



National Park Foundation Youth Programs

It is vital that our children have a connection to America through our national parks so that they can develop the sense of pride and ownership necessary to be the future stewards of these magnificent places



First Bloom

First Bloom (www.first-bloom.org) is a conservation education program that provides children who may have limited access to the outdoors with the opportunity to get their hands in the dirt and experience planting and gardening for the first time in their neighborhoods and our national parks. Launched in 2007 by the National Park Foundation's first Honorary Chair, Mrs. Laura Bush in honor of the conservation legacy of another First Lady, Lady Bird Johnson, the program is a partnership between the National Park Foundation and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the National Park Service and nationwide organizations like Boys and Girls Clubs that reach out to children in their communities.

Junior Rangers

Junior Rangers: Supported by the National Park Foundation, Junior Rangers is the premiere program to introduce kids and families to the treasures of the national park system. The program has three goals:

- To engage children in learning about history and nature by participating in activities that enhance their national park experience
- To extend the program's reach to underserved audiences so that all parks can establish Junior Ranger programs
- To develop and promote respect of, and appreciation for, our national treasures

WebRangers: America's parks offer an incredible experience full of wonder, history and excitement. But when you can't be in a park, WebRangers, the online extension of the Junior

Ranger Program, allows kids to have an interactive experience beyond the typical park visit. Re-launched in 2005, with support from the National Park Foundation, and Best Buy Children's Foundation, WebRangers lets kids enjoy all kinds of activities—including animal quizzes, story writing and science experiments. The program encourages self-paced exploration resulting in a deep understanding of a place and an appetite to learn more.

Electronic Field Trip Program

The National Park Foundation is proud to work with the Electronic Field Trip Program at Ball State University (BSU) to connect school children with their national parks. Using cutting-edge technology, the National Park Foundation, BSU and the National Park Service have already delivered nine EFTs with more to follow.

EFTs in National Parks

- **Into the Canyon** at Grand Canyon National Park (November 2004)
- **Exploring Nature's Plumbing System** at Carlsbad Caverns National Park (April 2006)
 - During 2006 National Park Week, 37 million kids in all 50 states participated in this largest ever simultaneous visit to Carlsbad Caverns with National Park Foundation Honorary Chair, Mrs. Laura Bush
- **Freedom in America: Some Assembly Required** at Independence National Historical Park (October 2006)
- **Eruption! An Island Rising from the Sea** at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park (December 2006)
- **Desert Diamonds Behind Barbed Wire** at Manzanar National Historic Site (February 2007)
- **Tales from the Tetons: Animals and Natural Communities** at Grand Teton National Park (October 2007)
- **The Nine Who Made a Difference** at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site (December 2007)
- **Turn Over a New Leaf** at Everglades National Park (April 2008)
- **Buffalo Soldiers: African Americans in the Frontier Army** at Fort Davis National Historic Site (February 2009)

For more information about all National Park Foundation youth programs, visit <http://www.nationalparks.org/who-we-help/youth-engagement/>

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