

COMMUNITY CONNECTION INITIATIVE:

OUR NATIONAL AND STATE PARKS ENGAGE IN NATURE



National Parks have been part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs' history for over 100 years. A state park could be one that is hoping to be around for 100 years. Our dedication to resources provided by public recreation and for enjoyment is evident in our historic landscapes. National preserve areas are under different levels of protection.

The idea of National Parks was inspired by the untouched development of the beautiful outdoors. Franklin D. Roosevelt signed an Executive Order that consolidated all National Parks, Monuments, Military Parks, Cemeteries, and Capital Parks under one single National Park System.

Maintaining healthy ecosystems, providing clean water and clean air, and enabling conservation efforts will help collectively preserve more than 84 million acres of America's Homeland. Restoring our National and State Parks is a huge need. Increased visitation and deteriorating facilities, along with budget cuts are taking a toll on our historic neighborhood parks.

Together, we can invest in refurbishing the signage of our parks. Clubs can update benches and water fountains and educate others on animals, plants, and the history of our outdoors. Volunteer to be a trail guide, ranger for a day, or clean up a park day. Sponsor a garbage can.

August 25 is National Park Day. This day recognizes the conservation and preservation of our parks. Plan a hike day with a picnic. Appreciate the park employees with a picnic basket. Place signage on a marque of the connection and significance between the General Federation of Women's Clubs and our National and State Parks.

Provide a nature day at a local school or independent/assisted living facility, and help your local junior rangers, girl scouts, and boy scouts earn a nature badge.

Identify trees, birds, wildflowers, plants, and animals in your park. Play BINGO or trivia as you learn. In 1944 an American Campaign of the United States Forest Service introduced Smokey the Bear. It is the longest-running public service announcement campaign in the United States. Dress up as Smokey the Bear and provide Fire Safety talks, skits, stories, and pictures of taking care of our forests, parks, and environment. Educate children on wildfires that engulf our parks and forests and the dangers of fire.

There are 16 Forever stamps sold by the United States Postal Service. Purchase National Park Stamps and use them on your correspondence. Learn the history of your local park and do the research on why it is named what it is.

