



the greenway

The Sparks that Light the Future

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NATIONAL PARKS: The Next 100 Years



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JAIME BERMAN MATYAS
President and CEO

I am delighted to share with you this redesigned and special National Park Service Centennial edition of *The Green Way*.

As its primary youth partner of nearly six decades, SCA salutes the Park Service's exemplary record of stewardship over the past 100 years. And, with a mission of building the conservation leaders of the future, SCA celebrates the past while focused on the future—on building an even larger park constituency that includes a younger and more diverse array of Americans committed to enjoying, protecting and passing along our country's natural legacy.

I recently attended Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's address where she called for a "course-correction" for national parks. "We haven't found a way to connect with the young people of today, who are more diverse, more tech-savvy, and more disconnected from nature than ever before," Jewell said, adding "we must recommit ourselves to making our parks and public lands available to all."

I was invited to stay for a small gathering afterwards with Secretary Jewell, National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis and other government and non-governmental organization leaders, as SCA has been experimenting with new immersive and career development programs in partnership with the Park Service to meet the agency's chief youth engagement objectives.

Our Centennial Volunteer Ambassadors are expanding park constituencies through outreach and engagement in dozens of communities nationwide. In many cases—including Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, Seattle's Klondike Gold Rush Park, and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site in Atlanta—Ambassadors are connecting urban audiences to national parks for the first time by building bridges to local cultural interconnections. And, on iconic landscapes from Yosemite to the Great Smoky Mountains,

other SCA Ambassadors are organizing local communities in meaningful service projects that will ensure these majestic parks thrive for years to come.

To help the Park Service better reflect the country's increasingly diverse population, SCA provides career training and professional pathways for students from all backgrounds through NPS Academy, a pioneering workforce development program offered in association with park leadership. SCA is dedicated to the imperative that all Americans see themselves and their futures in our national parks.

Our community conservation programs and service events in cities across the country offer additional access points for people young and old seeking to explore national parks. To commemorate Earth Day, SCA enlisted thousands of volunteers across the country and, in the coming weeks, SCA's summer programs will provide summer jobs for thousands of teens and young adults and welcome others united in service to build park trails and restore wildlife habitats.

Throughout these pages, you'll find examples of these and other SCA transformative programs, and encounter the young women and men who make such a difference for our national parks, memorials, lakeshores, monuments and recreation areas. As I travel the country and meet SCA leaders, I am constantly inspired by their passion, curiosity and confidence that they can change the world. I hope you, too, can feel their passion for our natural and cultural heritage.

SCA's mission is to empower conservation leaders and inspire lifelong stewardship. We could not achieve these objectives without you. Thank you for your continued support. Together, we are transforming today's youth and making "America's Best Idea" even better.

A handwritten signature in cursive ink that reads "Jaime B. Matyas".

IT'S AN EPIC CHALLENGE . . .

So many young SCA volunteers willing to serve. So many National Parks.

So much work to be done.

Help us respond to this challenge—**BY HAVING YOUR GIFT MATCHED**—and carry us into the Next 100 Years!

A photograph showing two SCA volunteers wearing yellow hard hats and blue shirts, working together on a dirt trail in a forested area. The background shows tall evergreen trees under a clear sky.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION OF

\$50 WILL BECOME \$100

\$250 BECOMES \$500

\$500 BECOMES \$1,000

**GIVE BEFORE MAY 31ST,
AND YOUR GIFT WILL BE DOUBLED!**

VISIT THESCA.ORG/TGW

EARTH DAY TURNOUT TOPS 2,000

SCA HOSTED RECORD TURNOUTS NATIONWIDE FOR EARTH DAY, with more than 2,000 volunteers turning out to protect the planet. With support from American Express, SCA hosted *Find Your Park* Days of Service celebrating the National Park Service Centennial in Chicago, New York City, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, DC, and held ten other events nationwide. Thank you to all our partners and volunteers—we hope to see you again!



ABOVE RIGHT: Nearly 400 volunteers restored the shores and grounds around Gateway National Recreation Area's Fort Wadsworth on Staten Island. They cleared three tons of debris and, working with US military veterans from The Mission Continues, reopened a 7,500' trail weaving through stone arches and historic cannon mounts.

RIGHT: Close to 400 also turned out at Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco. Volunteers removed 2,750 sf of invasive plants, painted more than 600 feet of curb, and restored popular trails and campgrounds.

SEE OUR FULL EARTH DAY ROUND-UP AT THESCA.ORG/EARTHDAY



<<< NPS Academy Makes the Grade

SCA'S SIXTH ANNUAL NPS ACADEMY, a professional development program with the National Park Service, convened over spring break to immerse college students in Park Service careers prior to their placement in summer park internships. Here's what some of the students had to say:

"I grew up an hour from Glacier National Park but not until now have I ever felt so American, so much pride for my country and respect for these places."

- LESLIE GREEN, environmental education intern, Gulf Islands National Seashore

"When we have diversity in both the park workforce and visitors, you get a glimpse of a full America."

- SHELLBY JOHNSON, sea turtle intern, Cape Lookout National Seashore

"It's important that parks are diverse because if only one group of the American people is using them, I wouldn't consider them truly public lands."

- MAHALIA SOAP, biology intern, Olympic National Park

Egg Roll Special >>>

AS A CENTENNIAL VOLUNTEER AMBASSADOR AT President's Park, SCA's Kyle Yarusso recruited and trained 500 volunteers for the 138th annual White House Easter Egg Roll, which drew more than 35,000 people to the South Lawn.

"It's exciting to help people realize that the White House is in a national park," Kyle says.



HELP SCA EXPAND THESE FORMATIVE YOUTH SERVICE EXPERIENCES . . .

GIVE NOW THROUGH MAY 31ST TO HAVE YOUR GIFT MATCHED! VISIT THESCA.ORG/TGW

RICH GUADAGNO WAS A SON, A BROTHER AND a refuge enforcement officer with the Department of the Interior. He was also a passenger on United Flight 93 and, his loved ones believe, was likely among those who battled the hijackers and forced the plane to crash before it reached its intended target on September 11, 2001.



Richard Guadagno and Raven

"I was twelve years old, in sixth grade," recalls Justin Holzer, of Rockland County, New York. "We were on a field trip at an outdoorsy place where they taught teamwork skills. When they stopped our activity to explain what had happened, I first thought it was another lesson scenario."

Today, Justin is an SCA intern at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, PA, and one of two Richard J. Guadagno SCA

Conservation Fellows funded by the Guadagno family. The other Fellow is Aliya McCarthy, a wildlife and botany specialist at Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge in California, where Richard was manager until his life abruptly ended.

"He's still a presence here," states Aliya, an area native. "I was young when Richard passed away but I understand his contributions to the area. Humboldt is special, with rivers, the ocean and mountains all within hours of each other. I wanted to give back to the community I've lived in my whole life and it's an honor to follow in his footsteps."

* * *

"This is exactly what my dad and I had hoped for," says Lori Guadagno, Richard's sister. "It took a long time for us to figure what direction we wanted to go in, but the mission of SCA is so aligned with our hopes and dreams for carrying Rich's legacy into the future. He was so passionate about getting young people in the outdoors. That's where the spark needs to be fired."

Jerry Guadagno, the family patriarch, was appointed to the federal memorial advisory commission by then-National Park Service Director Fran Mainella. It was unorthodox to go outside the agency, says retired National Park Service Regional Director and fellow commission member John Reynolds, but "Fran trusted the father of the only Interior Department employee involved to represent her views. And, in the end, I think Jerry and the commission got it absolutely right."

The Flight 93 Memorial includes a walkway that follows the plane's flight path, an overlook, and exhibits that share tales of terror and heroism. Richard's name is inscribed on one of 40 marble panels, one for each passenger and crew member.



▼ Justin Holzer speaks with visitors at the Flight 93 National Memorial



Justin, the Guadagno Fellow, fills a unique role at the Memorial. Unlike the many SCA volunteers who restore damaged landscapes, Justin helps to mend people.

"This is a place for dialogue," he says. "We call it 'twenty-first century interpretation.' Visitors often want to tell me where they were on nine-eleven. Others are still trying to understand 'why.' And people cry here every day, understandably."

"This site used to be a strip coal mine. The land was terribly scarred but now it's undergoing a metamorphosis. We want to treat peoples' emotional scars by prompting discussions and sharing perspectives that contribute to our national narrative."

The Sparks that Light the Future



Aliya also facilitates conversations at Humboldt Bay, though in a vastly different context. Local efforts to protect the once-endangered Aleutian Cackling goose have been so successful, the geese population has swollen and not everyone is happy about it. "As I conduct goose surveys, I meet many ranchers who aren't pleased with the geese. They eat their grass and compete with their cows," she notes. "But I talk with them and try to get everyone on the same page and earn their cooperation."

"Humboldt is special, with rivers, the ocean and mountains all within hours of each other. I wanted to give back to the community I've lived in my whole life and it's an honor to follow in [Richard's] footsteps."

In December, Aliya graduated from Humboldt State University with a degree in wildlife management. "This is a big step for my career," she says. "A lot of my friends moved away after school, but I had a goal of remaining in California and working in a place I love. I'm enjoying the outreach and education, helping kids engage with nature. I've never felt more a part of the community, and I'm continuing Richard's legacy."

* * *

"...The mission of SCA is so aligned with our hopes and dreams for carrying Rich's legacy into the future. He was so passionate about getting young people in the outdoors. That's where the spark needs to be fired."

- LORI GUADAGNO

«

SCA's Aliya McCarthy at Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge

Back at the Flight 93 Memorial, the flags fly at half-staff. Visitor after visitor asks Justin if that is to honor the Flight 93 passengers, and time after time he gently corrects them. *The Green Way* spoke with Justin just days after the deadly bombings in Brussels. Nearly 15 years after the events of September 11th, terrorism is an ongoing reality.

"Since nine-eleven, our world has shifted," he said. "We've had foreign attacks, unrest over immigration, mass shootings at places like Sandy Hook and the Colorado movie theater. They constantly loom in my head but I was raised not to live my life according to fear."

Justin's resolve is powerful and genuine. And it's another of the sparks that Lori Guadagno says her family wants to generate. One that will kindle the glow of hope.

"Justin and Aliya make me feel like Rich's presence is still very much in play in the universe," Lori says. "These students are taking his vision and his inspiration and carrying it forward."

"You have to put good out in the world. It may be one Fellow here, one Fellow there, it may initially seem so small but as every student does something positive, they will inspire goodness in others. That's the only way you can balance out the horror and the sadness." **g**



National Parks Keep Us Connected

By Lauralee Buchanan,
SCA Centennial Volunteer Ambassador
Excerpted from the *New Orleans Times-Picayune*

When I led eco-tours in the Virgin Islands, I thought I'd found my dream job. I got to live in a paradise and share the wonders of nature.

But the more I saw behind-the-scenes—the resource consumption, the excess waste, the hidden ecological toll—the more I realized that I was part of the problem, not the solution. Now I'm a Centennial Volunteer Ambassador at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, headquartered in New Orleans' famed French Quarter. Jean Lafitte is part of the National Park Service, which this year celebrates its 100th anniversary. Jean Lafitte is also a microcosm of the Park Service and its singular role in American society.

For example, the park's 23,000-acre Barataria Preserve in nearby Marrero features hiking and boardwalk trails through forests, bayous, swamps and marshlands, and its famous Giant Blue Irises have just begun to bloom. For history buffs, we have the Chalmette Battlefield, one of the most enduring symbols of the War of 1812, and the nearby Chalmette National Cemetery.

The sections I consider most unique to Louisiana's story are the Acadian Cultural Center in Lafayette, the Prairie Acadian Cultural Center in Eunice, and the Wetlands Acadian Cultural Center in Thibodaux. Both my parents were in the military and our family moved a lot, so I'm drawn by the area's deep Cajun heritage. The language, the food, the music here are all unique to Louisiana's Mississippi River Delta region.

"We want to give back and move the community forward," says Lauralee.

Of course, New Orleans is also home to Creole, German, Italian, Chinese, Filipino and other communities, and that's why Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve is such a binding force. It provides a connection that transcends space and time, one that is simultaneously unique and universal.

The 400-plus units of the National Park Service work in much the same way. They include monuments, seashores, parkways, recreation areas and, yes, historic parks. These inspirational assets, known as America's Best Idea, have come to symbolize our nation and provide the common ground that bonds us as a people. Big-name parks like Yosemite, Yellowstone and Everglades are on everyone's Bucket List. But places like Jean Lafitte, as well as Valley Forge, Vicksburg, MS and Martin Luther King, Jr.'s childhood home, also stir the soul because they tell the story of America...and each one of us is part of that incredible narrative.

As part of my community outreach, I meet with school children who never realized there is a National Park down the street from their house, and I get to explain that this resource belongs to them. I recruit volunteers to help NewCity NOLA collect health and land data in neighborhoods still struggling post-Katrina, and follow our partners' progress returning resources to those neighborhoods still in need.

Jean Lafitte is more than a national historic park. We're a neighbor, a friend. We want to give back and move the community forward. I can't think of a better objective as we approach the next 100 years of the National Park Service.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

THE GRAND CANYON'S BEST-KEPT SECRETS

Todd Nelson is the volunteer coordinator at Grand Canyon National Park. We asked him about his career, the National Park Service centennial, and the future of America's Best Idea.

WHY DO YOU LIKE WORKING WITH VOLUNTEERS?

What solidified it for me was working with college students on alternative [service] spring breaks. The students represent a variety of majors and I inform them that whatever they are studying, there is a position for them in the National Park Service, that we're more than the different "-ologists."

YOU STARTED AS A VOLUNTEER, RIGHT?

With SCA back in '96, a three-month internship at Saguaro National Park. I received all fives (top scores) on my SCA evaluation. Still have it.

HOW MANY OTHER SCA ALUMNI ARE AT GRAND CANYON?

Forty. Ten percent of our staff. They're all over this place.

WHAT DO YOU HOPE RESULTS FROM THE NPS CENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN?

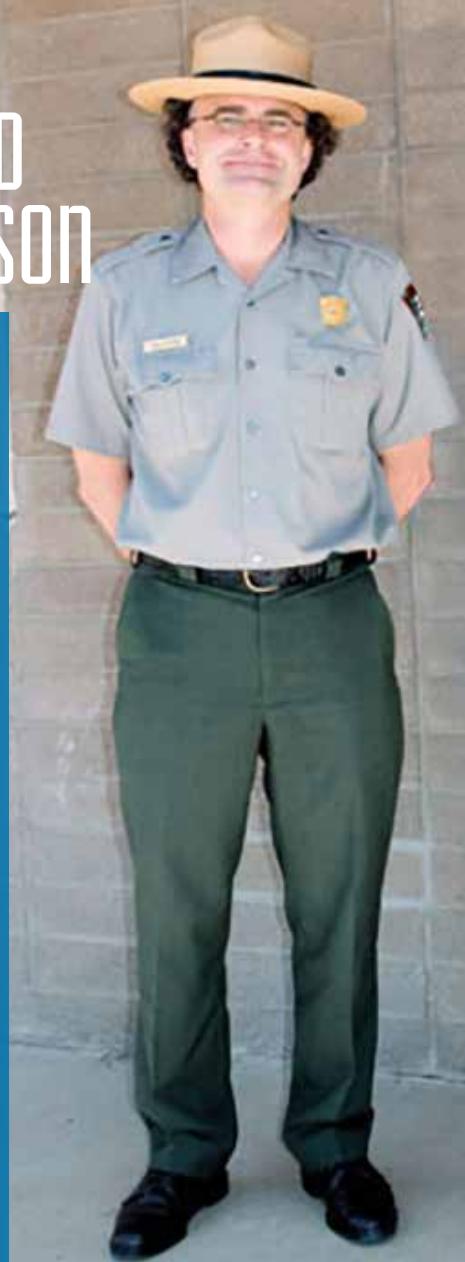
That the public "redisCOVERS," if you want to call it that, their national parks. You keep reading and hearing that youth today spend less and less time outdoors, so you hope the centennial gets more families to national parks so that next generation can take root.

WHAT'S THE BEST-KEPT SECRET ABOUT THE GRAND CANYON?

(Pauses) Oh, there are so many. You wouldn't think we have an extensive cave network. We have a museum collection with over 1.5 million archival artifacts covering centuries of human interaction with the canyon. And the night sky, especially for people from the East Coast, is amazing.

**SEE OUR FULL INTERVIEW
WITH TODD NELSON AT
THESCA.ORG/GRANDCANYON**

TODD
NELSON



A Simple Gift for Their Future: DESIGNATE SCA IN YOUR IRA

One of the simplest legacy gifts you can make to insure a bright future for youth conservation service is to designate SCA as a beneficiary in your IRA or retirement plan. And because funds remaining in a retirement plan or IRA may be subject to both estate and income taxes when left to individuals, they can be great gifts to charity as they are exempt from both estate and income tax.



To learn more go to: thesca.org/giving-plan.net

Or contact SCA's Gift Planning Department:

1-888-722-9675 x1600 • giftplanning@thesca.org



Conservation in Canada.

SCA CEO JAIME MATYAS RECENTLY delivered the keynote remarks at the Parks Canada Summit in Alberta. Addressing provincial officials' concerns about youth engagement, Matyas shared how SCA instills a "constellation of skills for success" in young people by leveraging outdoor experiences that foster conservation values as well as continuous growth and optimal advancement.



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The Student Conservation Association (SCA) is America's largest and most effective youth conservation service organization. SCA conserves lands and transforms lives by empowering young people of all backgrounds to plan, act, and lead, while they protect and restore our natural and cultural resources. Founded in 1957, SCA's mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders.

CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD: Steve Seward

PRESIDENT/CEO: Jaime Matyas

EDITOR: Kevin Hamilton

GRAPHIC DESIGNER: Julia Jandrisits



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MAKING HISTORY (LAST)

You already know that SCA volunteers protect parks for the future. But did you know SCA members also preserve the past?

LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL SITE IN MASSACHUSETTS
headquarters to the National Park Service's Historic Architecture, Conservation, and Engineering Center. This is where conservators restore irreplaceable antiquities sent from national parks from Maine to Virginia: a wooden hoist used to build the Bunker Hill Monument. Civil war artifacts. Thomas Edison's phonographs.

"Objects from different periods of history provide a contextual story," states intern Mary Terese Vigliotti. "They give you so much more than just reading words from a book."

As a child, Mary often visited museums with her family, but even then "my focus wasn't on how the artist made the object but how could I preserve it?" As part of her conservator internship at Lowell, Mary treated a candle snipper, a hat box and a pair of ice skates dating back more than 200 years. "I'd had previous experience with ceramics, glass and metals," she says, "but never wood or leather. Adding these areas to my portfolio will be a huge help when I look for a job."

"The history and these objects—they're everyone's. They represent different eras and cultures and we have to preserve them or we'll lose part of the American story."



Mary also traveled to nearby Minute Man NHS to clean a brass statue. "There's something special about working at the birthplace of the American Revolution," she says. "Tons of people thanked us for preserving an important piece of history."

"The history and these objects—they're everyone's. They represent different eras and cultures and we have to preserve them or we'll lose part of the American story."

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