Serving as a member of the Eastern Incident Management Team (EIMT) has provided me with the opportunity to work collaboratively with people from all over the country that represent every division in the NPS.

Working with the Northeast Region Fire Program has enabled me to work on another team, as well. We're working across divisions to form partnerships inside the NPS and out to enhance the program to meet the next century's demands.

I'm proud to be a member of the NPS family and am looking forward to sharing all of my experiences with my family along the way.

Joshua Manley
Park Ranger, Northeast Region

Hawai‘i Volcanoes National Park is where I spent the summer of 1990 visiting my grandparents on the big island. We would swim at Kaimu Black Sand Beach and then go watch lava flows. I still remember the day that we went back and the beach was no more, covered by the flows. As a native Hawaiian, I really connected to the volcano. When I visit home, I always stop at Halema'uma'u Crater, regardless of the time of day I arrive. For me working for the National Park Service is an opportunity to connect to my past, my ancestors, and to share those experiences with others.

David Rosehill
Park Ranger, Northeast Region

A young citizen scientist holds a field cricket specimen that she found during a hike led by Jon Gelhaus, entomologist at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University.

About the photographs...

Unless otherwise noted, the photographs contained within this document are public domain of the National Park Service.
A serene dawn belies the 150th anniversary of the greatest loss of American life in a single day.
Introduction

There are hundreds of Call to Action (C2A) success stories from Northeast Region parks and programs that can be found on InsideNPS. This addendum gives you a snapshot of the great work that employees and partners accomplished in 2014. To search for additional C2A stories from our region, visit the Call to Action Success Stories page and search by park or program.

These successes could not be achieved without the vision of the National Park Service’s greatest resource: you. This year, we also highlighted several “Share Your Story” vignettes from National Park Service staff, partners and volunteers across the region. They share the more personal connections to who we are, beyond the workplace. We hope these stories allow you to connect with your colleagues in a new way. We encourage you to Share Your Story as well.

We hope that you continue to celebrate what you, your parks, programs, and partners have accomplished in the years ahead. Post your success stories to InsideNPS and NPS.gov. We are happy to help draft stories for you as well. Contact us at ner_insidenps_editors@nps.gov to showcase the many ways visitors and communities “Experience Their America.”

Ashley Luskey leads visitors on an early morning tour of Richmond National Battlefield Park, exploring the attack of the Union 2nd Corps during the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Cold Harbor.
Students attending an art class from Woodstock School of Art enjoy a warm summer breeze at Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site.

Connecting People to Parks

Developing and nurturing life-long connections between the public and parks through a continuum of engaging recreational, educational, volunteer, and work experiences. Connecting urban communities to parks, trails, waterways, and community green spaces close to home. Expanding the use of parks, and welcoming and engaging diverse communities.

Building the John Smith Trail on the James River
Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Water Trails Network
Connecting People to Parks: Follow the Flow, History Lesson

NPS Chesapeake Bay Office and Its Tourism Training Program
Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Water Trails Network
Connecting People to Parks: History Lesson, In My Back Yard

Hudson Valley Writing Project
Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
Connecting People to Parks: Arts Afire

Student Artwork is Keeping the Dream Alive
Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
Connecting People to Parks: Keep the Dream Alive

Art in the Parks at Eleanor Roosevelt NHS
Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site
Connecting People to Parks: Arts Afire

Essex National Heritage Area and Salem Maritime National Historic Site Team Up for Public History
Essex National Heritage Area
Salem Maritime National Historic Site
Connecting People to Parks: History Lesson

Strong Partnership Engages Underserved Youth in Exploration of Global Trade
Essex National Heritage Area
Connecting People to Parks: In My Back Yard
Advancing the Education Mission: Live and Learn
Day hiker enjoys the ridgeline views along the New England Trail.
Connecting People to Parks • continued

LoWellness Festival
Lowell National Historical Park
Connecting People to Parks: Take a Hike, Call Me in the Morning

Lowell Celebrates National Community Development Week
Lowell National Historical Park
Connecting People to Parks: Value Added

Seashore Trolley Museum Volunteer Group Received Hartzog Award
Lowell National Historical Park
Connecting People to Parks: In My Back Yard

1300 Energetic Third Graders Visit Lowell NHP in June for “Civic Day”
Lowell National Historical Park
Connecting People to Parks: History Lesson, In My Back Yard

Lowell Spindle City Corps Youth: Serving While Exploring
Lowell National Historical Park
Connecting People to Parks: Parks for People, In My Back Yard

Youth Engage in Historic Preservation: Trade Skills Program at Lowell NHP
Lowell National Historical Park
Connecting People to Parks: Step by Step

28th Annual Lowell Folk Festival
Lowell National Historical Park
Connecting People to Parks: Arts Afire, Value Added

Getting into the Christmas Spirit Onboard Lowell’s Trolley Express
Lowell National Historical Park
Connecting People to Parks: History Lesson

A National Guard Regiment Visits Its Birthplace
Minute Man National Historical Park
Connecting People to Parks: Parks for People, History Lesson

Springfield Armory NHS
Park Ranger Jennifer Zazo at the opening reception for the Steampunk
Springfield Armory exhibit on April 5, 2014.
Pedaling Pioneers anticipate the second leg of the 2014 Schuylkill River Trail Bike Tour Series.
Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine Fife and Drum Corps perform at the Battle of Baltimore Monument.
Visitors celebrate the grand opening of the Weir home and studios by sharing their photos using the hashtag #WeirOpen. In frame: Artist Marc Chabot (left), and Constance Evans, former executive director of Weir Farm Art Center (right). In the foreground: Keith Horvath (left) and Chlow Isaacs (right) from Centennial Class Volunteers.

Advancing the NPS Education Mission

Strengthening the service as and education institution and parks as places of learning that develop American values, civic engagement, and citizen stewardship. Collaborating with partners and using leading-edge technologies and social media to effectively communicate with the public.

**Park and Visitors Bureau Win 2014 American Recreation Coalition Beacon Award**

**Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area**
Advancing the Education Mission: Go Digital

**Essex NHA and Saugus Iron Works Immerse Educators in Place-Based Learning**

**Essex National Heritage Area**
**Saugus Iron Works National Historic Site**
Advancing the Education Mission: Live and Learn

**Independence National Historical Park Helps “Spark” Students**

**Independence National Historical Park**
Advancing the Education Mission: A Class Act, Live and Learn

**“Re-inventing America: Lowell and the Industrial Revolution” Website Launched**

**Lowell National Historical Park**
Advancing the Education Mission: Live and Learn, Go Digital

**Youth Leadership Academy Challenges Today’s Youth to Become Tomorrow’s Leaders**

**New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park**
Connecting People to Parks: Step by Step
Advancing the Education Mission: Live and Learn

**Youth Ambassador Program (YAPI) Releases Teacher’s Online Resource Guide**

**New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park**
Advancing the Education Mission: Live and Learn, Go Digital

**Congressman Sarbanes and Eighth Grade Trail Stewards Unveil Star Spangled Projects**

**Star Spangled Banner National Historic Trail**
Connecting People to Parks: History Lesson, Next Generation Stewards
Advancing the Education Mission: Live and Learn

**“Echoes of Liberty” at Signer of Declaration’s House**

**Thomas Stone National Historic Site**
Advancing the Education Mission: Out with the Old
Connecting People to Parks: History Lesson
A man and his dog enjoy Petersburg National Battlefield as reenactors march in the background during the 150th Civil War commemoration.

Preserving America’s Special Places

Managing natural and cultural resources, and cultivating excellence in science and scholarship. Collaborating with other land managers and partners to create, restore, and maintain landscape-scale connectivity.

NPS Conducts the First Growing Season Burn at Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
Appomattox Court House National Historical Park
Preserving America’s Special Places: Scaling Up

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Hosts “Enjoy The View” Workshop
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
Preserving America’s Special Places: Enjoy the View

Kittatinny Canoes Celebrates Quarter Century of River Clean-up
Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
Preserving America’s Special Places: Crystal Clear

Park Partners Learn New Job Skills and Help the Park
Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine
Preserving America’s Special Places: Next Generation Stewards

Under Armour Protects Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine
Preserving America’s Special Places: Posterity Partners
Connecting People to Parks: In My Back Yard

Morgan Stanley Volunteers Make Fort McHenry Beautiful
Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine
Preserving America’s Special Places: Posterity Partners

Recapping Gateway’s Fall Lecture Series “After Sandy”
Gateway National Recreation Area
Preserving America’s Special Places: What’s Old is New
Connecting People to Parks: Stop Talking and Listen

Partnership, Preservation and Education
Hampton National Historic Site
Preserving America’s Special Places: Posterity Partners
Connecting People to Parks: Next Generation Stewards

Serving Appalachia’s Future One Community at a Time
New River Gorge National River
Preserving America’s Special Places: Scaling Up

Conserving Lands Along the New England National Scenic Trail
Preserving America’s Special Places: Scaling Up
Connecting People to Parks: Parks for People

Another Successful Burn for northeast Region’s Active Wildland Fire Management Program
Saratoga National Historical Park
Preserving America’s Special Places: Scaling Up

Starry Night at Thomas Stone
Thomas Stone National Historic Site
Preserving America’s Special Places: Starry, Starry Night
Developing and recruiting leaders at all levels with the skills to lead change, collaborate with partners, ensure employee safety, and seek new ways to accomplish goals. Building a more flexible and adaptive organization, and recruiting a workforce that reflects the diversity of the nation. Modernize and streamline and use leading-edge technology to enhance communication.

**SCA And YCC Hit The Bricks On Governors Island**
Governors Island National Monument
Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence:
Step by Step, Parks for People, What’s Old is New, Home Grown

**Independence NHP Welcomes International Educators**
Independence National Historical Park
Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence:
Step by Step, History Lesson, In My Back Yard, Parks for People, Next Generation Stewards, Home Grown

**MASS Parks Student Career Intake Program: New Hire and Retention Milestone**
Lowell National Historical Park
Enhancing Professional and Organizational Excellence:
Home Grown
Connecting People to Parks: Step by Step

**Kids Learn about “Hot” Career Choices at the Northeast Regional Office**
Northeast Regional Office - Philadelphia
Connecting People to Parks: In My Back Yard, Arts Afire

Sophie tries on a future career at the Northeast Regional Office Take Your Child to Work Day.
Share Your Story

Many thanks to those employees who shared their park service experience for the Share Your Story project. If you have not done so yet, we invite you to share your story in 2015. Submit stories to the National Park Service website at: https://sites.google.com/a/nps.gov/share-your-story/yourstory

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Liam Strain North District Ranger, Manhattan Sites
Marieke Slovin Park Ranger, Lowell National Historical Park
Mark Swartz Park Ranger, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site
Nick Clemons Park Ranger, Assateague Island National Seashore.
Pat Whitlock Seasonal Park Ranger, Fire Island National Seashore
Roger Huguenin Chief of Administration, Fire Island National Seashore
Rufai Shadrow Park Ranger, New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park
Curt Musselman Cartographer, Gettysburg National Military Park and Cemetery
A reproduction Civil War officer’s field desk displays an area map for the 150th anniversary of the Siege of Petersburg.