



TRNHA A Year in Review

Where Are We Now?

As a supporter of Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association (TRNHA), you understand our organization strives to educate the public about North Dakota's abundant natural resources, excellent recreation opportunities, and rich cultural history. Since 1951, we have worked with our park partners to ensure North Dakota's Public Lands remain a place to be enjoyed in the present and preserved for the future.

Looking back on 2023, we are inspired and humbled by the commitment of our members, employees, volunteers and partners. To say it was a busy year would be an understatement, with continued high visitation and lots of new merchandise, TRNHA had an amazing year. In fiscal year 2023 TRNHA experienced the highest gross sales ever which kept our staff on their toes. Our staff worked alongside park staff in Theodore Roosevelt National Park to provide park visitors with trip planning, information, and amazing educational merchandise.

In addition to providing visitor center services TRNHA offered several programs throughout the summer. TRNHA's hardworking staff treated visitors to our 69th Annual Birdwalk, Kid in the Park educational programs, and Young Theodore Roosevelt Cabin Tours. Our special programs were a huge hit with over 2,600 people attending and learning from our staff. And as our mission states we also partnered with Knife River Indian Villages NHS and Theodore Roosevelt NP to support historical, scientific, and educational activities throughout the summer.

We thank you for your continued dedication to helping us achieve our mission and look forward to what 2024 has in store for us!

Where Are We Going?

Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association has been supporting the National Park Service (NPS) since the inception of our organization in 1951. It took sixty five years for TRNHA to achieve \$1 million in aid support to the NPS. In 2016, TRNHA's Board of Directors set a goal of reaching the next million in ten years. We are currently on schedule to achieve that goal and break the \$2 million in Aid by 2026.

In 2024, TRNHA has plans to offer more support than ever before to our park partners. We will be assisting with summer staffing, special events, interpretive programs, park projects, and so much more.

A highlight for 2024 will be the 50th birthday celebration at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site (KNRI). Be sure to check the next page of this newsletter for a list of scheduled events in 2024, and check back monthly for updates!

Monthly Newsletter

January 2024

Theodore Roosevelt
Nature & History
Association

Save the Date

A new year brings many new opportunities and here are a few dates to save for your visits to Theodore Roosevelt National Park (THRO) and Knife River Indian Villages NHS (KNRI) in 2024. Stay tuned for more details....

January 15 – Birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., *Fee Free Day*

April 20 – First day of National Park Week, *Fee Free Day*

April 2024 – Annual TRNHA photo contest begins

April/May 2024 – Painted Canyon Visitor Center opens

June 2 – Annual TRNHA Bird Walk at THRO

June 12 – TRNHA Kids Event, South Unit THRO

June 19 – Juneteenth National Independence Day, *Fee Free Day*

June 26 – TRNHA Kids Event, North Unit THRO

July 10 – TRNHA Kids Event, South Unit THRO

July 17 – TRNHA Kids Event, North Unit THRO

August 4 – Great American Outdoors Act Anniversary, *Fee Free Day*

August 17 – KNRI 50th Birthday Celebration

September 28 – National Public Lands Day, *Fee Free Day*

September 2024 – KNRI Lifeways on the Northern Plains

September 2024 – THRO Dakota Nights Astronomy Festival

November 11 – Veterans Day, *Fee Free Day*



TRNHA Birdwalk 2023



TRNHA Kids Program 2023



TRNHA Photo Contest Submission, Photo by Sandra Swanson

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to all of our friends, members, and national park supporters. This winter has brought surprisingly decent weather to Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Knife River Indian Villages (most of the time!) making it a great New Year to get outside.

Coming up in January we will be observing Martin Luther King, Jr Day with a fee free designation. Monday, January 15, 2024, will be a fee free day across the National Park Service including a waive of the entrance fee to Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Here are a few things you *could* do on a mild-winter, fee-free visit:

- ◆ Take an early morning hike on the Wind Canyon Nature Trail
- ◆ Take a self-guided tour of Theodore Roosevelt's Maltese Cross Cabin
- ◆ Help your little ones complete a Junior Ranger book
- ◆ Drive the scenic road, enjoy the landscape
- ◆ Grab your binoculars and watch for wildlife
- ◆ Hit the trail on a full day hike
- ◆ Pack a picnic lunch and make your way to the Cottonwood Picnic Area



2024 National Park Fee Free Days

Come experience the national parks! On six days in 2024, all National Park Service sites that charge an entrance fee will offer free admission to everyone. Mark your calendar for these entrance fee-free dates in 2024.

January 15: Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

April 20: First day of National Park Week

June 19: Juneteenth National Independence Day

August 4: Anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act

September 28: National Public Lands Day

November 11: Veterans Day

A Wildlife Conservation Milestone

“Celebrating 50 Years of Success in Wildlife Conservation” from www.doi.gov/blog

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act, providing the opportunity to reflect on the progress made and the work ahead for protecting our nation's endangered species and their habitats. The Act has saved hundreds of species from extinction and continues to protect and preserve some of our most beloved animals and plants. It has also helped to create a better understanding of how human activities can impact the environment and how we can work together to protect it. Perhaps most importantly, this anniversary is a reminder that conservation efforts are essential for stemming the worsening impacts of climate change, protecting biodiversity and preserving our planet for ourselves and future generations.

The ESA was enacted in 1973 as a response to the declining populations of many species of animals and plants. The Act was designed to protect and recover species at risk of extinction and to promote the conservation of ecosystems and habitats necessary for the survival of those species. Each of these species is a part of the web of life, each with a unique cultural and biological community, performing services that are essential to our combined well-being. By conserving them, guided by the best-available science, we help protect healthy air, land, and water for everyone.

The innovative and determined actions taken by the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service team members and partners over these past decades have helped prevent some species from needing the protection of the Act and provided the critical information for decision-making that contributes to the success of the Act.

The ESA was enacted to protect and recover species at risk of disappearing forever. It has become one of the most significant wildlife conservation laws in the United States and has proven instrumental in protecting numerous species.

Endangered or NOT? North Dakota Edition



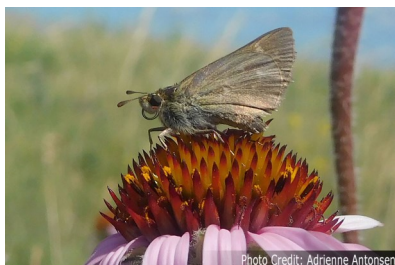
1. Black Footed Ferret



2. Northern Long-Eared Bat



3. Porcupine



4. Dakota Skipper



5. Rusty Patched Bumble Bee

Images: gfr:nd.gov
1, 2, 4, 5 YES; 3 NO

January 2024 Online Coupon

January Online Only Coupon



25% Off
Buffalo Charging
Coaster

Online Only through January 31, 2024
Use coupon code
"January2024" at checkout.
Shop online now at: www.shoptrnha.org
not good with any other discounts.

Become a Member

Our members are passionate about our park partners and believe in helping us spread the word about the beauty that can be found in North Dakota. By joining Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association as a member you will be helping us:

- Support educational and interpretive programs
- Enhance the visitor centers in all our partner parks
- Support wildlife research in Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- Publish trail guides, books, and multi-media products to educate our visitors
- Host special events in our parks including Teddy Bear Picnics, Birdwalks, and photo contests
- Promote North Dakota's public lands
- Offer housing assistance for Volunteers and Interns
- Provide support staff in visitor centers

Learn more at:

www.trnha.org/membership.htm





Welcome, Justin

Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association is pleased to welcome Justin Hutzenbiler as our Operations and Marketing Assistant. Justin worked as a seasonal clerk last summer where he proved to be a hardworking individual and someone we wanted on our team. His willingness to go the extra mile and his motivation quickly gained the respect of our staff and when he applied for our year round Operations and Marketing Assistant we quickly asked him to join the team. Justin is truly passionate about our operations and constantly has a positive attitude with a warm smile, he has a strong background in retail and computer science making him a great fit for this position. We feel our retail operations and our marketing efforts will be in good hands with Justin at the helm.

Justin Hutzenbiler

Position: Operations and Marketing Assistant

Job Description: Assisting manage social media and newsletter, Panted Canyon Operations, Inventory, Special Events and more.

Hobbies: I love playing the piano and getting to learn new pieces, mainly classical music, but I'm currently learning a piece for my sister. Baking has always been something I can spend hours and hours working on. Ever since I was little, I watched and eventually made my own cookies, brownies, and cakes, but now I enjoy making caramel rolls from scratch. Lately, I've also gotten back into playing video games with my family, even though I'm not the best at them.



Monthly Newsletter

February 2024

Theodore Roosevelt
Nature & History
Association

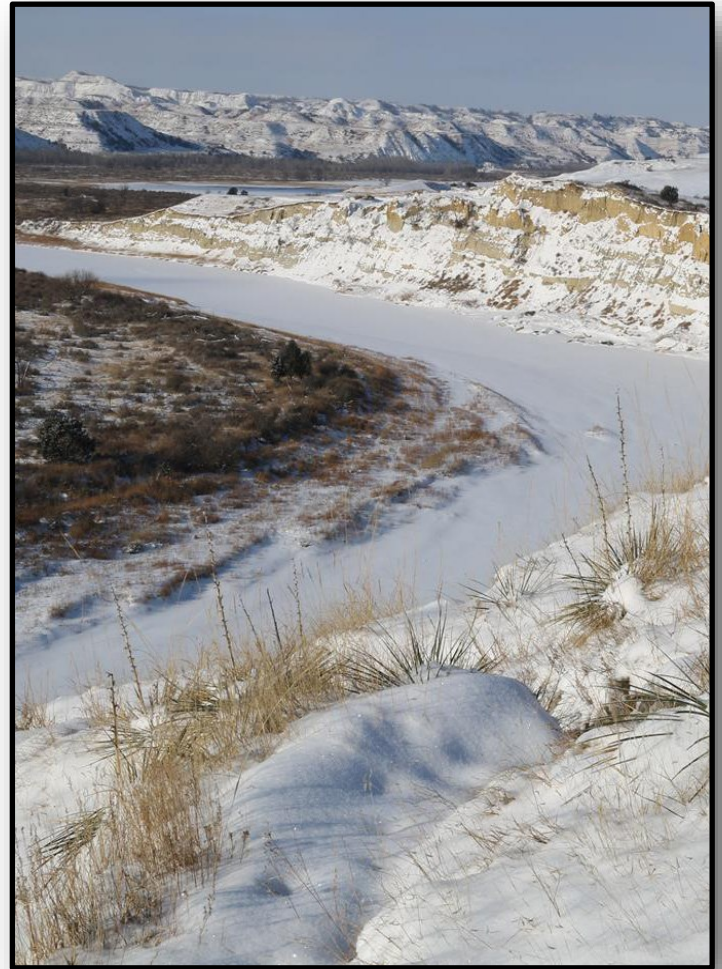
Wind Chills

The winter has set in and in Western North Dakota the winter has set modern windchill records! So, exactly what is a wind chill? According to the National Weather Service:

Wind Chill is a term used to describe what the air temperature feels like to the human skin due to the combination of cold temperatures and winds blowing on exposed skin. In simple terms, the colder the air temperature and the higher the wind speeds the colder it will feel on your skin if you're outside. So even if it remains the same temperature, but the wind speed increases it will actually feel colder to your skin.

So why does it feel colder if the wind speed increases but the temperature remains the same?

The reason is because as wind blows across our bodies it takes the heat we naturally emit and blows it away from our bodies. The faster the wind speed the faster our body heat is taken away and the colder it feels. It is a similar process for when you blow on a hot bowl of soup to cool it down. The temperature that it feels like outside due to the air temperature and wind speed is called the "Wind Chill."



What can you do to stay safe during record-setting windchills?

- * Stay dry. Wet clothing results in much faster heat loss from your body. Wear waterproof insulated boots.
- * Stay covered. Wear mittens or gloves, and wear a hat. At least half of your body heat is lost if your head is not covered.
- * Dress layered. Trapped air between loose fitting clothing helps to insulate.
- * Stay informed. Have a portable NOAA weather radio nearby to keep you up-to-date with the latest forecasts and warnings. Use wind chill temperatures to guide you in dressing properly for the outdoors. On very cold days, minimize your exposure to the outdoors if possible.

Learn more, stay safe at www.weather.gov

Winter Survival: Bison



Bison grow in their thick, dark coats in preparation for winter. On their heads, shoulders, and front legs their coat is thickest. They stay warm thanks to this dark coat that absorbs the warmth of the sun on top of layers of fat, under fur, and long guard hairs. The large hump on the bison's back is muscle that helps the bison swing its head to push aside snow in order to access grasses under winter drifts.

Work Where the Buffalo Roam...

A recruitment poster for TRNHA. The background shows a large inflatable bison and a group of four people standing in front of a white van. The van has a sign that says "DON'T PET THE FLUFFY COWS" and "SUPPORTING NORTH DAKOTA'S P". The poster includes the following text:

WE ARE HIRING
Seasonal Position with flexible scheduling
Sales and Information Guide
May through September
Starting wage \$16/hour & FREE HOUSING!

*Let us be your first job
and help you explore a
career in the non-profit
and government world.*

MUST BE 16 YEARS OF AGE

Learn more or apply at:
www.trnha.org/employment.htm or
contact Tracy Sexton at tracy_sexton@trnha.org

Presidents' Day Trivia

What 5 National Parks were established during Theodore Roosevelt's presidency?

Crater Lake, Wind Cave, Sully's Hill (now White Horse Hill National Game Preserve), Mesa Verde, and Platt (now Chickasaw National Recreation Area)

Who guided Theodore Roosevelt around Yosemite National Park, camping with him at Mariposa Grove?

John Muir

What was the fate of Theodore Roosevelt's first presidential portrait?

First portrait by Chartran was hidden in a dark hall and ordered to be burned

Where did Theodore Roosevelt's infamous "Teddy Bear" hunting trip take place in 1902?

Near Onward, Mississippi

Who was Theodore Roosevelt's vice-president during his second term as president 1905-1909 (and also the namesake of Fairbanks, Alaska)?

Charles W. Fairbanks

What site did Theodore Roosevelt declare as the first National Monument by executive order?

Devil's Tower National Monument

Where did Theodore Roosevelt spend much of his time during the summer months of his presidency, earning the title "Summer White House"?

Sagamore Hill, New York

Image: Official Presidential Portrait by John Singer Sargent

February 2024 Online Coupon

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25% Off
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Knit Beanie

Online Only through February 29, 2024
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MARCH 2024

BISON BRIEF

Monthly Update



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT
NATURE AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

Greetings Members and Friends!



As the saying goes, the only thing constant is change and TRNHA is pleased to announce many changes are headed your way! Earlier this year we introduced you to our first big change of expanding our staff and adding Justin into the mix. In coming months we will be gradually making several fun changes, including but not limited to adding more special events, new products, member events, and educational programs for those of you who are able to visit us in person.

However, we understand there are a lot of you who dearly love North Dakota's Public Lands but just are not able to visit us. And to you we say "Sometimes the best relationship is a long-distance relationship", which is why we want find ways to help this relationship blossom. And so for those who follow from a far (*and those who visit*) we have been working to update our webpage, online store, social media, and most importantly this newsletter.

Today we begin with the roll out of our newly titled newsletter:

Bison Brief: a Monthly Update by TRNHA

Small changes including the cover page were made to this month's newsletter, but stay tuned in coming months for fun new columns and insight from TRNHA staff. The Bison Brief will include fun facts about our park partners, activities and crafts, ways you can help us expand our impact, Park Ranger insights and more!

As we begin making these changes we would love to hear from you:

- What do you like about our newsletter?
- What would you like to see more of in future newsletters?
- What should we remove?
- Anything else you would suggest to make our newsletter great!



Email your suggestions to us at: info@trnha.org

Plan Your Summer Vacation to Theodore Roosevelt National Park



It's the perfect time to start planning your trip to Theodore Roosevelt National Park! The warmer weather is approaching us and before you realize it, we'll be in summer. Be sure to check out the plan your visit tips at www.nps.gov/thro

In the North and South Units, we have two campgrounds for those wanting to spend the evening under the stars in their Favorite National Park. Or if backcountry camping is your thing stop by the visitor center for a free permit to spend the night in the wilderness. Learn more about camping options [here!](#)



Need some more help planning your trip? Jump on our [online store](#) a purchase your maps and guidebooks in advance. And on your visit after going on one of our many trails, be sure to stop by and check out our visitor centers where you can walk through our museum, watch a short film, attend a cabin tour, and browse our collection of great merchandise in person!

For those who have our membership, we offer a 15% discount on your purchase!

BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!



TRNHA Summer Programs

Summer Kid's Programs are back. This year, we will be exploring prehistoric life in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and celebrating National Teddy Bear Picnic Day. Programs will be held in both the North Unit and South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Our first program will be held in June (June 12 in the South Unit; June 26 in the North Unit) and our second program will be held in July (July 10 in the South Unit; July 17 in the North Unit).

June's program is entitled Fossil Games. Join us as we explore the different types of fossils that have been found in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Through games and activities, we will learn about prehistoric life and what this park landscape looked like millions of years ago. All ages are welcome; activities are designed for ages 6-12.

Then, in July, we will host Teddy Bear Time in celebration of National Teddy Bear Picnic Day. Bring your favorite teddy bear and join us for story time, craft time, and special treats. All ages are welcome; activities are designed for ages 3-10.



Registration and details will be available on-line April 1. All programs will be conducted in Theodore Roosevelt National Park; program is free to registered attendees but all park entry fees apply. If you have any questions, send an email to jesse_sexton@trnha.org. We look forward to seeing you this summer!

Knife River Indian Village NHS Workshops



Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site is celebrating 50 years in 2024 and will be hosting several events throughout the year. While their early March Moccasin making workshop is full, but they are offering various Hands-on Native American craft workshops throughout the year. Head over to their [Facebook Page](#) to learn more about what they have planned.

Currently registration is open for a Hands-on Workshop: Parfleche for Beginners. Participants will learn step-by-step instructions on designing and completing a small parfleche envelope. Creating a design, applying paint/colorants, and sewing together will be done with the materials provided. The event is free, including materials but will be limited only to the first 15 reserved in advance. To reserve for the event, call (701) 745-3300.

National Reading Month



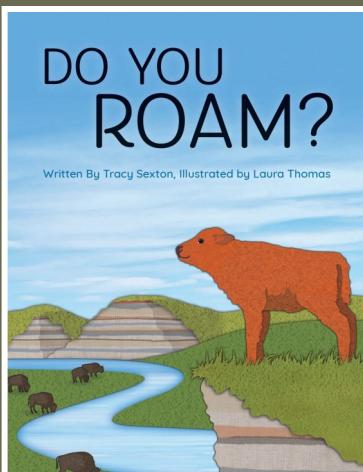
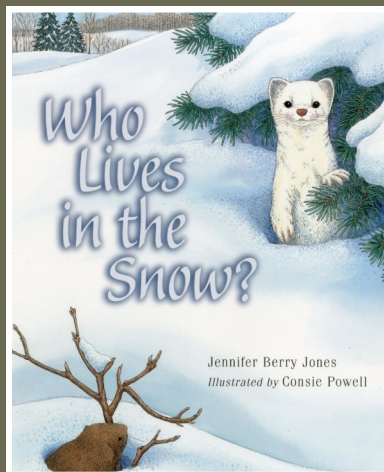
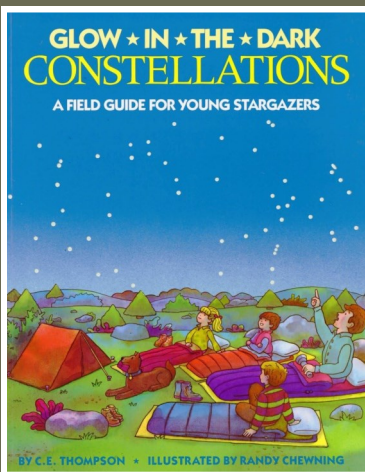
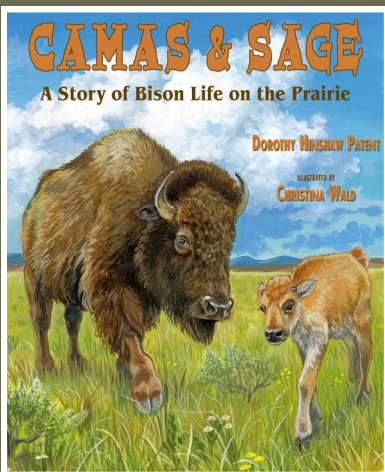
Reading is an important skill for people to continue to improve throughout their lives, but it's critical to help our future leaders learn and enjoy reading. A simple book can change how they perceive our world, learn important facts in countless areas, escape into fantastical lands, and explore their creativity and ideas.

Read Across America Day was created in 1998 and is celebrated each year on Dr. Seuss's birthday, March 2nd with Read Across America Week being celebrated from March 2nd-6th. The general theme is "Celebrate a Nation of Diverse Readers" which is used to make every child feel that they belong in the world and that the world is theirs. This week is a great time to encourage children to spend more time reading with a focus on inclusion.



Interested in celebrating National Reading Month? Head to www.shoptnrnha.org or our visitor centers in Theodore Roosevelt National Park to browse our collection of books. We offer a variety of books surrounding Theodore Roosevelt, wildlife, plant life, the environment, and more. Whether it's about exploring the landscape or the community of wildlife, these books can help our future leaders explore our world.

Check out these great children's books currently available in our stores!





WE ARE HIRING!

Summer Staff to work in
Theodore Roosevelt
National Park

Sales and Information Guide
April 29 to September 30, 2024

Flexible Start and End Date for students. We ask all candidates to commit to a minimum of 10 weeks to ensure we have folks available for our busy season.

Starting wage \$16/hour &
FREE Shared Housing

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION TODAY:
WWW.TRNHA.ORG/EMPLOYMENT.HTM

CONTACT TRACY FOR MORE INFORMATION
TRACY_SEXTON@TRNHA.ORG
701-623-4884

March 2024 Online Coupon

March Online Only Coupon



25% Off
Bison Noso
Patch!

Online Only through March 31, 2024
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Learn more at: www.trnha.org/membership.htm



APRIL 2024

BISON BRIEF

Monthly Update



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT
NATURE AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**



April 2024

Happy North Dakota Day!

Consider this your invitation to celebrate North Dakota Day on April 19th and reflect on the state's unique beauty and history! Take a moment and delve into the rich heritage and peaceful landscapes that make North Dakota special.

The story of Theodore Roosevelt's transformative experience in North Dakota highlights the profound impact that a visit to the state can have on a person. His time in the remote outpost of Little Missouri not only shaped his personal development but also played a crucial role in his journey to the presidency. This tale serves as a reminder of the potential for self-discovery and growth that North Dakota offers to all who set foot in its lands.

In 2018, Kevin Kitzhoffer, a Seasonal Park Ranger, said it best when he wrote: *"A hearty traveler need not listen to what has been said about modest North Dakota. A visit to this amazing state must be done on one's own terms and always with a sense of adventure. There are treasures to be found around every corner."*

Kevin's experience in western North Dakota, akin to Theodore Roosevelt's, showcases the profound impact that the state's rugged beauty and unique environment can have on individuals. Both individuals were forever transformed by their time in this remote and captivating region, underscoring the transformative power of North Dakota's landscapes and culture.

Embracing the solitude and immersing oneself in the rich history and culture of North Dakota can offer a transformative experience for visitors. By taking time to appreciate the serene beauty and unique heritage of the state, individuals can forge a deep connection with the land and its people, leading to personal growth and a greater appreciation for the wonders that North Dakota has to offer.



THE NPS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS

Proposed rate changes for campgrounds

MEDORA, N.D. – The National Park Service (NPS) is seeking public comment to campground fees changes under consideration at Theodore Roosevelt National Park (THRO). Proposed fee changes would include the Cottonwood Campground, Cottonwood Group site, Juniper Campground, Juniper Group site, and Roundup Group Horse Camp campground.



The proposed fee changes are:

- Cottonwood Campground, South Unit: current fee is \$14, proposed fee increase to \$20.
- Cottonwood Group site, South Unit: current fee is \$30, proposed fee increase to \$60.
- Juniper Campground, North Unit: current fee is \$14, proposed fee increase to \$20.
- Juniper Group site, North Unit: current fee is \$30, proposed fee increase to \$60.
- Roundup Group Horse Camp, South Unit equestrian site: current fee is \$40, proposed fee increase to \$100.

The last fee increases in camping rates occurred in 2015. After research of local campground rates in the surrounding area, the proposed rate increases were found to be comparable with current market rates for similar services.

Campgrounds are a popular destination for park visitors. Fees provide a vital source of revenue for needed facility maintenance, future campground improvement projects, and increased costs associated with campground operations. Past fee improvements include new comfort stations, improved accessible walkways in the campgrounds, and accessible trail work. Anticipated future fee revenue projects include rehabbing water and wastewater systems in the campgrounds, replacing sidewalks in visitor use areas, and restoring historic fencing at Peaceful Valley Ranch.

Public engagement is an important part of the park's planning process. THRO is accepting public comments on the proposed fee increases from March 28, 2024, through April 28, 2024. Following public engagement and NPS approval, new fees would be implemented in October 2024.

Comments regarding fee increase proposals may be submitted on the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/> Comments may also be submitted via mail at the address below. Comments must be postmarked by April 28, 2024.

National Park Week! April 20-28

National Park Week is right around the corner, and TRNHA has an exciting lineup of educational events and programs at the South Unit Visitor Center in Medora. Join us in kicking off National Park week with free entry at all Federal lands on April 20, 2024.

We invite you to take advantage of the free entry and spend the weekend with us! Stop by the visitor center located in Medora to check out our Youth Art Contest Winners on Saturday and then join us for a crafting event on Sunday.



Then don't forget to celebrate Junior Ranger Day on April 27th! Head over to any National Park Visitor Center and work through the Junior Ranger guide to get your badge. Don't forget to ask the Ranger to take a photo with you to help you celebrate your achievement.

If you've enjoyed your time at our park and loved our activities we planned for National Park Week send us a message and tell us about your experience! We love hearing from our visitors and fellow staff about our programs and events. Please reach out to info@trnha.org or 701-623-4884 and leave a message.

Keep An Eye Out

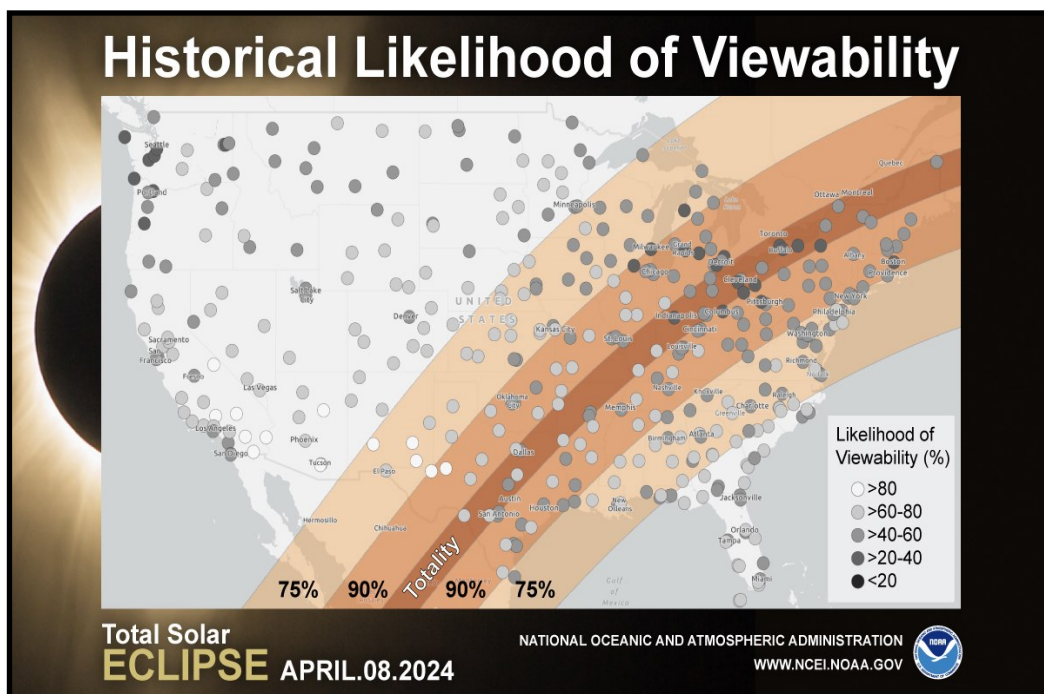
Throughout National Park Week, we'll be making some informative and inspirational posts relating to our National Park partners each day, so please keep an eye out for those. Don't forget for those who are mailing in their submission into our youth art contest they **MUST** be postmarked by the 17th of April to participate in the contest. As a reminder, the submission to the youth art contest will remain at our South Unit visitor center until they are picked up in person, we will not be mailing any submissions back to those who mailed or handed in their artwork. For the rules of the art contest please reference the flyer on the previous page and at <https://trnha.org/YouthArtCompletePacket.pdf> Goodluck and remember to Have Fun! Let's see how creative you can be!



Eyes on the Skies

This month all the talk is about the long awaited total solar eclipse, occurring on Monday, April 8, 2024. For a few minutes on that afternoon, the moon will block the view of the sun's face (called *totality*). This will occur for 2-4 minutes and cause complete darkness along the path of totality and cause a partial eclipse elsewhere. During this eclipse, the path of totality spans diagonally from Texas to Maine.

While North Dakota lies within the 50% obstruction zone, the path of totality (100% obstruction) does cross over many National Park Service Sites. It also comes very close to two National Parks: Hot Springs National



Path of Eclipse Totality, NOAA.GOV

Park and Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Both parks anticipate heavy visitation to their special events and eclipse viewing activities.

If you are wondering about eclipse viewing, the safety of viewing the sun during an eclipse is all a matter of time. Viewing the sun during any part of the solar eclipse must be done through a solar filter (think eclipse glasses or hand-held viewers), through a pin-hole projection, or at a location experiencing 100% obstruction during the exact moments of totality.

If you are wondering about safe solar viewing, the NPS has you covered with complete details and explanations at the website below: <https://www.nps.gov/articles/eclipsesafety.htm>. If you miss out on this total solar eclipse, don't worry.

Mark your calendar... the next total solar eclipse that covers a large section of the United States will occur on August 12, 2045 going through the East and West Coasts. Even though our view of the eclipse won't be as grand in North Dakota as those closer to the path of totality, we'd love to see your pictures of the eclipse in Theodore Roosevelt National Park or Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site! Stay safe and hope you take amazing photos.

What? – National Park Service Edition

MY FACE

When sitting in a meeting with government employees, and trying to understand why the VSA and VUA are on PTO, but the LEO is available until COB.



Sixteen years ago, I began working with TRNHA (Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association) and learned quickly that the NPS (National Park Service) really like their abbreviations and acronyms. After many years working alongside Park Rangers I finally have a better understanding of the lingo, and so I thought it might be fun to have an article dedicated to helping you understand it better.

LESSON #1 – Park Names as an Acronym
(an abbreviation formed from the initial letters of other words and pronounced as a word)

When referring to Theodore Roosevelt National Park, one would think that it would be called TRNP, but if you are speaking Park Ranger you would be wrong! The correct Acronym for Theodore Roosevelt National Park is actually THRO (pronounced Throw), but why?

Let's break it down:

The National Park Service assigns each park it manages with a unique abbreviation code to help standardize communication. The abbreviation is used externally on things like websites (www.nps.gov/thro) and internally on official documents. However, there are a lot of park units and therefore something simple followed by NP simply just didn't work, because multiple park units start with the same letter. So instead, they set up a basic pattern with just a few exceptions.

Rules for Creating a Park Unit's Acronym

1. Must be a four-letter combination
2. If the unit's name consists of only word, it received the first four letters of the word
 - a. Example #1 - Yellowstone National Park = YELL
 - b. Example # 2 - Badlands National Park = BADL
3. If the unit's name consists of two or more words, it's assigned the first two letters of the first two words.
 - a. Example #1 - Theodore Roosevelt National Park = THRO
 - b. Example # 2 - Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site = KNRI

If you want to impress all your Park Ranger friends, learn these acronyms and use them! They are also very useful when looking for a park website, as all National Park Service units have a website that is: www.nps.gov/their-acronym

Stay tuned for next month's **What? – National Park Service Edition** for Lesson #2!

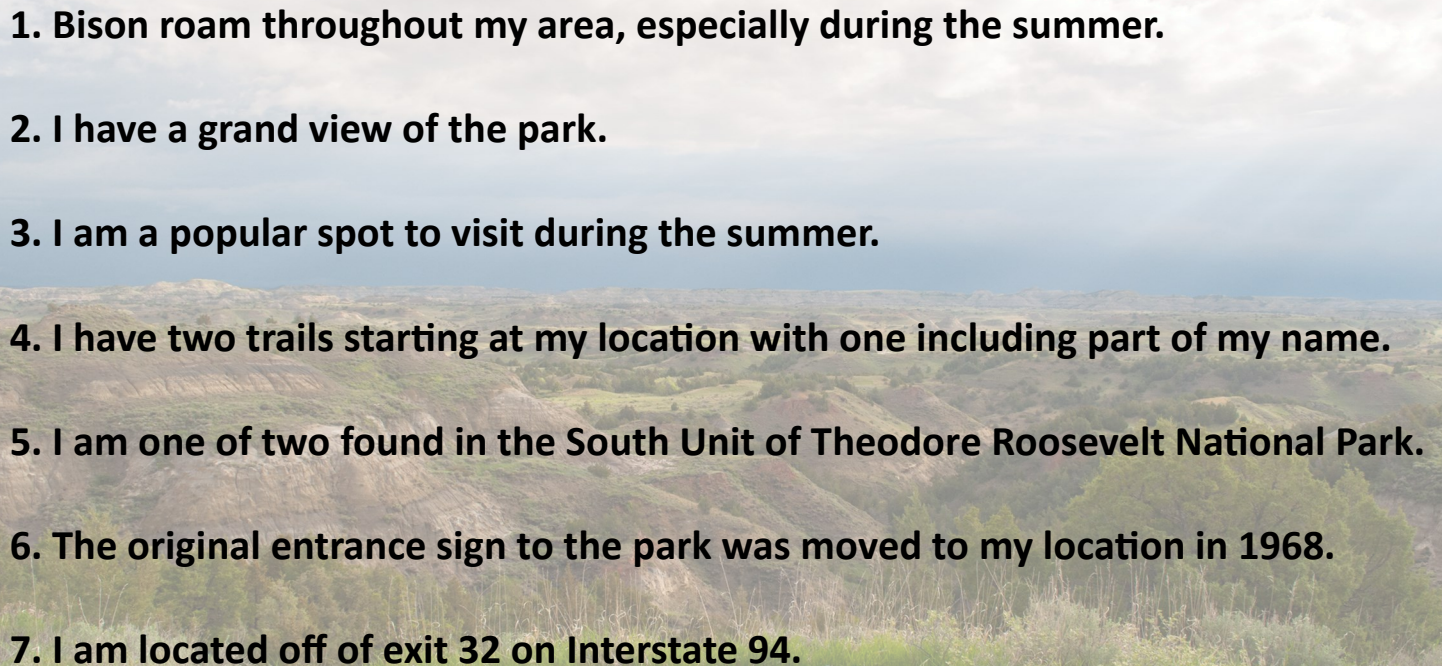
Can You Guess In 7 Hints?

Let's play a game! You have seven hints below to try and guess the theme relating to Theodore Roosevelt National Park or Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Each guess will get more specific to the theme until you reach the answer. How many hints will you need to figure out what it is? Let's find out!

Each month, the previous answer will be posted here as well as a small description or story explaining its significance, purpose, or just some fun facts. Since we're just getting started, we'll have to wait until next month's newsletter to find out the answer. Each month will also show different categories like animals, plants, trails, staff positions, and more. If you want to have an advantage, we'd recommend exploring Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, and reading about us!

We hope you enjoyed this game and look forward to your guesses. Some months will include additional hints as well as photos for more difficult themes to help you with your guesses. If you have any ideas or thoughts about what the theme should be for future months reach out to info@trnha.org or 701-623-4884 and leave a message. Thank you for playing!

Theme: Place

- 
- 1. Bison roam throughout my area, especially during the summer.**
 - 2. I have a grand view of the park.**
 - 3. I am a popular spot to visit during the summer.**
 - 4. I have two trails starting at my location with one including part of my name.**
 - 5. I am one of two found in the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.**
 - 6. The original entrance sign to the park was moved to my location in 1968.**
 - 7. I am located off of exit 32 on Interstate 94.**

TRNHA Word Search

This month's theme is Places in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. We recommend visiting any of these wonderful places in our parks to see the historical significance and spend time in nature. Some of our most popular visit spots revolve around these locations. Some months will also feature a secret hidden word which relates to the theme. Do you think this month has one? Let us know!



Badlands

Knife River

Overlook

Buck Hill

North Unit

Ranch

Campground

Nature Trail

Visitor Center

Join the Crew at Theodore Roosevelt NP

Interested in maintaining a clean and organized work environment? Theodore Roosevelt National Park is looking for a **Custodial Worker (MVO)** for our summer season. Head to www.usajobs.gov and search for National Park Service jobs in Theodore Roosevelt National Park to learn more. Application deadline is April 15th so don't wait!

- \$20.69 - WG 4
- 1039 Hours - Variable based on season
- Employment from March - October with anticipated entry April 2024

WANTED

CAMPGROUND HOST

Summer 2024



DO YOU LOVE THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK AND CAMPING?

If so we would love to have spend the summer with us! Theodore Roosevelt National Park is looking for campground host for all or part of summer 2024. Interested applicants can learn more at www.volunteer.gov (Search Theodore Roosevelt National park or call 701-623-4466 for more information!

701-623-4466

April 2024 Online Coupon

APRIL ONLINE SPECIAL!

In honor of National Park Week and
North Dakota Day!

15% Off All Online Orders

Online Only through April 30, 2024

Use coupon code

“April2024” at checkout.

Shop online now at: www.shoptrnha.org

Not good with any other discounts.

Become a Member

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- Support educational and interpretive programs
- Enhance the visitor centers in all our partner parks
- Support wildlife research in Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- Publish trail guides, books, and multi-media products to educate our visitors
- Host special events in our parks including Teddy Bear Picnics, Birdwalks, and photo contests
- Promote North Dakota's public lands
- Offer housing assistance for Volunteers and Interns
- Provide support staff in visitor centers

Learn more at: www.trnha.org/membership.htm

MAY 2024

BISON BRIEF

Monthly Update



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT
NATURE AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

TRNHA 70th Annual Bird Walk! June 2nd, 2024



Meet At: Cottonwood Campground

When: 6:30am MDT June 2nd

Who: For novice and experienced birders

What To Expect: Observe over 40 different species of birds! Participants should bring binoculars, field guides, and keen eyes to help record the day's sightings.

Following the walk, at approximately 8:00 a.m., the Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association will provide a chuckwagon breakfast for participants. We will be asking for Free Will donations to help defray the cost of breakfast. RSVP to the event via Facebook or through our registration form:

<https://form.jotform.com/trnha1951/Birdwalk70th>



What? – National Park Service Edition

Since we just celebrated National Park Week, we thought we should share some reminders that will help make your visit to our National Parks memorable for all the right reasons.

LESSON #2 – Tips for an unforgettable (for the right reasons) visit to our National Parks!

- 1. GO BEYOND THE OVERLOOKS** --- Theodore Roosevelt National Park does not require you to stay on the trail, so to avoid the crowds stop where you see a cool Butte and take a short hike. You will be amazed what you find on the other side! And you will get the solitude you are looking for while on your visit.
- 2. PEOPLE WILL DO ANYTHING FOR A PHOTO** --- We encourage you to put your safety first. Don't pose too close to that LARGE dangerous wild animal or make sure not to get too close to edge of our ever-changing badlands. We promise the photo 100 yards away from the bison will be just as great, use your zoom! Fun Fact: Almost yearly emergency services get a call because someone was too close to the edge at Wind Canyon and fell. ALWAYS KNOW WHERE YOU ARE AND WHERE THE DANGER MIGHT LURK!
- 3. RANGERS WORK HARD** --- Yes, Rangers lead great educational programs, but did you know their real job is to preserve these beautiful parks for future generations. Park Rangers ensure your safety, the protection of resources, and work hard to keep the park kept up for your enjoyment.
- 4. SKIP THE CROWDS** --- In North Dakota, our parks are busiest between Memorial and Labor Day when we see the majority of our visitors. We would like to encourage you to avoid the people by visiting in the shoulder seasons. April/May offer a chance to view all the new life that is arriving in the spring from baby animals to wildflowers. September/October offers an opportunity for beautiful fall colors. Just remember you are visitor North Dakota so come prepared for unpredictable shoulder season weather.
- 5. READ AND OBEY THE SIGNS** --- Read the signs they are there for your safety and to help you not get lost. There is not always going to be a Ranger present to help you find your way or keep you safe. Also remember to obey the sign, the signs usually do not say "THIS MEANS YOU!" but it does. If a sign tells you a road or trail is closed, it's for your safety or to protect a resource, please respect the sign. If a sign tells you not to approach a large bison, it is for your safety and for the animal's comfort. Simple rule – **READ AND OBEY THE SIGN!**



Continued on page 4

Painted Canyon Opens May 3rd!

The Painted Canyon Visitor Center is officially open for the season! On May 3rd, TRNHA staff was excited to open our doors with a brand new desk and some great new products. Throughout the month of May we will be welcoming new and returning staff, who will all be ready to help you plan your visit and purchase your souvenirs.



As summer gets into full swing Park Rangers will be offering various programs at Painted Canyon and throughout the park.

Swing by the visitor center located just off of exit 32 on

Interstate 94 for a grand view of the badlands and our amazing nature trails down into the canyon. Be on the look out for wildlife as Bison are known to travel through the area and enjoy some fresh grass in our front yard!

Mother's Day Hike at Painted Canyon

Special Mother's Day Hike at Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Moms who love the outdoors or don't want to skip their daily steps may like this gift: Painted Canyon Mother's Day Hike. Join Ranger Peelee this coming Sunday, May 12th from 10:00am MT to 12:00pm MT for a guided hike on the Painted Canyon Trail. This moderate 4.3-mile hike (442ft elevation gain) has lots of twists and turns that keep you guessing what you'll see next.

Where: Painted Canyon Visitor Center

When: 10 am MT on May 12th

What? Continued from Page 3

6. **NORTH DAKOTA WEATHER CHANGES QUICKLY** --- Visitors are encouraged to ensure they have enough water because North Dakota has extreme temperatures. You might wake up on a crispy 30 degrees morning with no wind, but end up out on a trail 3 hours later in 80 degrees weather with 30 mph winds. North Dakota's highest temperature was 121 degrees and lowest of -60 degrees, know what to expect and prepare for it.
7. **VISIT EARLY MORNING OR EVENING** --- This is when you will see the most wildlife and deal with the least amount of people. The sun coming up or setting offers a chance for some beautiful photos!

PLAN LIKE A PARK RANGER

1. **HAVE A PLAN... AND A BACKUP PLAN**
Plan your hike with a map and a backup plan. Know the route, distance, and elevation. Have a backup route in case you get lost or encounter a problem.
2. **PACK YOUR PATIENCE**
Don't rush. Enjoy the view and the experience. Take breaks when needed. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it.
3. **TRAVEL OFF THE BEATEN PATH**
Explore new trails and viewpoints. Discover hidden gems and scenic views. Be respectful of the environment and other hikers.
4. **RESERVATIONS MAY BE NEEDED**
Check for reservations for parking, permits, or special events. Plan ahead to avoid disappointment.
5. **ASK A RANGER**
Rangers are experts on the park and its trails. Ask for advice on routes, weather, and safety. They can also provide maps and information.
6. **EXPLORE THE NEW NPS APP**
Download the National Park Service app for maps, trail information, and park news. It's a handy tool for your hike.
7. **KEEP SAFETY IN THE PICTURE**
Stay on the trail and watch your step. Be aware of your surroundings and other hikers. Don't drink alcohol or use drugs.
8. **DON'T PET THE FLUFFY COWS**
Wildlife is wild. Don't touch or feed animals. Observe them from a safe distance. Feeding animals can be dangerous and is illegal.
9. **LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS**
Pack out what you pack in. Leave no trace. Respect the environment and other visitors. Don't litter or damage the park.
10. **RUFFING IT?**
If you have a dog, keep it on a leash. Clean up after your dog. Don't let your dog off-leash in the park.

#PLANLIKEAPARKRANGER

A Hiker's Guide to May Flowers

Spring is here. It is time to get outside and look for the May flowers, the earliest blooming flowers of the season. Here is a guide to help you and your hiking friends take a wildflower walk:



Gumbo Lily (flowers are short-lived and open in the evening)



Easter Daisy (a rarity on the prairie)



Missouri Pincushion (flowers are followed by small red fruits)



Wavyleaf False Dandelion (flowers open first thing in the morning)



Hood's Phlox (the common first flower of the season)



Yellow Wood Sorrel (a favorite among bison)



Missouri Milkvetch (flowers turn to pod fruits)



Torch Flower (flowers turn wispy, known as "prairie smoke")

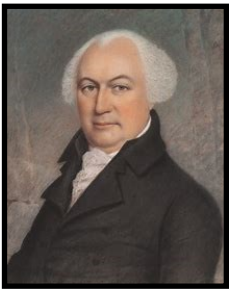


Fringed Puccoon (roots traditionally used for dyes)

Images: NPS @ Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Colorado National Monument, Scottsbluff National Monument; Lady Bird Johnson Flower Center

Biographer's Day! May 16th

Did you know that Theodore Roosevelt wrote several books including historical events, a biography of Gouverneur Morris, as well as his autobiography? May 16th is Biographer's Day and Theodore Roosevelt was as much of a writer as he was a naturalist, a President, and a countryman. With a great number of pieces surrounding the history of the United States and its relations with other nations, he discussed his views on our country's involvement in Japan, Europe, Russia, and many more. He was also able to read and speak in multiple languages letting him research and enjoy a broader range of books throughout his life making him better equipped to handle foreign relations with other countries. His first major published piece was his book detailing the war of 1812 cementing his life as a writer. While in his Maltese Cross Cabin, he wrote vigorously when he wasn't ranching or traveling back to New York. Towards the end of his life, his fifties, he wrote his autobiography just six years before passing away in his sleep from a pulmonary embolism at 60. Theodore knew since his childhood he had a weak heart but he never let that get in the way of living his life.

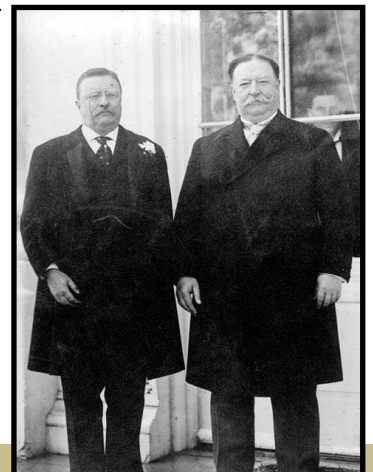


When writing the biography of Gouverneur Morris, Theodore stated that the previous biographers and writers who wrote about Morris lacked effort and outright changed certain aspects of his life and views. Theodore felt that historical accuracy was more important than changing words or phrases readers might view negatively, and after writing a more historically accurate biography in 1888, and including new text and writings of Morris, Theodore continued making his way into politics and three years later became the 26th

President of the United States. This wouldn't stop his love of writing as he composed plenty of speeches and other writings as President. After serving his terms and the 27th and 28th Presidents were inaugurated and in their terms, Theodore wrote about his thoughts on President Taft, President Wilson, and other political standpoints that he approved or disapproved on.

At first Theodore thought Taft was a great man which was evident from his writings of Taft in his book on his involvement in the Philippines. Theodore described him as a man with, "...absolutely unflinching rectitude on every point of public duty, and a literally dauntless courage and willingness to bear responsibility...". After learning of Taft's run for presidency, Theodore supported his campaign since he agreed with Taft's goals for office. Unfortunately, once winning the presidency, Taft's actions were undesirable to Theodore with Taft focusing on more business-oriented policies with less control from the government opposed to a progressive change for the United States.

During Wilson's presidency Theodore also wanted the United States to enter WWI right away to help the other nations in contrast to the Wilson's choice of neutrality. Theodore wrote plenty of letters and speeches that were made through the U.S. about his thoughts on the war even after his youngest son passed away in battle. Some say he was still making his way through the states but with less energy and focus since he was mourning the loss of his son.



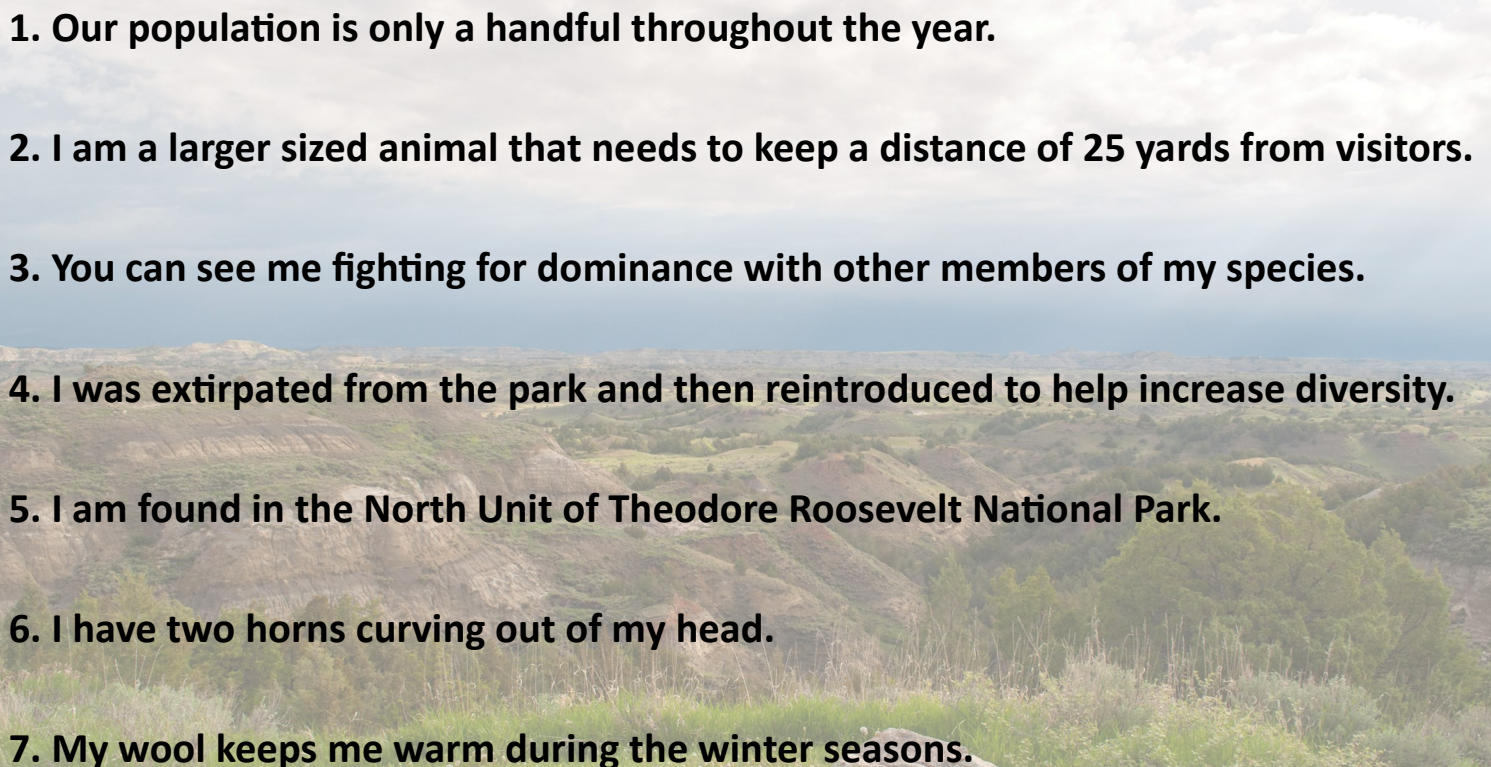
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Last Month's Answer: Painted Canyon Visitor Center

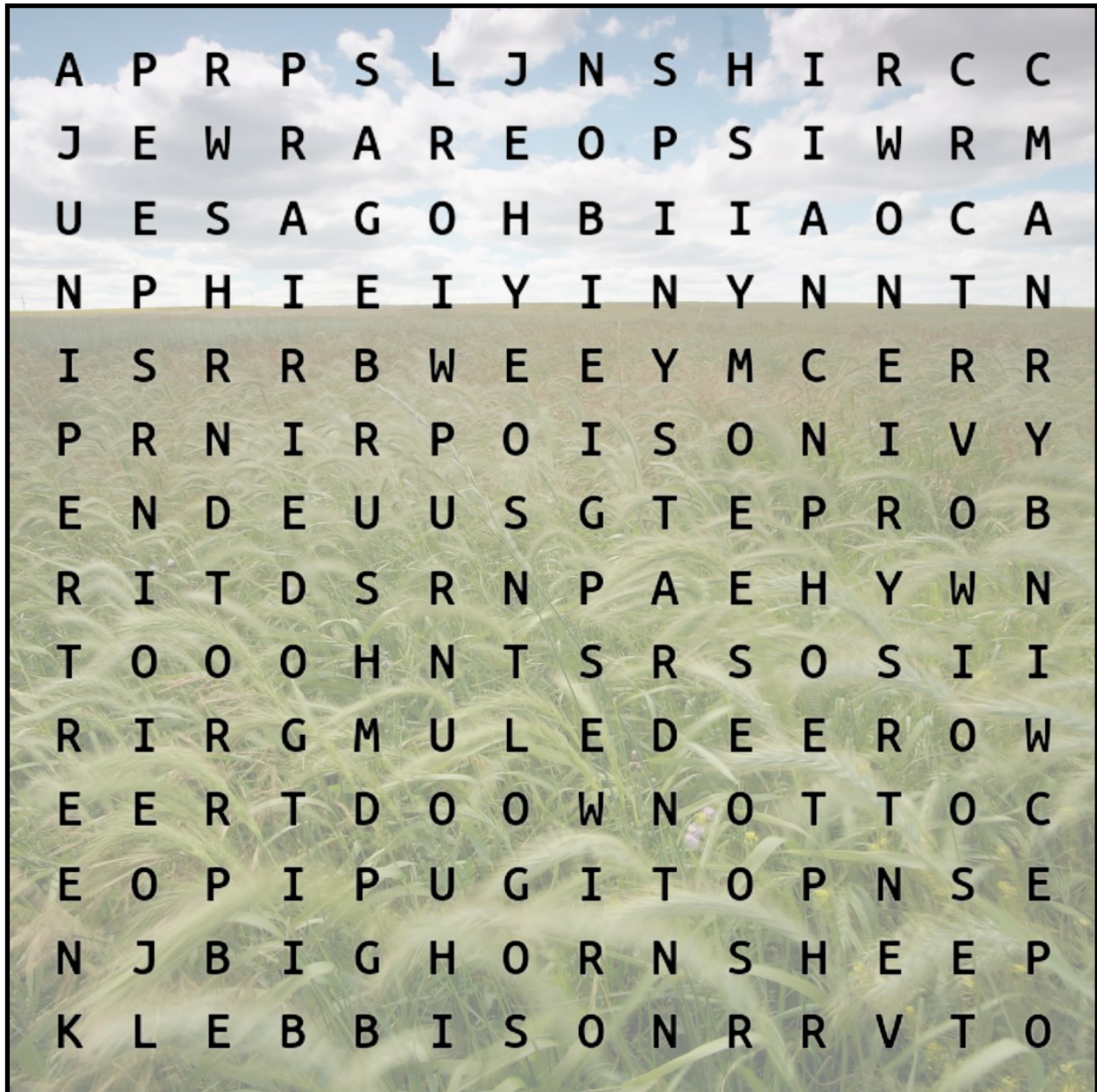
The Painted Canyon Visitor Center is a rest stop right off of Interstate 94 at exit 32. Even though the site may be closed to visitors during the slow season (winter), visitors can still enjoy the scenic overlook into the park and explore the two trails leading into the canyon. Be on the lookout, on May 3rd we are opening Painted Canyon stocked with great products, including new items, and excited staff to assist with questions, events, and operating our visitor centers. Be careful making your way out as our Bison have been known to roam right up to the cattle guard at the entry! Have any questions about planning a trip, about our stores, or in general? Feel free to email info@trnha.org or call 701-623-4884.

Theme: Animals

- 1. Our population is only a handful throughout the year.**
 - 2. I am a larger sized animal that needs to keep a distance of 25 yards from visitors.**
 - 3. You can see me fighting for dominance with other members of my species.**
 - 4. I was extirpated from the park and then reintroduced to help increase diversity.**
 - 5. I am found in the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.**
 - 6. I have two horns curving out of my head.**
 - 7. My wool keeps me warm during the winter seasons.**
- 

TRNHA Word Search

This month's theme is Animals and Plants in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Spring brings our flora back to life with warmer weather and rain showers. Notice the budding trees and flowers and the cute baby wildlife in our park as you travel on our trails or scenic drive! Our impressive Bison population in the North and South Units are perfect for memorable photos. Some months will also feature a secret hidden word which relates to the theme. Do you think this month has one? Let us know!



Bison

Mule Deer

Spiny Star

Prairie Dog

Bighorn Sheep

Juniper Tree

Elk

Sage Brush

Cottonwood Tree

May 2024 Online Coupon

MAY ONLINE SPECIAL!

Spend \$50 and get a free Recycled Bag



Online Only through May 31, 2024

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“May2024” at checkout.

Shop online now at: www.shoptrnha.org

not good with any other discounts.

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- Support wildlife research in Theodore Roosevelt National Park
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- Promote North Dakota's public lands

JUNE 2024

BISON BRIEF

Monthly Update



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT
NATURE AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

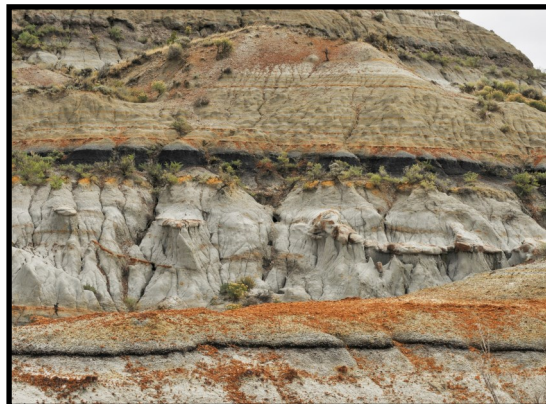
TRNHA June Events and Programs

It's June and the program schedules are filling up for Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association. TRNHA will be kicking off our Adventure Series hikes this weekend with a guided hike at Coal vein. Then we are excited to invite you to check out our kid's event on June 12th and then join our very own Young Theodore Roosevelt on guide hikes at Peaceful Valley.

Remember when hiking to be careful, stay at least 25 yards away from our wildlife and make sure you check for ticks as you leave the area. We could have a hot summer this year so bring plenty of water and sun protection if you plan to be outside for an extended period of time.

Coal Vein Guided Hike—June 9th

Join guides Jesse and Nolan for the first hike on of our Adventure Awaits You Hiking Series. Spend your Sunday morning hiking with TRNHA staff along the Coal Vein Nature Trail. Explore the landscape and learn about the geology of this unique area while hiking 0.8 miles.



Meet us at the Coal Vein Trailhead at 9:50 am MT. Hike will start promptly at 10 am MT and last approximately 2 hours. We encourage you to be a prepared hiker, be sure to bring plenty of water, wear closed-toed shoes, and bring sun gear!



Fossil Games—South Unit June 12th, North Unit June 26th

Interested in learning about fossils and our park? Attend our kid event on June 12th at the Cottonwood Campground or on June 26th at the Juniper Campground! Learn about the geologic layers found in our park including, coal veins, clinker, clays and many more. Participate in a geologic dig (kid demonstration kit) and search for fossils, play games, and make new friends! If you are planning on attending, please rsvp at <https://form.jotform.com/trnha1951/fossil12> and allow 15 minutes to drive there from our South Unit Visitor Center.

Theodore Roosevelt Guided Hike—June 16th

Join TRNHA's Nolan Reynolds as he leads a hike as a Young Theodore Roosevelt through the Peaceful Valley river bottom. Stop by the National Park Visitor Centers to learn more about this hike, Ranger led hikes, and other programs offered daily.

What's in a Name? by Nolan Reynolds

Among historical and National Park enthusiasts alike, it is common knowledge that Theodore Roosevelt National Park (THRO) is unique in its naming. That is, out of the sixty-three sites within the National Park Service (NPS) system that are designated as National Parks proper, THRO is the only one named after a former president of the United States. It has not, however, always been this way.

Interestingly enough, one of the first National Parks established also happened to be named after a former president of the United States. General Grant National Park—founded one week after Sequoia National Park (SEKI) in October, 1890—was created for the purpose of preserving the second tallest sequoia tree. The tree itself—named after President Ulysses S. Grant—was located in a highly accessible area of the redwoods that saw a great deal of logging. Thus, the Department of the Interior (DOI) established the park in order to protect General Grant and the surrounding area (called “Grant’s Grove”). The size of General Grant National Park was a mere four square miles, and located only six miles northwest of SEKI.

General Grant National Park continued to be operated as a stand-alone NPS site for over thirty-years. In the 1920s, a road was constructed in between General Grant and SEKI, making the former more accessible to visitors. At the same time, Congress and the DOI also began discussions of combining the two parks into a single large site—known as Roosevelt National Park. By the mid-1920s, however, the plan for Roosevelt National Park was voted against by the House of Representatives.

It was not until 1935 that “The General’s Highway,” which connects SEKI and General Grant, was finally dedicated. During Franklin D. Roosevelt’s presidency, a plan again went into place to create a single large site out of the two separate units. When the federal government acquired approximately 720 square acres in 1940—which encompassed the area including Kings Canyon—then the plan went into action. The area that was once General Grant National Park became General Grant’s Grove, which can be found today upon visiting Kings Canyon National Park.

In the end, it is—somewhat ironically—FDR that we have to thank for Theodore Roosevelt National Park being the only National Park site named after a former president. Additionally, I suppose we should also thank the House of Representatives for reserving the title of (Theodore) Roosevelt National Park for our glorious region here in the Badlands of North Dakota. Nonetheless, what *could* have been remains an interesting topic to ponder on always.



Ulysses S. Grant Tree—SEKI

A Closer Look: Fee Free Days

Mark your calendars! Schedule your vacation! There are still 4 fee-free days in the calendar year, the days when all National Park Service sites that charge an entrance fee will offer free admission to everyone. This month we take a closer look at what this year's fee free days celebrate (adapted from nps.gov):

January 15: Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was a tireless advocate for racial equality, working classes, and the oppressed around the world. MLK Day is the third Monday in January, a federal holiday to honor his legacy. It is also a day of service when volunteers participate in service projects across the country, including at national parks.

April 20: First day of National Park Week

National Park Week is a nine-day celebration of everything “parks.” During this week, people discover what the National Park Service does through programs and partners at more than 400 sites across the country. This celebration includes Earth Day and kicks off with a fee-free day.

June 19: Juneteenth National Independence Day

Juneteenth (June 19) is one of the oldest known commemorations related to the abolition of slavery in the United States. Juneteenth National Independence Day was signed into law as a national holiday on June 17, 2021. Juneteenth celebrates the date of June 19, 1865, when enslaved people of African descent located in Galveston, Texas, finally learned of the freedom that had been granted through the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863.

August 4: Anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act

The Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), passed in 2020, provides funding to improve infrastructure and expand recreation opportunities in national parks and other public lands. The legislation established the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund and guaranteed permanent funding for the existing Land and Water Conservation Fund.

September 28: National Public Lands Day

Established in 1994 and held annually on the fourth Saturday in September, National Public Lands Day is traditionally the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort. It celebrates the connection between people and green space and encourages use of open space for education, recreation, and health benefits.

November 11: Veterans Day

Veterans Day is always held on November 11, the date that marked the end of World War I. This day is used to commemorate and thank military veterans and has special meaning within the park service. Many national parks have direct connections to the American military—there are dozens of battlefields, military parks, and historic sites that commemorate and honor the service of American veterans.

Learn more, check out “Fee-Free Days in the National Parks,” [click here](#).

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Last Month's Answer: Bighorn Sheep

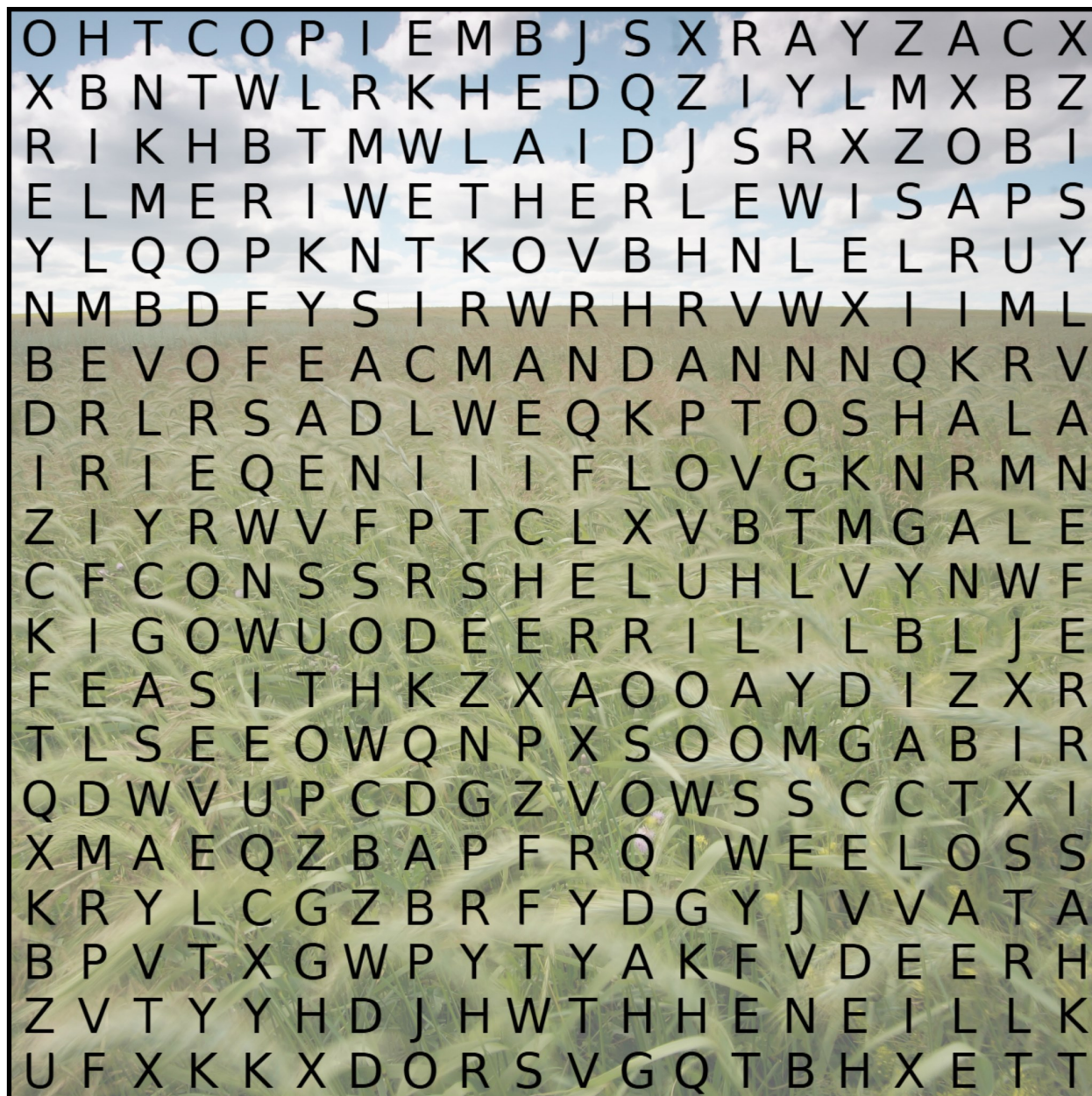
Audubon mountain sheep (*Ovis canadensis auduboni*) were native to the Dakota Territory during Theodore Roosevelt's time in the area, but unfortunately their population declined from ranching efforts which led to their extinction. Later in 1959 California bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis californiana*) were chosen to be the species to be reintroduced into Theodore Roosevelt National Park with five males brought into the park after a successful placement outside of the park. Through the years following the introduction, the herd was reportedly diminishing in size due to sickness and parasites even though the breeding herds located just outside of the park under state regulation were thriving. There isn't a direct reason why the herd in the park was fairing worse than the state regulated herd but it is suspected that a more rugged landscape much like our North Unit suits their needs better. Eventually, in 1982 two rams and four ewes were left, but now there are around 30-40 Bighorn Sheep in our North Unit. You might be able to see a few outside of the park as well since there are some herds above and below our South Unit. If you're lucky you might be able to see our Bighorn Sheep in the North Unit on our Scenic Drive or out on our trails!

Theme: Place

- 1. I have a trail loop going through my area.**
- 2. I was once alive and thriving.**
- 3. I have a type of fossil found throughout the world.**
- 4. I have the third highest concentration of this certain fossil in the US.**
- 5. I belong in the Theodore Roosevelt Wilderness area in the South Unit.**
- 6. I am located at the top left side of the South Unit in TRNP.**
- 7. Taking exit 23 on Interstate 94 going North will bring you to my location.**

TRNHA Word Search

This month's theme is People (singular and collective) in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Do you know who these people were and their history with our parks? Check out the THRO website and KNRI website to learn more about these important people and how they influenced our parks. Some months will also feature a secret hidden word which relates to the theme. Do you think this month has one? Let us know!



Theodore Roosevelt

Hidatsa

Meriwether Lewis

Alice Roosevelt

Mandan

William Clark

Edith Roosevelt

Arikara

Sylvane Ferris



PHOTO CONTEST 2024

THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK

Pick your contest!



**PICTURE
YOURSELF IN
TRNP**

**ADVENTURES
IN TRNP
YOUTH**

Open to All Ages

18 and under

Scan the QR code above or visit
www.trnha.org/photocontest.html
to learn more about this year's contest.

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JUNE ONLINE SPECIAL!



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- Promote North Dakota's public lands

JULY 2024

BISON BRIEF

Monthly Update



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT
NATURE AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

A Closer Look: Rivers

From animals finding a cool drink on a summer afternoon to visitors looking to get the perfect sunset photo along the banks, rivers are an important part of the landscape and history of our National Park sites. This month we take a closer look at the rivers that wind through Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site.

The Little Missouri River

The Little Missouri River flows from its headwaters in eastern Wyoming and continues over 550 miles northward through the South and North Units of Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Since the last glacial period this river has flooded and eroded the landscape, creating the dramatic badlands of western North Dakota. As the river enters the North Unit of the national park, it takes a drastic turn. This turn is called the oxbow and, due to glacial influence, turns eastward. The river joins the Missouri River at Lake Sakakawea.



Little Missouri River at Wind Canyon

Along the banks of the Little Missouri River is where Theodore Roosevelt established his Elkhorn Ranch home. Though the ranch house is no longer standing, adventurous visitors can experience the same scenery and serenity that Theodore Roosevelt found at the ranch in 1884. Today, visitors to any unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park can experience landscape, flora, fauna, and history all made possible by the Little Missouri River.



The Knife River

The Knife River

The Knife River flows from its headwaters around the Killdeer Mountains and continues eastward about 100 miles. The Knife River meets the Missouri River near the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. The rivers shaped the lives of the Mandan and Hidatsa. They built earth lodges from cottonwood and river willow, made pottery from riverbank clay, and traveled along the riverways. Flooding of the region made for fertile soils for growing crops. Today, you can find the remnants of the earth lodge villages and historical gardens along the bank of the Knife River.

Ranger Talks - Laela Pepin

Hello and welcome to a new series in the newsletter titled “Ranger Talks.” My name is Nolan Reynolds, and I am a seasonal Living History Guide here with TRNHA. Throughout this series, I will be interviewing some of Theodore Roosevelt National Park’s (THRO) very own Ranger staff. By doing this, I hope that you—the reader—will not only be able to learn more about the individuals that make the park run, but that you will also be inspired by the tales shared within. Many of the staff working within THRO are seasonal, which means they come from all different walks of life; this is the case with our first highlighted individual today—Ranger Laela Pepin.

(Please note, responses have been edited for clarity and length).

Alright, let’s start with your name, and where you’re from.

My name is Laela Pepin, and I am from Massachusetts.

Awesome. I have some icebreaker questions to start off with. First and foremost, what is your favorite book?

My favorite book would have to be *The Butcher and the Wren* by Alaina Urquhart.

If you were a tree, what type of tree would you be and why?

I would like to be a birch tree. Not only are they unique, and they stand out, but sometimes the layers of bark fall off and they regrow—which I think is kinda cool.

That is a good answer. Okay Laela, what is your dream trip outside of the National Park System?

I have always wanted to go to Australia. I think there is a lot of unique wildlife there that I would love to experience.

Alright, now let’s move onto some of the more serious questions of the interview.

How did you end up in Theodore Roosevelt National Park?

Well, I applied to many National Parks online, and this is the one that called me back, gave me an interview, and eventually the position. I then just decided “let’s do it,” and drove thirty-hours to get here—now here I am.

That’s great. What exactly is your position within the park?

I work in fees as a Recreational Fee Technician, and I am loving it.

Is this your first National Park Service (NPS) position, and did you always want to be a Park Ranger?

This is my first position with the NPS. I guess I did not always want to become a Ranger—I honestly thought it would not be accessible without more experience or education. But within the last couple years, I realized that it was not only something I could do, but something I wanted to do as well.

If you had to pick one, what is your favorite “fun fact” to share with those visiting THRO?

One of my favorite things to talk about is the ancient history of the park, and how it used to be a swamp many years ago. While some people know about it, I would not say that it is common knowledge. I love being able to share that with others as they visit us here.



Continued on page 4

Ranger Talks - Laela Pepin

What are some of your favorite activities to do within the park?

I really enjoy hiking more difficult trails—especially ones that involve fording the Little Missouri River and other smaller creeks within the park. I also love viewing the wildlife in the park, my favorite of which being the bison. They are so unique, and I had never gotten the opportunity to see one prior to coming here.

I could not agree more. What are some “top tips” that you might give individuals visiting our park?

Honestly, my first tip would be to actually stop at the Visitor Center and talk with the Rangers. Before I started this job, I would *never* stop and talk with them when visiting National Parks. Now that I am seeing it from my side, I realize that there is a lot of information that I probably missed out on. Other than that, always bring plenty of water, and a change of socks. One more—just have the best time.

Have the best time?

Yes. Just have the best time.

That might be the best tip of them all. Switching gears, I know that you get the opportunity to work with Junior Rangers pretty regularly—whether it is helping them with their tasks or swearing them in. What is a piece of advice you might give a Junior Ranger that wants to become a Park Ranger like you someday?

Take school seriously, but have a good time. Be involved in as much as you can, whether it is volunteering or interning. While it is important to figure out what you want to do, there are lots of different areas you can study and still become a Park Ranger. Definitely, first and foremost, try to do well in school.

Okay, I just have one more question. If you could live in any National Park—all expenses paid—which National Park would you pick?

I have yet to experience the parks that I think I would really want to live in, mainly the larger ones. That being said, I really love this park. I would probably pick this park (THRO). But, now that I am thinking about it, somewhere with a beach would be really nice. Maybe Yosemite National Park, if not here.

Okay! Well, that’s it!

Did I pass?

You sure did.

While Ranger Laela is just one person, her general outlook on life is not only refreshing, but also shared by many others within the National Park Service. Stay tuned for the next newsletter, where we will be interviewing Ranger Neal Grumbine.



The National Park Service doesn't just hire rangers. We employ mechanics and museum curators, data analysts and landscape architects, engineers and educators, law enforcement officers and firefighters. Many of our employees work on-site in our parks, but we also have a large urban presence in our regional and national offices.

To find opportunities for long-term employment, check out www.usajobs.gov for our current listing of vacancies.

TRNHA July Events and Programs

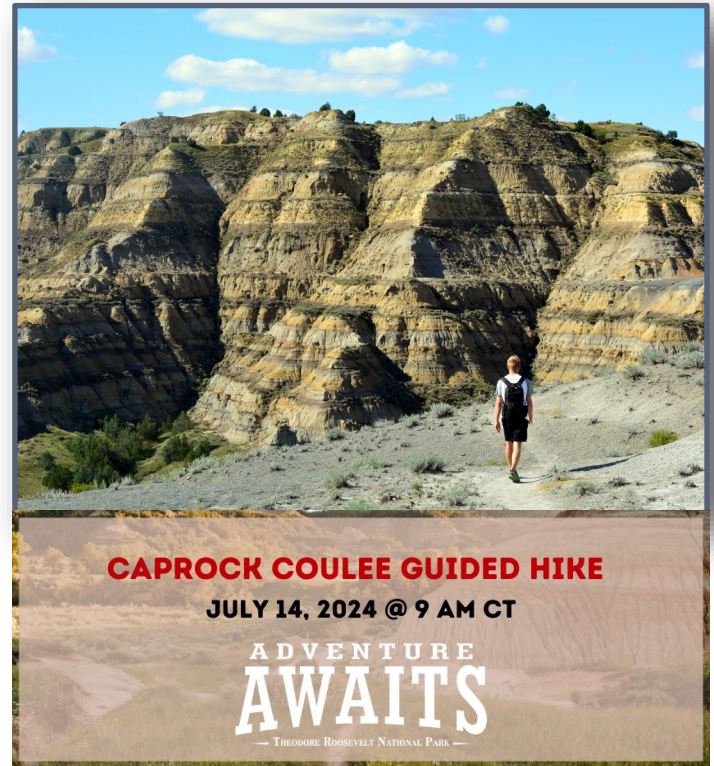
Caprock Coulee Guided Hike: July 14th

Join us on our Adventure Awaits You Hiking Series! Spend your Sunday morning hiking with TRNHA staff along the Caprock Coulee Nature Trail. Experience the North Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park as we hike out-and-back along the nature trail. (1.6 miles total). Registration is recommended but not required.

Meet us at the Caprock Coulee Nature Trail at 8:50 am CT (hike will start at 9 am CT). Program will last approximately 2.5 hours. We encourage you to be a prepared hiker, be sure to bring plenty of water, ear closed-toe shoes and bring sun gear.

Register today at:

<https://form.jotform.com/trnha1951/caprockcoulee>



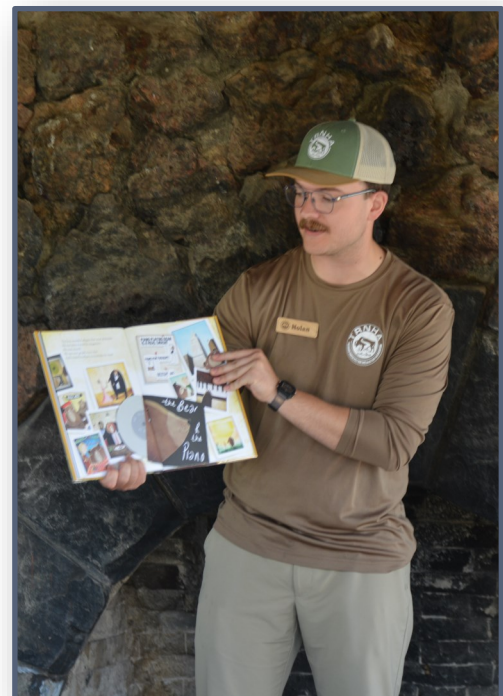
Teddy Bear Picnic:

South Unit July 10th, North Unit July 17th

Attend our kid event on July 10th at the Cottonwood Campground or on July 17th at the Juniper Campground! Learn about the story of how Teddy Bears got their name and Theodore Roosevelt living in the Dakota Territory. Participate in a number games for all ages and make new friends! If you are planning on attending, please rsvp at:

South Unit: <https://form.jotform.com/trnha1951/TB10>

North Unit: <https://form.jotform.com/trnha1951/TB17>



Can You Guess In 7 Hints?

Let's play a game! You have seven hints below to try and guess the theme relating to Theodore Roosevelt National Park or Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Each guess will get more specific to the theme until you reach the answer. How many hints will you need to figure out what it is? Let's find out!

Last Month's Answer: Petrified Forest

The Petrified Forest in Theodore Roosevelt National Park is the third highest concentration of petrified wood in the United States. The coniferous stumps found throughout the area can range in size with the upper bound of 12ft in diameter. Relating to the modern Sequoia, the petrified trees long ago composed a large forest with staggering heights. Interested in the petrified forest trail loop? Take exit 23 on interstate 94 and head north. There is a small parking lot before you begin hiking for those making their way over by car. If you love water, you may also drive into the South Unit scenic drive and hike on one of the trails headed Northwest and cross the river. Just be cautious as the water level may vary depending on a number of factors. Please check in with a ranger or visit the park website to check on the status of the river before crossing. Have any questions about planning a trip, about our stores, or in general? Feel free to email info@trnha.org or call 701-623-4884.

Theme: Person

- 1. I am one of six children.**
- 2. I lived the longest out of my siblings.**
- 3. I share my name with my mother.**
- 4. I was born in Manhattan, New York.**
- 5. I almost lived to 100 years old.**
- 6. I was married to a US Representative.**
- 7. My autobiography is called *Crowded Hours*.**

Get To Know Your Customer Day - July 18th

Each and every day in our National Parks it is an adventure with visitors from all over the world. TRNHA staff operates the Painted Canyon Visitor Center and gets to meet not only people from all over the United States, but many people from Canada and other countries. Each year we put up a map of the United States and have people share pins to show us where they are visiting from. It seems each year more and more people are interested in exploring the beauty of North Dakota's great outdoors and learning about the history of our lands.

Have an idea of something you would like to see in our stores , in our newsletter or maybe an event you would like us to consider hosting? Reach out to our Operations and Marketing Assistant, Justin Hutzenbiler at justin_hutzenbiler@trnha.org to share your thoughts. We're happy to help and look forward to new ideas!



**HAPPY 4TH OF JULY FROM
ALL OF US AT THEODORE
ROOSEVELT NATURE AND
HISTORY ASSOCIATION!**

TRNHA Word Search

This month's theme is Places in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Come and visit our wonderful locations in the park and historic site this summer! Love photography? People all over the world come to our locations to take breathtaking photos of our landscape, wildlife, and history. Some months will also feature a secret hidden word which relates to the theme. Do you think this month has one? Let us know!



Wind Canyon

Caprock Coulee

Boicourt

Painted Canyon

Little Mo

Earth Lodge

Jones Creek

Achenbach

Coal Vein

July 2024 Online Coupon

JULY ONLINE SPECIAL!



TRNP Arrowhead Bottle

15% OFF!

Online Only through July 31, 2024

Use coupon code

"July2024" at checkout.

Shop online now at: www.shoptrnha.org

Not good with any other discounts.

Become a Member

Our members are passionate about our park partners and believe in helping us spread the word about the beauty that can be found in North Dakota. By joining Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association as a member you will be helping us:



- Support educational and interpretive programs
- Enhance the visitor centers in all our partner parks
- Support wildlife research in Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- Publish trail guides, books, and multi-media products to educate our visitors
- Host special events in our parks including Teddy Bear Picnics, Birdwalks, and photo contests
- Promote North Dakota's public lands

AUGUST 2024

BISON BRIEF

Monthly Update



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT
NATURE AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site Invites Community to 50th Anniversary Celebration

STANTON, N.D. – Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site invites all to join in celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the park. To commemorate this historic milestone, we are hosting a big event, Saturday, August 17th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The entire event is family friendly, free, and open to the public. Join us in celebrating our 50th with Native American dancing, storytelling, traditional music, education programs, and so much more!

The event begins at 10 a.m. with a formal opening ceremony. Special guests have been invited to talk about their connections as well as the importance of the site and preserving Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation (MHA) history and culture. The ceremony will feature a special presentation of colors from the Fort Berthold VFW Post 9061, Young Hawk Bear Post 253, and Myran Johnson/Nathan GoodIron Post 271.

Following the opening ceremony, education programs will be offered all day. There will also be a tent featuring cultural opportunities and partnerships. Specialty programs will feature MHA Nation musician Keith Bear, as well as local artist and photographer Shane Balkowitsch.

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site is looking for volunteers to help with the event. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to emilee_franklin@nps.gov.

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic site was designated by Congress as a public park on October 26, 1974 to commemorate the culture and history the MHA Nation as well as other Northern Plains tribes. The purpose of Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site is to preserve, protect, and interpret archaeological and natural resources as they relate to cultural and agricultural lifestyles of Northern Great Plains Indian peoples, and to conduct research to further understand how these lifestyles have changed over time.

Additional information may be found on the Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site Facebook page and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site website on our 50th Anniversary page at www.nps.gov/knri. We hope you can join us in celebrating an amazing 50 years.



Schedule of Events

Saturday, August 17, 2024



Featured Presenters:

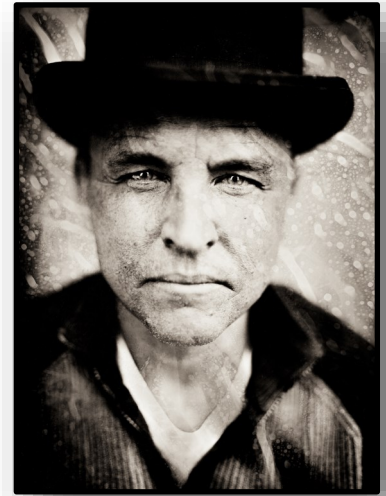
Keith Bear (O'Mashi! Ryu Ta—"Northern Lights")



A member of the Three Affiliated Tribes in Fort Berthold, North Dakota. Keith is an award-winning musician, storyteller and flute maker. He is known all over the world and uses his flute to tell stories.

Shane Blakowitsch

Shane's life's work is titled "Northern Plains Native Americans: A Modern Wet Plate Perspective", 68 international collections have archived his work including the Smithsonian and the Library of Congress. This project is a journey to capture 1000 present day Native Americans on glass plates at his natural light studio.



MAIN STAGE SCHEDULE

- 10:00 am to 11:00 am - Opening Ceremony
- 11:00 am to 12:00 pm - History of Park and Place with Gerard Baker
- 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm - Native American Sign Language with Lanny Real Bird
- 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm - Flute Music by Keith Bear
- 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm - Storytelling with Mike Barthelemy
- 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm - MHA Language Program

EDUCATION TENT SCHEDULE

- 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm - Wet Plate Photography Demo by Shane Blakowitsch
- 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm - Sacagawea's Leather Lodge with Loren Yellow Bird

DANCE ARENA SCHEDULE

11:00 am to 4:00 pm MHA Tourism dance group will be showcasing their talents

Join us for this
**Free Family
Friendly Event!**

For more information contact:
701-745-3300 or
knri_information@nps.gov



Kimi's Food Truck will
be on site with food
available for purchase

**Mark Your
Calendar!**



Theodore Roosevelt National Park Dakota Nights Schedule



FRIDAY, AUGUST 30, 2024

4:30pm-5:30pm Keynote Speaker – TBA -South Unit Visitor Center Theatre

8:30pm-10:00pm Stargazing - Peaceful Valley Ranch (South Unit Scenic Drive mile 7)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 31, 2024

9:00am-10:30am Make Your Own Constellation Story Time
Explore star stories from cultures around the world and make your own constellation!
South Unit Visitor Center Lawn

10:30am-12:00pm Making an Impact!
Join rangers and discover how an impact crater is formed and compare your craters with craters of the moon and other planets! - South Unit Visitor Center Lawn

12:00pm-1:00pm Asteroids
Join Lucas Hutton from the University of North Dakota for a special presentation on Asteroids and Asteroid Shape Modeling. - South Unit Visitor Center Theatre

2:00pm-4:00pm Make a Straw Rocket
Create a paper rocket that can be launched from a soda straw – then, modify the design to make the rocket fly farther! - South Unit Visitor Center Lawn

2:00pm-4:00pm Stargazing the Sun: A Solar Scope Spectacular
Discover the intricate details of the Sun's surface, witness mesmerizing solar flares, and learn about the science behind our solar system's powerhouse. -South Unit Visitor Center Lawn

4:30pm-5:30pm Keynote Speaker – TBA - South Unit Visitor Center Theatre

8:30pm-10:00pm Stargazing - Peaceful Valley Ranch (South Unit Scenic Drive mile 7)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

9:00am-10:30am Kaleidoscopes
Join Ranger Sydney and make your very own kaleidoscope. -South Unit Visitor Center lawn

10:30am-12:00pm Night Explorer Junior Ranger
Junior Rangers will learn how to find the North Star, write their own creative mythology about the constellations, track the phases of the moon, learn about stars and galaxies, use all their senses to explore the night environment at a national park, and earn a junior ranger badge. - South Unit Visitor Center lawn

12:00pm-1:00pm A Talk with Ranger Claire - South Unit Visitor Center Theatre

2:00pm-4:00pm Universe in a Cup
Be an Astronomer! Use different tools to explore the universe in a cup, see what you can discover using the scientific method. - South Unit Visitor Center Lawn

2:00pm-4:00pm Stargazing the Sun: A Solar Scope Spectacular
Discover the intricate details of the Sun's surface, witness mesmerizing solar flares, and learn about the science behind our solar system's powerhouse. - South Unit Visitor Center Lawn

4:30pm-5:30pm Keynote Speaker – TBA - South Unit Visitor Center Theatre

8:30pm-10:00pm Stargazing - Peaceful Valley Ranch (South Unit Scenic Drive mile 7)

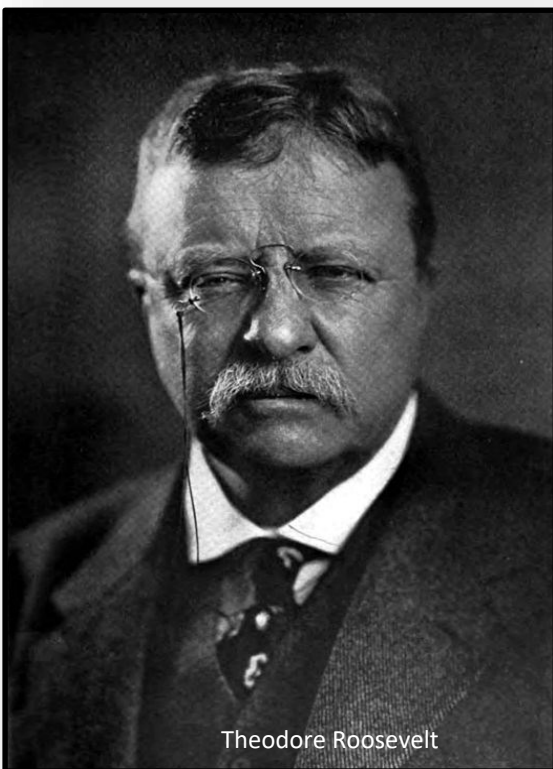
Park Service Founders Day

Each year, people travel from all over the world to see and enjoy hundreds of historic and natural areas across the United States—perhaps the most recognizable of which being the sixty-three National Parks that dot our country. In large part, this is thanks to the efforts of influential people throughout our nation’s history, politicians or otherwise. It is due to both the preservation and conservation of these regions that the intrinsic beauty and historical importance can be passed down to future generations. Naturally, we couldn't talk about any of these ideals without mentioning the man who planted many of the seeds, Theodore Roosevelt.



Even though he grew up in the large city of New York, Roosevelt found an early fascination with the natural world; from the birds in the air, to the plants on the ground, he loved it all. As Roosevelt grew, so did his emotions towards the wilderness. Before he knew it, he would be hunting animals for sport, and using his naturalist skills to preserve the hides and bones for historical and scientific purposes.

Roosevelt’s 1883 trip to the Dakota Territory would be no exception, as he aimed to hunt a bison—an animal that was nearing extinction at the time. The following year, Roosevelt would return to the Badlands of Dakota, and be forced to find a new emotional meaning in the landscape. He had just suffered the loss of his wife and mother, who both died on the same day: February 14th, 1884—Saint Valentine’s Day. Through time, he was able to heal his heart, mind, body, and soul in the very lands now preserved by Theodore Roosevelt National Park.



Theodore Roosevelt

After personally seeing multiple populations of wildlife dwindle down to the point of extirpation, Roosevelt wanted to do anything in his power to preserve the natural areas within the United States. Of course, his ability to do so was not great until he was thrust into the presidency following the assassination of President William McKinley. Now that he had transitioned into the powerful executive role, Roosevelt was able to use his political prowess to accomplish a number of goals with conservation in mind. Throughout his stint in the White House, a great number of public lands were preserved as National Parks and Monuments—such as the Grand Canyon NM and Petrified Forest NM—thanks to the Antiquities Act of 1906. In total, Roosevelt would preserve over 230 million acres of public lands.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Park Service Founder Day (Continued from page 5)

Be this as it may, it was not until August 25, 1916, that the National Park Service (NPS) was established. On this day, President Woodrow Wilson would sign the National Park Service Organic Act, which would mandate the agency to conserve the scenery, natural, and historical objects and wildlife within these public lands, leaving them unimpaired for future enjoyment. It is due to the efforts of people such as these two former presidents, and the men and women that put in the ground work, that we are now able to continue enjoying these sites today.

The NPS has now grown extensively into an impressive collection of talented and dedicated individuals, who continue to work with conservation, nature, and history in mind. Within our park, the Theodore Roosevelt Nature & History Association (TRNHA) has been proud to also grow, following our establishment in 1951. As we continue to move forward, members of both TRNHA and NPS will proceed down this path of preserving this region for future recreation.

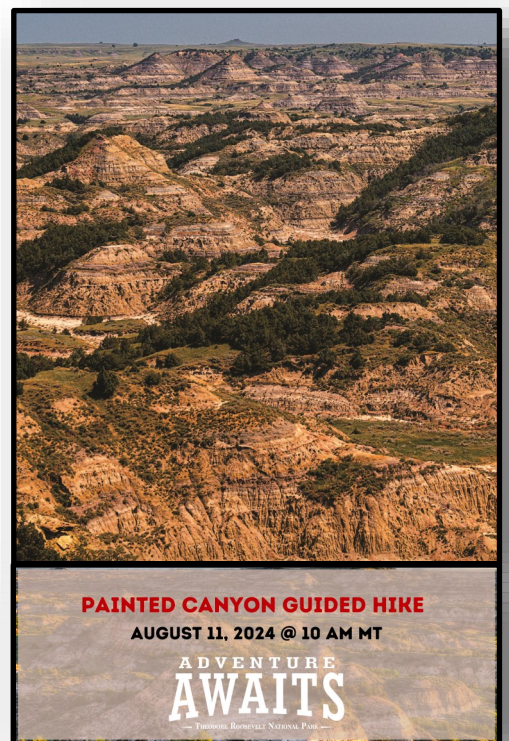


Final Adventure Awaits You Hike

Our last Adventure Awaits guided hike will be the Painted Canyon Nature Trail on Sunday, August 11, at 10 AM MT. Spend your Sunday morning hiking with TRNHA staff along the Painted Canyon Nature Trail. Discover or rediscover this most scenic spot in the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

Meet at the Painted Canyon Visitor Center and be prepared for the weather. Painted Canyon is notoriously windy with little cover from wind or sun. Bring a water bottle, sun protection, and closed-toe shoes. Plan for 1 1/2 hours to complete this approximately 1 mile hike. Please note: the trail features some steep terrain and some stairs. Registration is requested but not necessary, all children must be accompanied by an adult.

<https://form.jotform.com/trnha1951/PaintedCanyon>



Summer Fund

Thanks to your continued support, TRNHA was able to offer more programs than ever this summer! We kicked off the season with our 70th Annual Birdwalk. Throughout the summer, we were able to offer guided adventure hikes and living history tours of the Maltese Cross Cabin. In both the North Unit and South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park (TRNP), a very special program called “Fossil Games” helped kids learn about the fossil resources protected within our park and earn Junior Fossil Explorer badges. Then, to celebrate National Teddy Bear Picnic Day, kids were invited to a story and a craft. We had an awesome turnout from national visitors and local communities. But the fun isn’t over.



TRNHA will be hosting one more guided Adventure Hike of the Painted Canyon area of TRNP and we will join our partners at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Follow us on social media for more details - We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events or during your vacation getaway in



Ranger Talks - Neal Grumbine

Hello and welcome to the next installment in our “Ranger Talks” series. My name is Nolan Reynolds, and I am a seasonal Living History Guide here with TRNHA. Throughout this series, I will be interviewing some of Theodore Roosevelt National Park’s (THRO) very own Ranger staff. By doing this, I hope that you—the reader—will not only be able to learn more about the individuals that make the park run, but that you will also be inspired by the tales shared within. Many of the staff working within THRO are seasonal, which means they come from all different walks of life; however, for this interview, I will be speaking with a permanent staff member—Ranger Neal Grumbine. **(Please note, responses have been edited for clarity and length).**

Alright, let’s start with your name, and where you’re from. My name is Neal Grumbine, and I am originally from a town in central Arkansas called Cabot.

Okay, I have some icebreaker questions to start off with. This one stumped our last ranger for a period of time—what is your favorite book? That’s a tough one. I would have to answer with a series of books, my favorite of which being *The Wheel of Time* by Robert Jordan. Not only is the series highly enjoyable, but it is also how I met my wife!



Well, hopefully I get to hear more of that story later—for now, we’ll continue. If you were a tree, what type of tree would you be and why? I would like to be a pecan tree. Not only are pecans my favorite nut, but it’s a very useful wood—you can smoke BBQ, make furniture, and do lots of things with it.

That is a good answer. Okay Neal, what is your dream trip outside of the National Park System?

I have been to Hawaii with my wife, but I would like to go back at some point and do some extra things we missed. Otherwise, I think a European river cruise would be really nice.

Alright, now let’s move onto some of the more serious questions of the interview. How did you end up in Theodore Roosevelt National Park? To be frank, I really wanted to find a permanent job within the National Park Service, and this was one of the first available to me. After working seasonally for so long, I was ready for something different.

That’s great. What exactly is your position within the park? My official job title is that of a Recreational Fee Technician. At the most basic level, I sell people National Park passes, count their money, and take it to the bank. However, as with most jobs in the National Park Service, there are lots of opportunities to perform other tasks outside that specific duty.

You mentioned that you have worked other seasonal positions within the National Park Service. Could you elaborate on that? I did one season at the President William Jefferson Clinton Birthplace Home National Historic Site (which is somehow only the second longest title out of all the NPS sites), which is when I met my wife. After that, we moved to St. Louis, Missouri, where I worked three summer seasons at Gateway Arch National Park. As you could imagine, life as a married seasonal is very difficult. So, after my fourth summer of seasonal work, I started looking for permanent positions... Now here I am!

Continued on Page 9

Ranger Talks - Neal Grumbine (continued from page 8)

And we are glad you're here. If you had to pick one, what is your favorite "fun fact" to share with those visiting THRO? I think my favorite would be that—even though we are a relatively small park land wise (~70,000 acres)—we still have the third largest concentration of petrified wood out of all NPS sites. That being said, I think our park is awesome because of the variety we have here. There is something for everyone.

What are some of your favorite activities to do within the park? Honestly, I think it might just be taking the scenic drive, stopping at pull-outs, and looking for wildlife.

Sometimes the simplest things are the best. What are some "top tips" that you might give individuals visiting our park? My three biggest tips would probably be applicable across the National Park system in its entirety. The first would be to carry lots of water. Second, don't put your hands in holes. And lastly, do not pet the fluffy cows.

It is rather unfortunate that last one must be said, but, it does. Switching gears a little here, did you always want to be a National Park Ranger? I wasn't sure... When I was in college, I did not know what I wanted to do. For a period of time, I thought about going to law school. However, once I finished college, I had the opportunity to do an internship within a museum back home in Arkansas. I loved everything about that experience—from interacting with the public to telling the stories. More than anything, that job really made me think about what I wanted to do with the rest of my life. I don't want to say "what I wanted to do when I grow up," because I have yet to do that. After that experience, I realized that perhaps the best placement for someone who wants to interact with people and tell stories would be within the National Park system.

I think you're exactly right. We certainly get to tell stories here—which is something I know we all value about our careers in this field. You get the opportunity to work with Junior Rangers pretty regularly—whether it is helping them with their tasks or swearing them in. What is a piece of advice you might give a Junior Ranger that wants to become a Park Ranger like you someday? Well, first of all, I will say that you're never too old to be a Junior Ranger. As someone who was a Junior Ranger at multiple sites before I ever got to where I am now, perhaps the best advice is to just do it. You don't need to have a specific degree, or a specific background, or even know exactly what you want to do. There are so many options within the National Park Service.

That truly is the most important piece of that puzzle: just doing it. Okay, I just have one more question. If you could live in any National Park—all expenses paid—which National Park would you pick? At the moment, I am torn between Hawai'i Volcanoes and Dry Tortugas National Parks... I will need to think about that a bit more, but I think I would enjoy both.

Okay! That's all I have for you!

While Ranger Neal is just one person, his general outlook on the public lands and the opportunities therein are shared by many others within the National Park Service. Thank you for following along with this series of Ranger Talks! Until next time.



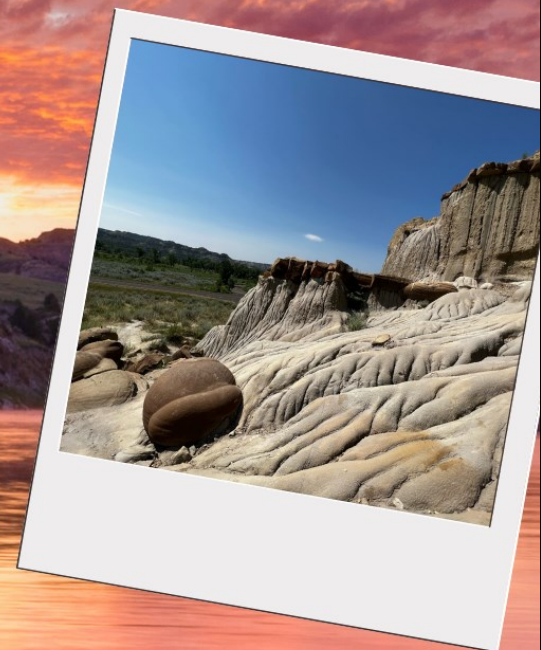
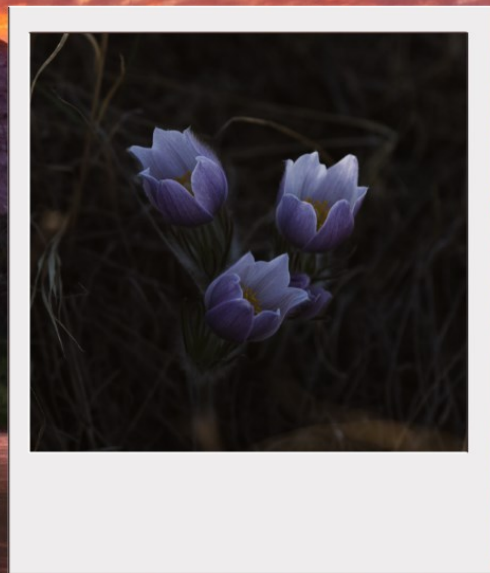
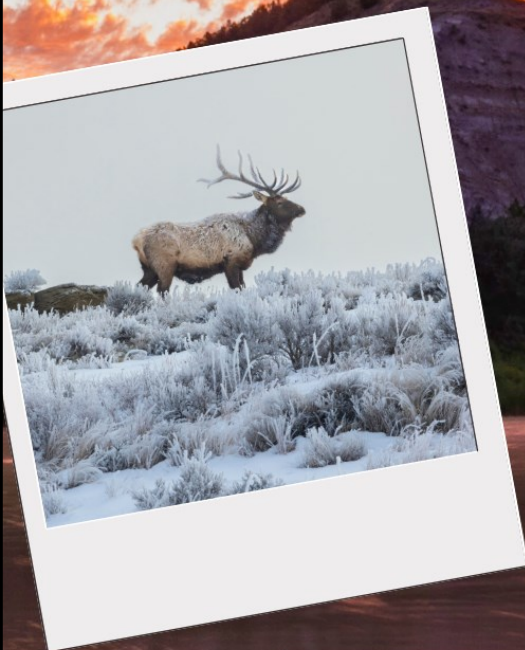
TRNP Photo Contest 2024

Picture Yourself in TRNP Photo Contest

- It's the Small Things
- Beautiful Creatures
- My Favorite Ranger
- Naturally Formed

Adventures in TRNP Youth Photo Contest

- Up to 9 years old
- 10 to 13 years old
- 14 to 18 years old



Last Submissions Due
August 31
www.trnha.org

Can You Guess In 7 Hints?

Let's play a game! You have seven hints below to try and guess the theme relating to Theodore Roosevelt National Park or Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Each guess will get more specific to the theme until you reach the answer. How many hints will you need to figure out what it is? Let's find out!

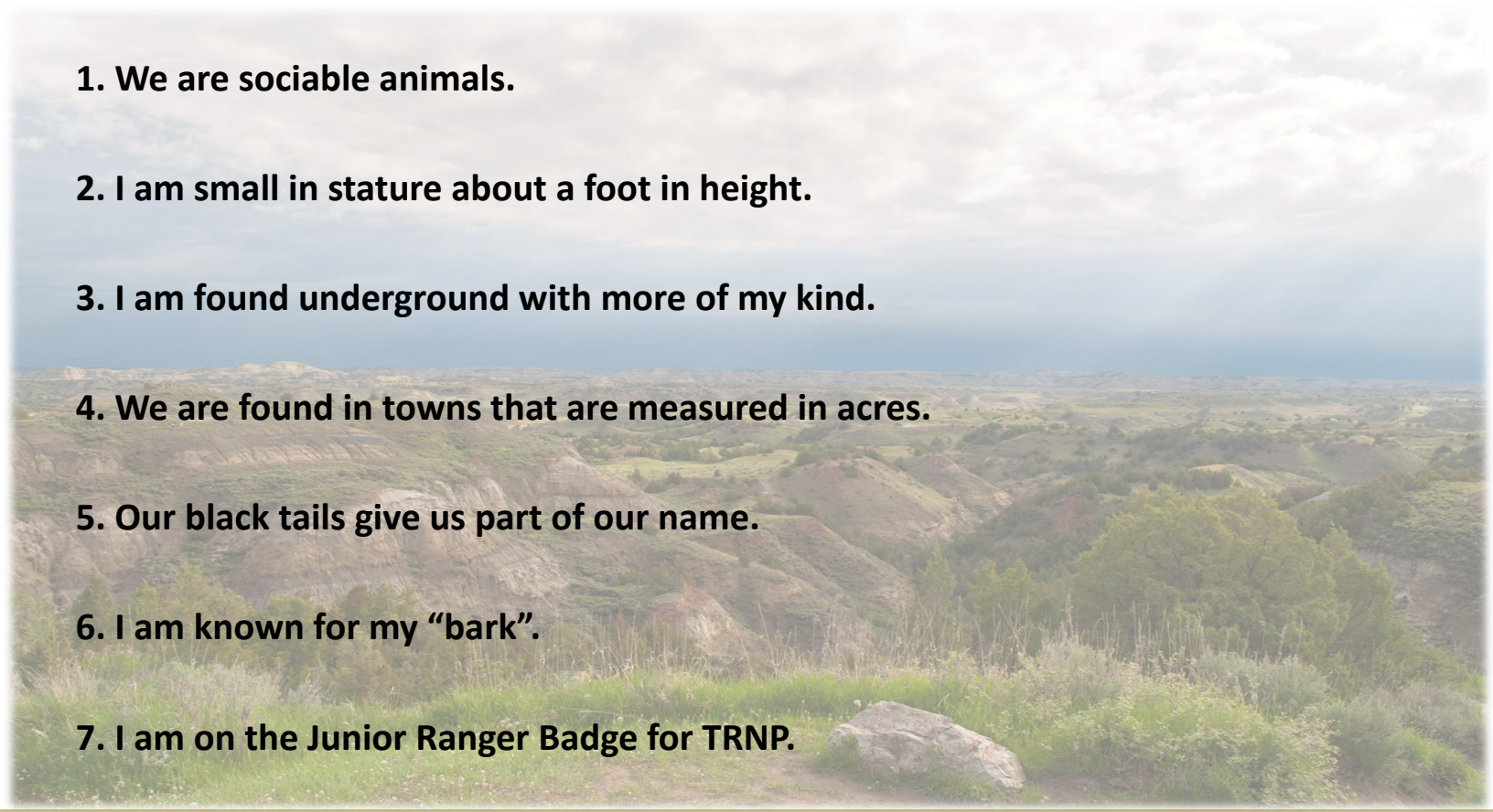
Last Month's Answer: Alice Lee Roosevelt Longworth

Alice Lee Roosevelt Longworth (1884-1980) was the only daughter of Alice Hathaway Lee Roosevelt and Theodore Roosevelt. She was born on February 12, 1884. Her mother and paternal grandmother died two days later. Her aunt, Anna Roosevelt, raised her until her father married Edith Kermit Carow in December 1886.

Alice Roosevelt was a celebrity First Daughter known for antics like smoking on the White House roof, carrying a snake in her purse, and betting at horse races. Her parents swallowed their aggravation because the public clearly adored her. In 1905, she accompanied congressmen to Asia as a goodwill ambassador for the Administration, the first First Daughter to act in this capacity.

The above text about Alice Roosevelt Longworth can be on the Theodore Roosevelt Center's website. Read the complete text and learn more about Alice Roosevelt Longworth at: [TR Center - Longworth, Alice Lee Roosevelt \(theodorerooseveltcenter.org\)](http://theodorerooseveltcenter.org)

Theme: Animal

- 1. We are sociable animals.**
 - 2. I am small in stature about a foot in height.**
 - 3. I am found underground with more of my kind.**
 - 4. We are found in towns that are measured in acres.**
 - 5. Our black tails give us part of our name.**
 - 6. I am known for my "bark".**
 - 7. I am on the Junior Ranger Badge for TRNP.**
- 

TRNHA Word Search

This month's theme is Geology in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Come and see the coal veins, buttes, caprocks, and petrified wood in our park! Want to learn about our geology in the park? Go through our museum and watch our park film which talks about the geology and history of the area. Grab one of our informative books about the geologic layers in our state. Some months will also feature a secret hidden word which relates to the theme. Do you think this month has one? Let us know!



Ash

Coal Vein

Sand

Bentonite Clay

Fossils

Sandstone

Clinker

Petrified Wood

Silt

August 2024 Online Coupon

August ONLINE SPECIAL!



Dangerous & Unpredictable
Leather Ornament

15% OFF!

Online Only through August 31, 2024

Use coupon code

“August2024” at checkout.

Shop online now at: www.shoptrnha.org

Not good with any other discounts.

Become a Member

Our members are passionate about our park partners and believe in helping us spread the word about the beauty that can be found in North Dakota. By joining Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association as a member you will be helping us:



- Support educational and interpretive programs
- Enhance the visitor centers in all our partner parks
- Support wildlife research in Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- Publish trail guides, books, and multi-media products to educate our visitors
- Host special events in our parks including Teddy Bear Picnics, Birdwalks, and photo contests
- Promote North Dakota's public lands

SEPTEMBER 2024

BISON BRIEF

Monthly Update



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT
NATURE AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

Campground Rates in TRNP

On October 1, 2024, the rates for Theodore Roosevelt National Park campgrounds will change. Fee changes will include the Cottonwood Campground, Cottonwood Group site, Juniper Campground, Juniper Group site, and Roundup Group Horse Camp campground.

The Cottonwood Campground and Juniper Campground new fee will be \$20 from May 15 through September 30. Valid Senior Pass or Access Pass holders camp for half price at those sites. The Cottonwood Group and Juniper Group sites will be \$60. October 1 through May 15 the Cottonwood and Juniper campgrounds are half price with individual sites at \$10.

Roundup Group Horse Camp, South Unit equestrian site fee will be \$70. Reservations for group sites can be requested online beginning March 1, 2025. Cottonwood and Juniper sites can be reserved from May 15 through September 30. Roundup Group Horse Camp can be reserved from May 15 through October 31. Roundup Group Horse Camp is closed November 1 through May 14.

The last fee increases in camping rates occurred in 2015. After research of local campground rates in the surrounding area, the proposed rate increases were found to be comparable with current market rates for similar services.

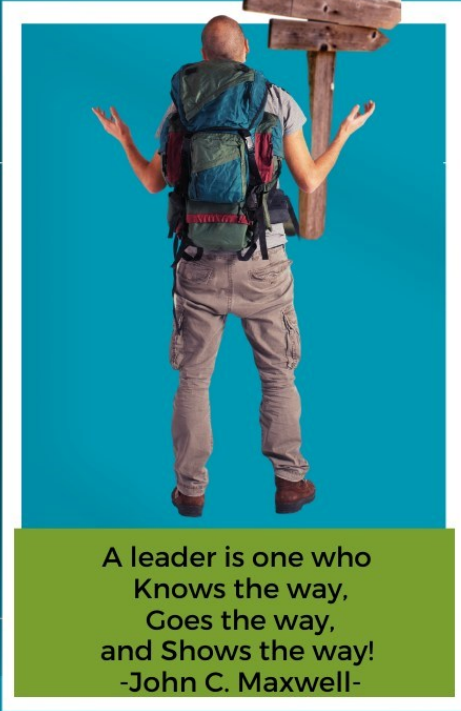
Campgrounds are a popular destination for park visitors. Fees provide a vital source of revenue for needed facility maintenance, future campground improvement projects, and increased costs associated with campground operations. Past fee improvements include new comfort stations, improved accessible walkways in the campgrounds, and accessible trail work. Anticipated future fee revenue projects include rehabbing water and wastewater systems in the campgrounds, replacing sidewalks in visitor use areas, and restoring historic fencing at Peaceful Valley Ranch.

Additional information about camping and Theodore Roosevelt National Park can be found on the park website www.nps.gov/thro.





Theodore Roosevelt
Nature and History Association



A leader is one who
Knows the way,
Goes the way,
and Shows the way!
-John C. Maxwell-

BOARD MEMBERS WANTED

Make a Difference

TRNHA is looking for individuals who are enthusiastic and passionate about our parks to help lead our organization.

If this is you and you are interested in learning more please contact Tracy Sexton:

tracy_sexton@trnha.org

Nominate yourself and learn more at:
www.trnha.org/volunteer.htm

TRNHA Board Elections are just around the corner, and we are looking for enthusiastic individuals to consider joining our Board of Directors.

Interested applicants should submit an application or contact Tracy by September 30, 2024 to be included on the October ballot. Every application received by September 30th will be included on our October ballot.

Ballots will be sent to our membership in early October with the newly elected board members taking their position on the board at our annual board meeting on November 16, 2024

Board members must meet the following criteria:

- Attend a minimum of 3 meetings a year. Meetings are held quarterly with one in March, June, September, and November.
- Make a serious commitment to participate in association and park events.
- Stay informed about TRNHA matters, prepare themselves for meetings, and review all minutes and reports.
- Get to know fellow board members, park staff, and TRNHA staff. It is important that you build a solid working relationship and work together to achieve our goals.
- Actively interpret the organization's work and values to the community, represent the organizations, and act as a spokesperson.
- Be a member of TRNHA.

Interested potential Board Members should complete an **BOARD APPLICATION**.

2025 Picture Yourself in TRNP Photo Contest

If you missed out on this year's photo contest keep your eyes peeled for next year's contest. Submission will be accepted at the beginning of April, 2025! Stay tuned for the announcement of our 2024 Picture Yourself in TRNP and Youth Adventures Photo Contest later this year. Thank you to everyone who submitted their photos to this year's contest and GOOD LUCK! We're glad to see such enthusiasm in visiting Theodore Roosevelt National Park and can't wait to reward our winners for their hard work in participating in the contests.



Public Lands Day



Join the National Park Service for National Public Lands Day on September 28, 2024! Since 1994, this annual event on the fourth Saturday of September has been the nation's largest single-day volunteer effort. Last year, over 130 national parks hosted events with 7,600 volunteers donating an impressive 41,500 hours of service. All national parks that charge an entrance fee will offer free admission to everyone on September 28, 2024 in celebration of National Public Lands Day. Take a look at a map there might even be a public land right next to you ready for you to explore without having the hassle of planning a long trip!

Fall Is Coming!



REASONS WHY FALL IS AMAZING IN
THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATIONAL PARK!

Less People

Fall Colors

Cooler Temperatures

Earlier Sunsets

Hiking Trails are quiet

September Skies

The annual Dakota Night's Astronomy Festival (and the New Moon) fell upon the first weekend in September this year. Hundreds of people came out for kid's activities, keynote speakers, and telescope viewings.

Whether or not you were able to join in on the fun, the rest of September promises to be an exceptional time to keep your eye on... the moon!

September 14 marks International Observe the Moon Night. People all over the world are encouraged to check out Earth's celestial buddy. If you can't get outside, there are plenty of ways to learn something interesting from the comfort of your own home.

For instance, you can check out Moon Trek, an interactive digital map of the moon created with NASA data. [Click here to check out Moon Trek.](#)



Lunar Cycles, NPS Photo/Jeff Zylland



The Milky Way, NPS Photo/Jeff Zylland

Just a few days later, September 17, comes September's full moon – the Harvest Moon. However, this harvest moon is also a supermoon and will bring a partial lunar eclipse to some areas. There are four supermoons scheduled for 2024 and September will be the second of four.

A Supermoon occurs when the full moon is at its closest distance from Earth on its orbit. On this evening, the moon will be approximately 226,000 miles from Earth and will appear larger and brighter. On this night, a small part of the moon will be eclipsed in the evening, shading of one side will be visible in North America in evening hours (about 10:44 ET on the East Coast, approximately 7:44 PT on the West Coast). Around these nights, Saturn will appear close to the moon and be easy to identify.

There's so much to see on these cool, crisp September nights. The wonders of the night sky serve as a reminder of why we work together to protect the natural treasures of North Dakota's national parks.

Sources: NASA.gov; earthsky.org; NASA-International Observe the Moon Night

Can You Guess In 7 Hints?

Let's play a game! You have seven hints below to try and guess the theme relating to Theodore Roosevelt National Park or Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Each guess will get more specific to the theme until you reach the answer. How many hints will you need to figure out what it is? Let's find out!

Last Month's Answer: Black-tailed Prairie Dog

The prairie dogs in Theodore Roosevelt National Park can be found all over the North and South Units. Normally measured in acres, the population is controlled by the weather in the area with the growing and shrinking of our grasses. These can fluctuate between the years as the amount of precipitation controls the growth of our vegetation. The towns are characterized by an area of land scattered with mounds of dirt with holes at the center of each mound creating a network of tunnels. The tops of the mounds and surrounding ground can be barren of vegetation as the prairie dogs feed on the new grasses that shoot up from the exposed dirt. This new grass can also be a good source of food for our bison since they enjoy the fresh grass with the prairie dogs. Being a sociable animal, prairie dogs can be found hugging, wrestling, and running around with other members of their towns throughout the day. Their natural predators in the park are coyotes and hawks especially during the summer season as their population grows with the warmer weather. They may look cute and adorable but don't forget they are wild and shouldn't be touched or given anything.

Theme: Geology

- 1. I was once organic matter.**
- 2. I can be found in different layers of earth throughout the world.**
- 3. Through heat and pressure and time I can be formed from plants and animals.**
- 4. I can be found under red porcelanite or clinker, sometimes called scoria.**
- 5. Prairie dogs can become dark in color from burrowing through my layers.**
- 6. During storms I have a chance of catching fire.**
- 7. I had a fire in Theodore Roosevelt National Park that lasted over 20 years.**

Theodore Roosevelt Becomes President

Theodore Roosevelt didn't become President in a normal manner by seeing the outcome of an election like most Presidents. He did however become President McKinley's 2nd in command as Vice President in the election of 1900. Roosevelt's political rivals persuaded him to run for Vice President as a way to keep him occupied instead of pursuing another term as the Governor of New York. He eventually agreed to be McKinley's running mate and proceeded to make his way through the US to campaign for the Republican Party stopping to speak at hundreds upon hundreds of cities.

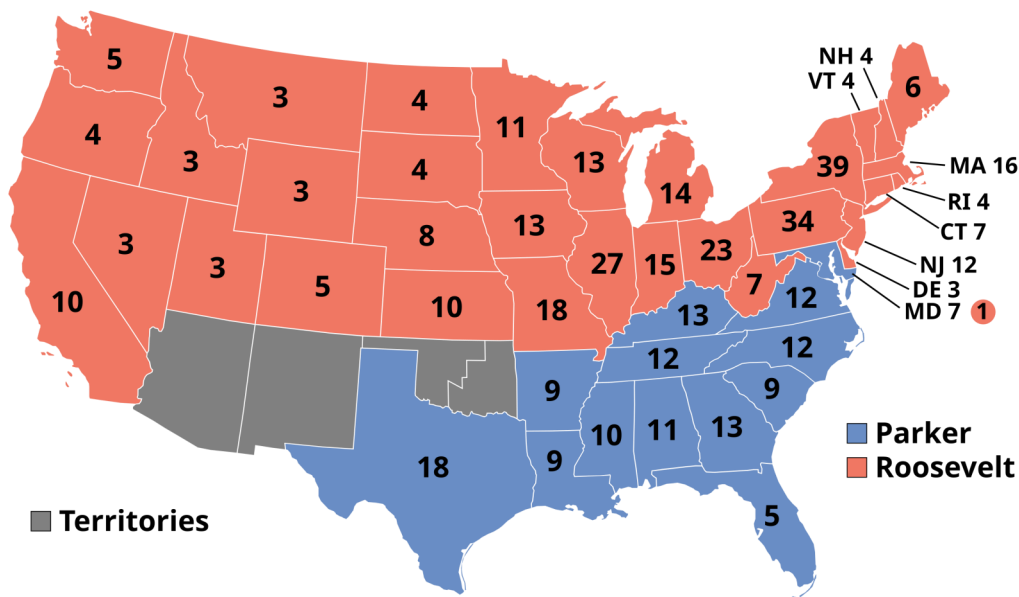


McKinley's Assassination

After securing the election with 292 electoral votes William McKinley was nominated as President. He gained more votes than he had on his previous term showing how popular their campaign had been. Unfortunately, in September of 1901 not even a year after being elected McKinley was shot and passed away days later plunging Roosevelt into his new duty as President.

Being given this opportunity to reform policies and gaining more power Roosevelt used his time in office to work towards conserving our natural lands and trust busting. The public loved the actions he took and in 1904 Roosevelt won his 2nd term in office making this election the first time in American history where a person was elected for another term after serving as President without being elected.

We can still see the effects of Roosevelt's Presidency today as you make your way through our Public Lands. Even though the public also liked McKinley's Presidency and policies he made in office, Roosevelt made a considerable contribution to our society. Head to <https://www.nps.gov/thro/index.htm> to learn more about the history of Theodore Roosevelt, the national park, and our events and programs you can enjoy here in Theodore Roosevelt National Park.



1904 Election Map

Blue—Parker, 140 Votes

Red—Roosevelt, 336 Votes

By AndyHogan14 - Kazuyangu, Public Domain

TRNHA Word Search

This month's theme is Hiking Supplies for our trails in Theodore Roosevelt National Park and Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Do you have all the supplies you need to explore our trails in the North and South Units? Check out our list of items you might want to bring with you in case of emergencies. Not everything is necessary but it doesn't hurt to be prepared! One of the most important things to have is plenty of water especially when it's hot outside with little to no shade from the sun. Some months will also feature a secret hidden word which relates to the theme. Do you think this month has one? Let us know!



Bug Spray

Hiking Shoes

Sunscreen

First Aid Kit

Jacket

Umbrella

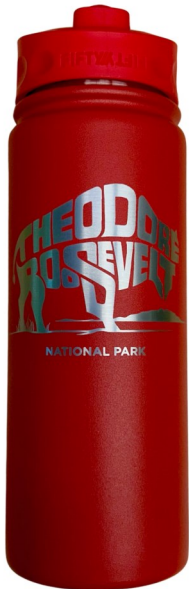
Food

Map

Water

September 2024 Online Coupon

September ONLINE SPECIAL!



Bison Logo Water Bottle

18oz w/straw

15% OFF!

Online Only through September 30, 2024

Use coupon code

"September2024" at checkout.

Shop online now at: www.shoptrnha.org

Not good with any other discounts.

Become a Member

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- Offer housing assistance for Volunteers and Interns
- Provide support staff in visitor centers

Learn more at: www.trnha.org/membership.htm

OCTOBER 2024

BISON BRIEF

Monthly Update



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT
NATURE AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

TRNHA Board of Directors Election

Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association is blessed to be governed by an ambitious group of directors, who provide great insight to our daily operations and partnership with our National Park Service Partners. Each board member serves without compensation and brings a unique skill set to our organization making them a valuable asset to our organization and park partner. The board determines all policy matters and oversee the Association's activities through the Executive Director.



It is once again time for our Board of Directors Election and this is a task we ask our membership to assist us with each year. *(If you aren't a member but would like to be part of our election, learn more about our organization, and show your support, you can purchase a membership today at: [TRNHA Membership – Theodore Roosevelt Nature & History Association \(shoptrnha.org\)](https://shoptrnha.org))* This election cycle, we have two vacancies to fill as Jodi Johnson and Chelsey Erdmann's terms have concluded. As a member, your participation is crucial to shaping the board, which comprises seven directors serving staggered three-year terms.

In an effort to cut back on cost and hopefully, increase our response rate this year's election will be done electronically. On Friday, October 4, 2024 we will be sending an email to all our members which will include our candidates full biographies and a survey monkey ballot which we will ask you to submit back to us by October 15, 2024.

Don't Miss Our Email and Your Chance to Vote

1. Mark us as safe in your email spam filters: info@trnha.org
2. Check your email for our ballot on the afternoon of October 4th
3. We understand not everyone enjoys technology, so if you prefer to vote another way, please give us a call at 701-623-4884.



A leader is one who
Knows the way,
Goes the way,
and Shows the way!
-John C. Maxwell-



TRNP to Conduct Bison and Horse Operations

Roughly 200 bison and up to 15 horses will be transferred out of the park to support a healthy and manageable population.

MEDORA, N.D. – Theodore Roosevelt National Park will soon begin operations to roundup bison and horses in the park and transfer them to Tribes or new homes. The park will transfer up to 200 bison and up to 15 horses to new homes as part of ongoing efforts to support healthy herds as well as park ecosystems.

“The National Park Service has decades of experience with these types of roundups and has worked to incorporate low stress livestock handling techniques to ensure a safe operation while minimizing stress on the animals,” said Nancy Finley, acting superintendent at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. “Staff safety and the health and wellbeing of both bison and horses is our priority.”



Bison roundups are needed to ensure the park’s bison population, which is contained within a fenced environment, is appropriately sized. The horse roundup will support the development of a proactive strategy for horse management to create a healthy viewable population at the park that is manageable and minimizes impacts to park resources.

Animal health is a priority for the bison and horse roundups. The timing of these roundups was selected because animals are in optimal health after a long grazing season and cooler temperatures cause less heat related stress during the movement of animals.

Both roundups will use helicopters and are not open to the public to ensure both animal and public health and safety. The NPS has extensive experience using helicopters and aviation to support safe and effective animal captures and works with livestock veterinarians and subject matter experts to conduct these operations safety and humanely.



Helicopter operations beginning October 5 will bring the roughly 400 bison into the North Unit corrals. Bison will be evaluated for general health, genetics, and population demographics (age, sex ratio, etc.). The NPS plans to transfer approximately 200 bison out of the park with Tribes receiving the bulk of the animals.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

TRNP to Conduct Bison and Horse Operations

Helicopter operations will continue in the park through October 18 to bring the roughly 200 horses into the South Unit corrals. Horses will also be evaluated for general health, genetics, and population demographics (age, sex ratio, etc.). A subset of horses will be fitted with GPS collars so the NPS can better understand their range and use of the park environment. The park intends to work with volunteers that have experience with the park's management program and the handling of horses.



A small number of mares that did not successfully respond to the contraception and their offspring (up to 15 total horses), will be proposed for donation to Tribes, nonprofits, or auctioned through the General Services Administration, using a process the park has previously used. The adoption process places animals with entities and individuals who agree to provide for their health, well-being, and longevity.

The park is committed to sharing timely social media updates for those interested in the roundup progress. Updates will be posted on the park's social media accounts throughout the process and when data collection for both roundups is complete.

-NPS-

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for the 430+ national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Visit us at www.nps.gov, on Facebook www.facebook.com/



Photo by: Luann Allsworth—photo contest 2020

Simply Batty

October is Bat Appreciation Month. There are several species of bat found in North Dakota, many of which are found along the banks of the Little Missouri River and into the North Dakota Badlands. They can be found in rocky crevices, dead trees, or in man-made structures. Many of these bats are insectivores and an insect-eating bat can ingest thousands of bugs in one night!

North Dakota Bats:

Big Brown Bat
Little Brown Bat
Long-legged Bat
Northern Long-eared Bat
Townsend's Big-eared Bat
Long-eared Bat
Western Small-footed Bat



Big Brown Bat/NPS Photo Shenandoah NP

You can help appreciate bats by getting to know the ones that live in your neighborhood. However, if you see one, leave it alone! Bats may be dormant or hibernating; avoid their homes. Report every close encounter with a bat. Turn off the lights for bats. And plant a garden that will be beneficial to bats. Learn more and celebrate Bat Week and Bat Appreciation Month at www.nps.gov/subjects/bats/bat-week.htm.

Why appreciate bats? We have many reasons to be thankful for bats. They provide inspiration for advances in technology, they support cave communities, and they even help bring us some of our most tasty treats! Bats act as natural gardeners, helping grow many of the foods we eat through insect control, pollination, and seed dispersal (www.nps.gov).



Little Brown Bat/ND Game and Fish



Townsend's Big Eared Bat/ND Game and Fish

Theodore Roosevelt and the Rough Riders

Theodore Roosevelt made many contributions to the country before during and after his presidency, but one of his most notable accomplishments he had before the turn of the 20th century was creating the Rough Riders, a cavalry unit dedicated to the Spanish-American War. In February 15, 1898 the USS Maine was at port in Cuba and sustained a large explosion killing 260 men of which were 2 Officers, 230 Navy men, and 28 Marines.



Col. Roosevelt - TR Center, DSU

As the Assistant Secretary of the Navy, Roosevelt made it clear, that he felt the US should engage in war against Spain for their involvement with Cuba. The American people quickly got behind Roosevelt showing their support for waging war against Spain. This led Theodore Roosevelt to use his position as the Assistant Secretary of the Navy to send Navy ships to attack the Spanish fleet, that were stationed near the Philippines, while the Secretary was away. The mission succeeded and through public pressure President McKinley and Congress declared war. This declaration led to Roosevelt's decision to resign from his position and lead the volunteer cavalry of Rough Riders to Cuba and a fight with the Spanish.

Theodore Roosevelt was second in command of the Rough Riders, who were led by Colonel Leonard Wood and made their landing in Daiquiri ready to charge. The Rough Riders partnered up with other units, including the Buffalo Soldiers winning several battles, and after just 10 weeks Spain saw no way out and began retreating.

While there were several casualties on all sides the press commended the soldiers for their fight pushing Spain out of Cuba. Roosevelt's actions were very favorable in the public eye and even though he didn't like McKinley's reluctance to go to war he agreed to be his running mate in the 1900 election.

Interestingly in the 1890's the American press in New York created a new branch of journalism called Yellow Journalism which greatly influenced the public especially after the USS Maine sank into the ocean. This new form focused on large headlines and grand statements that would catch people's attention even to the point of repeating the same line several times on a single page like the image on the right.



New York Journal Newspaper Clip on the sinking of USS Maine

Can You Guess In 7 Hints?

Let's play a game! You have seven hints below to try and guess the theme relating to Theodore Roosevelt National Park or Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Each guess will get more specific to the theme until you reach the answer. How many hints will you need to figure out what it is? Let's find out!

Last Month's Answer: Coal Veins

Coal Veins are found throughout the world including in various layers in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Once living matter, through heat, pressure, and time the organic matter mainly comprised of carbon with oxygen and other elements, turned into coal which can be used as a fuel sources. Having a high rate of combustion and being able to maintain high temperatures when on fire, this mineral is relatively easy to catch fire in nature from the spread of wildfires or during lightning strikes. In the 1950's there was a coal vein fire that lasted 26 years ending in 1977 with visitors reporting that they could see smoke rising up from the ground! Thousands of years ago, when there were coal veins on fire, the heat from the flames and smoldering coals baked the above clay creating a hardened rock called clinker which was resistant to erosion and had a reddish hue. You can see the evidence of these fires as you make your way through our park and on our Coal Vein Trail. Don't forget that taking anything out of a national park is forbidden. The best way to preserve our natural landscapes is to leave no trace behind after your visit.

Theme: Hiking

- 1. The elevation gain on my trail is over 1000ft.**
- 2. My trail covers multiple river crossings going over the Little Missouri River.**
- 3. There are multiple campgrounds you can stay at along my path.**
- 4. I am over 140 miles in length.**
- 5. My trail travels in Mountain Time and gets close to the Central Time Zone.**
- 6. My trial goes through the South Unit and into the North Unit of TRNP.**
- 7. Interesting stops include Devil's Pass, China Wall, and the Ice Caves.**

TRNHA Word Search

This month's theme is Places where Theodore Roosevelt traveled too. Did you know that Roosevelt traveled throughout the United States and across foreign countries even while he served as President during his terms? Some of the most notable places he traveled too was in Africa for an expedition with the Smithsonian as well as exploring an tributary of the Amazon River almost leading to his death. Do you think you could make your way through the unknown with no map and a major injury? Some months will also feature a secret hidden word which relates to the theme. Do you think this month has one? Let us know!



Africa

Europe

Panama

Dakota Territory

Harvard

South America

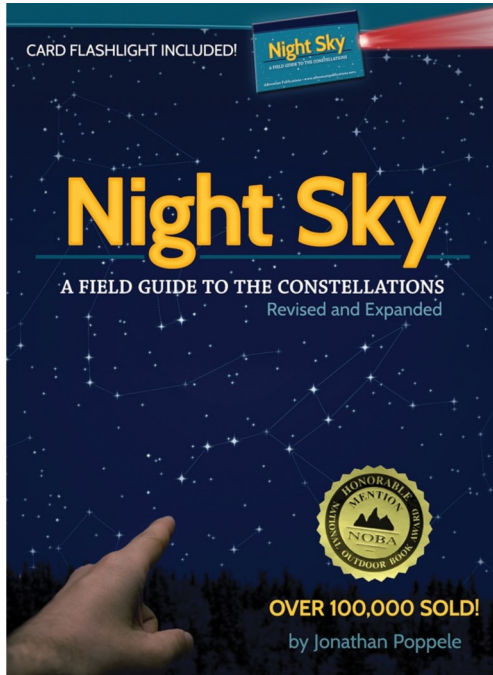
Egypt

New York

White House

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October ONLINE SPECIAL!



Night Sky: A Field Guide to the
Constellations

15% OFF!

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- Provide support staff in visitor centers



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NOVEMBER 2024

BISON BRIEF

Monthly Update



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT
NATURE AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

TRNHA ELECTIONS

In October, TRNHA held an election to choose TRNHA's Board of Directors for Fiscal Year 2025. We would like to congratulate Jodi Johnson and Chelsey Erdmann on their reappointment to the board of directors for another 3 year term.

Meet Chelsey Erdmann

I grew up on a farm by West Fargo, ND and went to college at Jamestown College (now the University of Jamestown). I live in Beach, ND where I was the first-grade teacher, but now I am the Title/Technology Teacher and Student Council Advisor. Before moving to Beach, I lived in Medora and worked for the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation in Group Sales. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, traveling, reading and spending time with my friends and family.



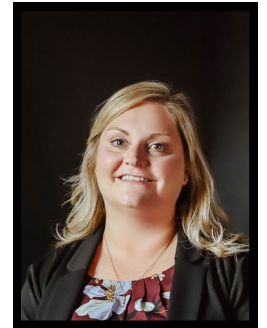
My favorite place in Theodore Roosevelt National Park is Buck Hill. I visit there to hike and take pictures as often as I can. Medora is one of my favorite places! I spend a lot of time in Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park and have a lot of knowledge of the area. When I worked in group sales I gave many bus tours of Medora and Theodore Roosevelt National Park.

I have enjoyed being a board member for the past three years. It has been a great learning experience and I would love the opportunity to continue serving on the board. I am organized, open-minded and a team player. I believe in the mission TRNHA has and am passionate about the national parks. I believe that my passion for Theodore Roosevelt National Park along with my ability to work well with others

and being open minded make me a great fit for the TRNHA board of directors.

Meet Jodi Johnson

Upon completion of my Bachelors of Accountancy degree from the University of North Dakota in 2004, I moved to Medora to work as an Accounting Assistant for the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation. During my 10 year career with TRMF I learned a great deal about accounting for a non-profit organization, and eventually was promoted to Controller for the organization. It was also during this time that I gained a good knowledge of the area and a love for the community and everything it has to offer.



While working for TRMF I became active with the Medora Chamber of Commerce and Medora Area Convention and Visitors Bureau, serving as a board member for both organizations. Through these organizations I have participated in and helped organize many community events. In 2013 I took a job in Richardton but have continued living in Medora and stayed active in the community, most recently serving as a City Council member.

I enjoy being a part of the community and being involved in the events that take place throughout the year. In my spare time I enjoy hiking, golfing and spending time with family and friends. It's a joy to bring family and friends to town for the first time and see their reaction to our area. Along with my CPA knowledge, which includes experience with financial reporting, budgeting and tax, the strongest contributions I would bring to the board are a knowledge of the community and an established association with other organizations in Medora.

Working in a Public Land

Have you ever thought about working in a Public Land like a National Park? We had the opportunity to interview one of our seasonal staff about their experience working with Theodore Roosevelt National Park in our association at the Painted Canyon Visitor Center and South Unit Visitor Center. Olivia worked with TRNHA August through October 2024.

Interviewer: Justin Hutzenbiler Interviewee: Olivia Bongart

What made you want to work with Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association with the park?

I didn't know this park existed. I saw the job posting and thought, why not, so I applied for the seasonal position. This park was like a hidden gem, something I didn't expect but was happily surprised about.

What was your first impression when you went into the park?

Wow! I would look one way and the other and just wow. The park is beautiful and I didn't know that the geology of the landscape existed. I came from a town surrounded by forest in Pennsylvania with the coast just an hour and thirty minute drive away so this park was very different.



2024 Seasonal Staff - Olivia Bongart

What did you think of working next to the park service?

Working with them was lovely, it gave me an insight to their job and what they do. They were appreciative and happy working with the visitors and landscape. I liked how they were following their passion and using their education for their roles in the park as well as having the opportunity to work in the park.

Would you be interested in being a park ranger?

Why not? It seems fun and fulfilling.

Do you have any future plans with the public lands?

I haven't considered it before but hearing from the visitors that would come in and looking at some of our products with the list of national parks, but in my bucket list I now want to visit them all and collect the stickers and stamps from their visitor centers with my passport book.

Do you have a specific national park you really want to visit next?

Probably Olympic National Park or Northern Cascades National Park. Anything in the Pacific Northwest.

Disclaimer: Edited for clarity and length.

Continued on Page 4

Working in a Public Land - Continued

Interviewer: Justin Hutzenbiler Interviewee: Olivia Bongart

What surprised you the most at our park?

Every time I went in there were bison. On the scenic drive there just on the road blocking the way, on trails they covered the paths as they moved along, and from the overlooks you can see them.

Do you have a favorite hike or spot to go to?

My favorite hike is the Ekblom loop next to the Little Missouri River. I also really like the North Unit as an honorable mention.

Have you stayed at one of our campgrounds in the park?

I stayed at Cottonwood in the South Unit. It was beautiful with plenty of shade with the trees in the area. It's also right next to the river so the view was amazing, and the hosts there were nice and kind.

How did working with the park impact you?

It made me appreciate home more since there was a large distance from here to where I was in Pennsylvania. I was surrounded by trees back home as well so living here made me appreciate them more. I meet a lot of cool people while working here and made a lot of memories with them and the park.



2022 Photo Contest Participant - Timothy Hancock Theodore Roosevelt National Park - North Unit

Do you have any plans for the winter season?

Road tripping through the US with my van. Planning to head to the Pacific Northwest and see the coast and Pacific Ocean when I'm there. I'll get another seasonal job and hope around for the rest of winter.

Do you want to say anything to our members?

Thank you for supporting Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association and the park!

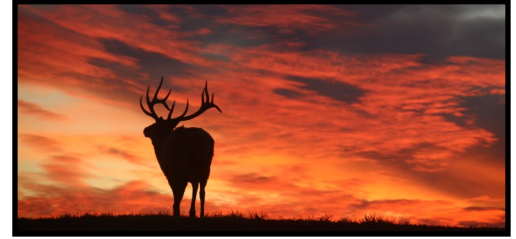
Disclaimer: Edited for clarity and length.

Look out for the job announcements and events for the Summer of 2025 if you'd like to become a part of our team and help visitors as they make their way through our scenic drives and hiking trails. If you're interested in becoming a ranger at Theodore Roosevelt National Park or other public lands head to USA Jobs to see what ranger positions you'd like to apply for! For our seasonal positions, look for our job announcements on our social media or at <https://trnha.org/employment.htm> in the *Join Us* tab in spring or early summer to see what's available. Have any questions about our events? Call 701-623-4884 or message on social media to get answers!

Wildlife Management in T.R. National Park

2024 THRO Elk Reduction

The National Park Service will begin the elk cull operations on Monday, October 28th and will wrap up around November 22nd. If you go into the park in these dates don't be alarmed as the staff running the operations be wearing park service uniforms. They will be dressed similar to hunters you may see in the area with backpacks, rifles, and other hunting gear. For any questions please visit the South Unit Visitor Center or call 701-623-4466.



2022 Photo Contest Participant - Dean Rummel
Elk in Theodore Roosevelt National Park

Bison Roundup Completed in Early October

In early October, Theodore Roosevelt National Park completed their annual bison roundup. "The National Park Service has decades of experience with these types of roundups and has worked to incorporate low stress livestock handling techniques to ensure a safe operation while minimizing stress on the animals," said Nancy Finley, acting superintendent at Theodore Roosevelt National Park. "Staff safety and the health and wellbeing of both bison and horses is our priority." Bison roundups are needed to ensure the park's bison population, which is contained within a fenced environment, is appropriately sized.

There were a total of 386 bison counted in the North Unit and 326 brought into the facility by the helicopter pilot. Park Staff were able to process all 326 bison and culled 196. The culled animals were sent to tribal nations and one 501(c)(3) in Montana, Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota. That leaves us with 187 bison up in our North Unit.

TRNP North Unit Bison Roundup 2024 Results						
	# Gathered	# Remaining in park after gather	# Culled	# Mortalities	# Returned to park	Current N. Unit Herd Demographics
Male	112	53	92	0	20	73
Female	167	5	68	1	98	103
Calves	47	2	36	2	9	11
TOTAL	326	60	196	3	127	187

TRNP North Unit Bison Roundup 2024 Cull Bison Demographics and Recipients				
Recipients	Male	Female	Calves	Total # Received
Northern Cheyenne	26	34	0	60
Cheyenne River Sioux	30	0	36	66
White Earth Nation	3	0	0	3
Blackfeet	7	19	0	26
WOZU (501-c3 non-profit)	2	4	0	6
MHA (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara) Nation	24	11	0	35
TOTAL	92	68	36	196

TRNHA Update

Medora Trunk or Treat

On October 26th, TRNHA staff joined other community businesses to participate in Medora's Trunk or Treat hosted by the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation in Chimney Park. Our staff worked hard to bring our A-game with a Jurassic Park theme showcasing a large inflatable dinosaur in the back of our van. Tracy and Justin wore full-suit dinosaur costumes including claws on our hands and feet with a scary dinosaur head, while Jesse wore the paleontologist costume in charge of watching over the dangerous dinosaurs.

After the trick-or-treaters went to each trunk and voted on their favorite the event came to a close at 3pm. Through our hard work and great costumes, TRNHA won First Place for Best Trunk! We are already getting our gameplan on for next year to start our winning streak to take home First Place again! Thank you to all who stopped by our booth and voted in the competition. We hope you enjoyed your time at the event and can't wait to see you next year! Be ready for our new theme, it'll blow your socks off!



TRNHA Trunk with Justin (left) and Tracy (right)
Medora Trunk or Treat, Photo Provided by Ivy Maus



South Unit Visitor Center

Photo Provided by Justin Hutzenbiler

Medora Sip n' Shop

Come visit the South Unit Visitor Center on November 9th where we'll provide a hot coffee station for you to enjoy as you browse our collection of products. As the cold weather comes in, this is a great way to warm you up!

*Be sure to ask about our
Sip n' Shop Specials!*

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 9TH**
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Sponsored By:



Come out to Medora for a fun-filled day of Shopping at a variety of businesses with many providing some sips and/or snacks while you shop! It's a great day to kick off your holiday shopping season!

PARTICIPATING MEDORA BUSINESSES

CHATEAU DE MORES STATE HISTORIC SITE (JUST WEST OF THE RIVER)	MOUNT RUSHMORE TAFFY SHOP (TEDDY'S VILLAGE - 320 PACIFIC AVENUE)
COWBOY HALL OF FAME (250 MAIN STREET)	DACOTAH TERRITORY GIFT SHOP (TEDDY'S VILLAGE - 320 PACIFIC AVENUE)
THE WHITE HOUSE (235 BROADWAY)	BAR DIAMOND BAR BOUTIQUE & GALLERY (155 PACIFIC AVENUE)
HIDDEN SPRINGS JAVA (350 4TH STREET)	MEDORA CONVENIENCE STORE (200 PACIFIC AVENUE)
BUFFALO GAP GIFT SHOP (275 PACIFIC AVENUE)	ROUGH RIDERS GIFT SHOP (300 3RD AVENUE)
MEDORA BOOT & WESTERN WEAR (TEDDY'S VILLAGE - 316 PACIFIC AVENUE)	JQ CLOTHING (338 PACIFIC AVENUE)
CHASING HORSES (TEDDY'S VILLAGE - 312 PACIFIC AVENUE)	THE HOME MERCHANT (225 BROADWAY)
LITTLE MISSOURI SALOON & DINING (440 3RD STREET)	ESCAPE MEDORA / MEDORA UNCORK'D (362-370-378 PACIFIC AVENUE)
THEODORE ROOSEVELT NATURE & HISTORY ASSOCIATION (NATIONAL PARK STORE - 201 E RIVER RD)	

Winter's right around the corner



*2019 Photo Contest Participant - Kristy Bast
Peaceful Valley Ranch, South Unit*

Painted Canyon

Visitor Center Closed

We had a great summer but as winter comes around the corner and less travelers make their way over to Theodore Roosevelt National Park, the NPS closes the Painted Canyon Visitor Center. Gates went up on October 28 and the visitor center and restrooms are now inaccessible to the public. If you still want to go on the trails or admire the views at the overlook, visitors can still go into the area by walking.

TRNHA experienced an extremely busy summer season, from the day we open the gates in May all the way through our closure.

We want to thank our talented seasonal staff and National Park Rangers for the hardwork they did operating our park stores. Even though they're gone for the year, we hope their future endeavors are successful. Have you been inspired by our staff or the local Park Rangers to with the park? If so keep your eyes peeled as the job advertisements will go out soon for summer 2025. Generally, we hire 5 to 6 seasonal employees to work from the end of April through October.

Veteran's Day

Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association thanks all of the Veterans who have served in the military defending the United States and protecting the American people. For those who have served, the public lands scattered throughout the US offer a discount to our military service members when buying an entry pass to a public land. If you have a military ID or veteran ID please ask about your free military pass. Head to one of Theodore Roosevelt National Park's visitor centers or call 701-623-4466 to learn more from a ranger.



*2023 Photo Contest Participant - Clover Schultz-Tiedeken
Wild Turkeys in Theodore Roosevelt National Park*

Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is about appreciating the things we have and the community we surround ourself with. TRNHA is thankful to all of our members and those who visited Theodore Roosevelt National Park and our events each year. As you make your way through our park please keep in mind that your donations and purchases go to enhance your experience in North Dakota's Public Lands.

Visitor Centers and Park Stores will be closed on Thanksgiving Day to allow staff to spend the day with family.

Can You Guess In 7 Hints?

Let's play a game! You have seven hints below to try and guess the theme relating to Theodore Roosevelt National Park or Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site. Each guess will get more specific to the theme until you reach the answer. How many hints will you need to figure out what it is? Let's find out!

Last Month's Answer: Maah Daah Hey Trail

The Maah Daah Hey Trail starts South of Medora with other trails and a campground to rest before making your way on the over 140-mile trail. With an elevation change of over 1000ft, there will be some areas where it's more of a climb than a hike. There are a few popular stops on the way to the end however including the Devils Pass, China Wall, and Ice Caves. The Devils Pass is a narrow stretch of land where the trail goes through with a great drop on either side. You can see a large wall later on the hike called the China Wall with a daunting stretch of buttes with incredible height. The Ice Caves got its name from the snow that can be found there from the previous winter making its way into the middle of June depending on the weather conditions. This trail also goes through the South Unit of Theodore Roosevelt National Park and into a small section of the North Unit as well. Don't forget that riding a bike on a park trail is prohibited so if you're riding a bike, you can use the Buffalo Gap trail to circumvent the South Unit which meets back together outside of park bounds.

Theme: People

- 1. We roamed the Great Plain for thousands of years.**
- 2. We consist of three main groups of people.**
- 3. You can learn about our history at Knife River Indian Villages.**
- 4. We interacted with others in the area including the fur traders.**
- 5. You can find evidence of our homes along the Knife River.**
- 6. The women in our village constructed Earth Lodges as homes.**
- 7. Lewis and Clark lived with us on their travels exploring the Louisiana Purchase.**

Home for the Winter

A variety of migratory birds are one of the features of Theodore Roosevelt National Park that make Spring and Summer trips especially exciting. These birds come and go as the weather warms up. However, there are a number of birds that stay through the harsh winters. Some of the most notable year-round residents include wild turkeys, black-capped chickadees, white breasted nuthatches, and great horned owls.

How do they do it? If you are lucky enough to see a bird in the colder weather, it will likely appear to have its feathers fluffed. This happens when a bird's top feathers have tightened together to make a weather proof outer layer and lower, down, feathers are fluffed to trap in warm air close to the bird's body. (We've adopted this method of staying dry and warm through down jackets.) But our year-round residents have a few more winter tricks up their wings.

Sources: nps.gov, raptorresource.org, audubon.org



Wild Turkey

Roost up in trees, prefer evergreens to reduce wind exposure

NPS Photo



Black-capped Chickadee

Can enter state of torpor and reduce body temperature/energy expenditure

NPS Photo



White Breasted Nuthatch

Hide seeds in crevices and cache food to have a steady supply

NPS Photo/Rachel Ames



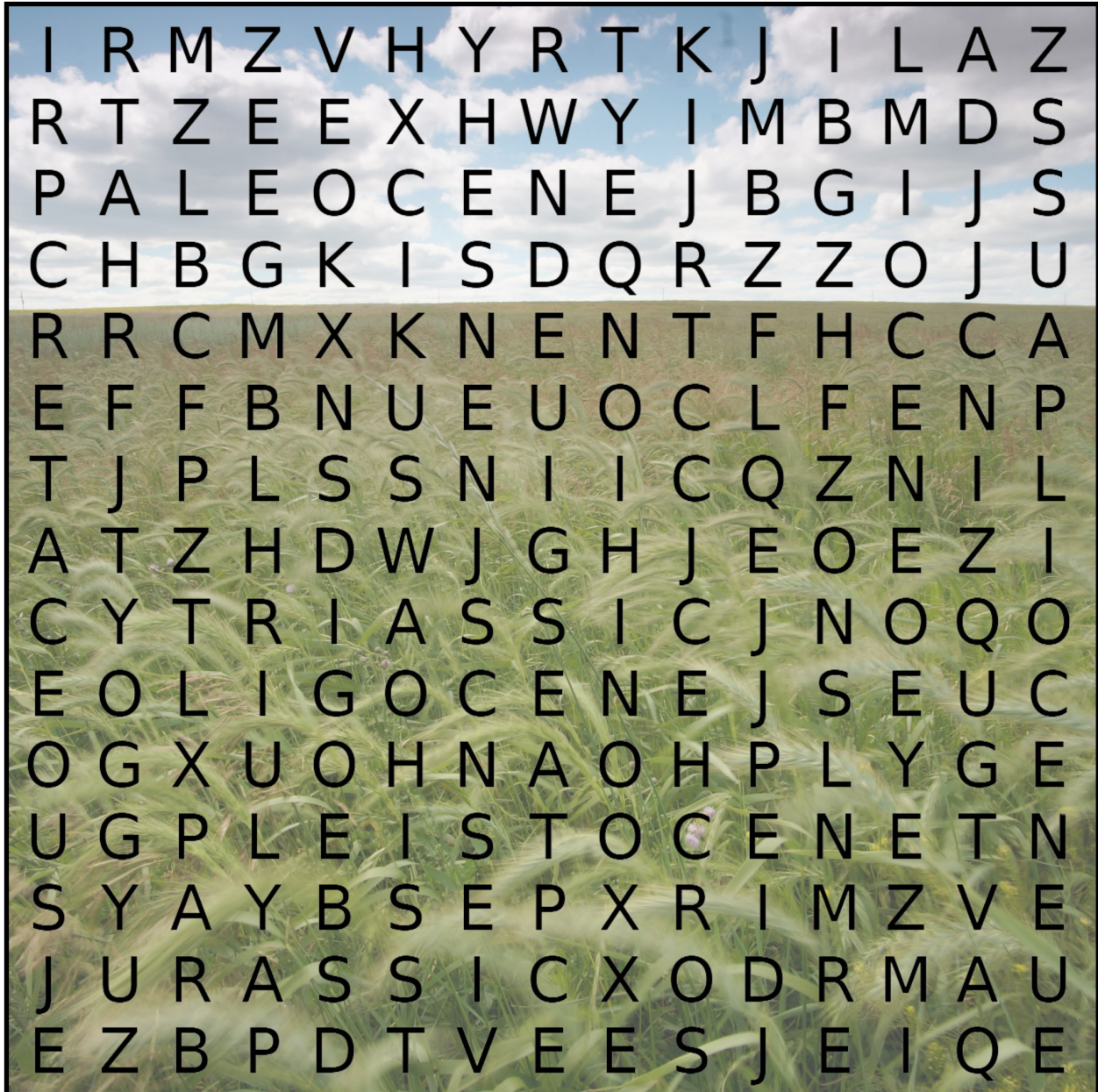
Great Horned Owl

Owlets need more time with parents than other birds, they nest in late winter

NPS Photo/Neal Herbert

TRNHA Word Search

This month's theme is Geologic Time Periods in Theodore Roosevelt National Park. Did you know that our park had a complicated history transforming from a sea to a swamp and eventually the badlands? Check out one of our visitor centers to learn about our geologic history and see the petrified wood you can find in the park. Isn't it fascinating seeing how the land you can see was once submerged underwater? Some months will also feature a secret hidden word which relates to the theme. Do you think this month has one? Let us know!



Cretaceous

Miocene

Pleistocene

Eocene

Oligocene

Pliocene

Jurassic

Paleocene

Triassic

November 2024 Online Coupon

November ONLINE SPECIAL!



TRNP Bison Hiking Medallion

15% OFF!

Online Only through November 30, 2024

Use coupon code

"November2024" at checkout.

Shop online now at: www.shoptrnha.org

Not good with any other discounts.

Check out these New Items while you shop!



Boho Bison TRNP Hoodie

This new hoodie combines our popular Boho Bison design on a comfortable light-weight hoodie perfect for staying warm on a cool autumn night.



Teddy Bro-sevelt Sticker & Groovy Mike Bison Sticker

These wonderful Wild Tribute designs have made it from our stylish shirts to our new stickers! Collect your own rugged Theodore Roosevelt or this cool bison with sunglasses at our store below.

Visit one of our visitor centers to buy them in person or order online at <https://shoptrnha.org/>

TRNHA Membership



Our members are passionate about our park partners and believe in helping us spread the word about the beauty that can be found in North Dakota.



- *15% off in our park stores*
- *10%-20% off other park stores*
- *Lasts for an entire year*
- *Access Member Events*
- *Choose our Board of Directors*
- *Free Stickers*

By joining Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association as a member you will be helping us:

- Support educational and interpretive programs
- Enhance the visitor centers in all our partner parks
- Support wildlife research in Theodore Roosevelt National Park
- Publish trail guides, books, and multi-media products to educate our visitors
- Host special events in our parks including Teddy Bear Picnics, Birdwalks, and photo contests
- Promote North Dakota's public lands
- Offer housing assistance for Volunteers and Interns
- Provide support staff in visitor centers

DECEMBER 2024

BISON BRIEF

Monthly Update



**THEODORE ROOSEVELT
NATURE AND HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

Where We Are Now

Supporting North Dakota's Public Lands Since 1951

As a supporter of Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association (TRNHA), you understand our organization strives to educate the public about North Dakota's abundant natural resources, excellent recreation opportunities, and rich cultural history. Since 1951, we have worked with our park partners to ensure North Dakota's Public Lands remain a place to be enjoyed in the present and preserved for the future.

Looking back on 2024, we are inspired and humbled by the commitment of our members, employees, volunteers and partners. To say it was a busy year would be an understatement, with continued high visitation and lots of new merchandise, TRNHA had an amazing year. In fiscal year 2024 TRNHA experienced the highest gross sales ever which kept our staff on their toes. Our staff worked alongside NPS staff in Theodore Roosevelt National Park to provide park visitors with trip planning, information, and amazing educational merchandise.

In addition to providing visitor center services TRNHA offered several programs throughout the summer. TRNHA's hardworking staff treated visitors to our 70th Annual Birdwalk, Kid in the Park educational programs, guided nature hikes, and Young Theodore Roosevelt Cabin Tours. Our special programs were a huge hit with over 1,900 people attending and learning from our staff. And as our mission states we also partnered with Knife River Indian Villages NHS and Theodore Roosevelt National Park to support historical, scientific, and educational activities throughout the summer.

We thank you for your continued dedication to helping us achieve our mission and look forward to what 2025 has in store for us!



2024 Photo Contest Winners

Since 2012, Theodore Roosevelt Nature & History Association has been sponsoring an annual photo contest. Each year, the grand prize winner's photo has been the featured photograph on the Theodore Roosevelt National Park Annual Pass. We are pleased to announce the winners of this year's *Picture Yourself in TRNP* and *Youth Adventures* Photo Contests.

Congratulations to Grand Prize Winner Carol Priestly of Belfield, ND. Carol's winning photo (seen below) is also the winner of the *It's the Small Things* category and will be featured on the upcoming Theodore Roosevelt National Park Annual Pass. Congratulations to all of our winners and a big shout out to all of the photographers who submitted their photos to this year's contest. The winners of each category can be found below. Thank you to everyone who won, submitted entries, and voted. Catch some inspiration from this year's winners and get your cameras ready for next year!



Youth Fan Favorite - Nora Kaluza



Grand Prize Winner - Carol Priestley



Adult Fan Favorite - Zach Hochhalter



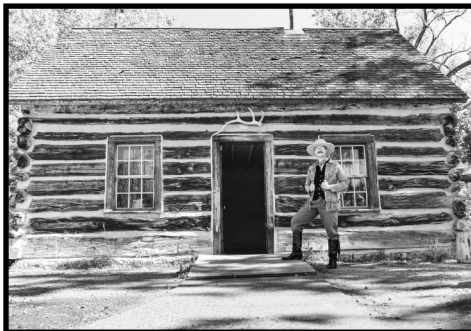
Youth: up to 9 - Karsten Colvin



Youth: 14 to 18 - Jacob Witte



Youth: 10 to 13 - Colt Daniels



My Favorite Ranger - Tyler Clouse



Beautiful Creatures - Ryan Jeske



Naturally Formed - Grace Slaven

Knife River Superintendent

OMAHA, Neb. — The National Park Service (NPS) has selected Tom Smith as the superintendent of Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site located in Stanton, North Dakota. Smith is currently the site manager at Manhattan Project National Historical Park for Los Alamos. He will assume his new role at Knife River in December.



Tom Smith, KNRI Superintendent - NPS

Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site was established in 1974 by Congress to preserve the most complete archeological record of upper Missouri River earthlodge village remains in the United States. The villages served as an important trading and agricultural hub for Northern Plains tribes over thousands of years. The villages were part of a trading network that stretched from Minnesota to the Great Plains, Gulf Coast, and the Pacific Northwest. The villages thrived until 1837 when a series of smallpox outbreaks devastated the population, and the remaining people were moved to the Fort Berthold Reservation in central North Dakota. Today, the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation, maintain a strong connection to their ancestral homeland.

“I am pleased to announce Tom Smith as the new superintendent at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site,” **said NPS Midwest Regional Director Bert Frost.** “His familiarity with the resource and community, along with his creative and collaborative approach to leading and decision-making, will serve the park and community well. I look forward welcoming him back to the Midwest Region.”

Smith brings almost 20 years of NPS experience to his new assignment. He began his career working as a seasonal interpretation ranger at Little Bighorn Battlefield National Monument which led to his first permanent appointment as lead ranger at Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area in Montana. In 2015, he served as a supervisory park ranger at San Antonio Missions National Historical Park in Texas before joining the staff at the Lewis and Clark National Historical Trail as the training specialist in 2016 where he served until 2023. Smith’s NPS experience also includes an acting superintendent assignment at Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site from October 2022 to January 2023.

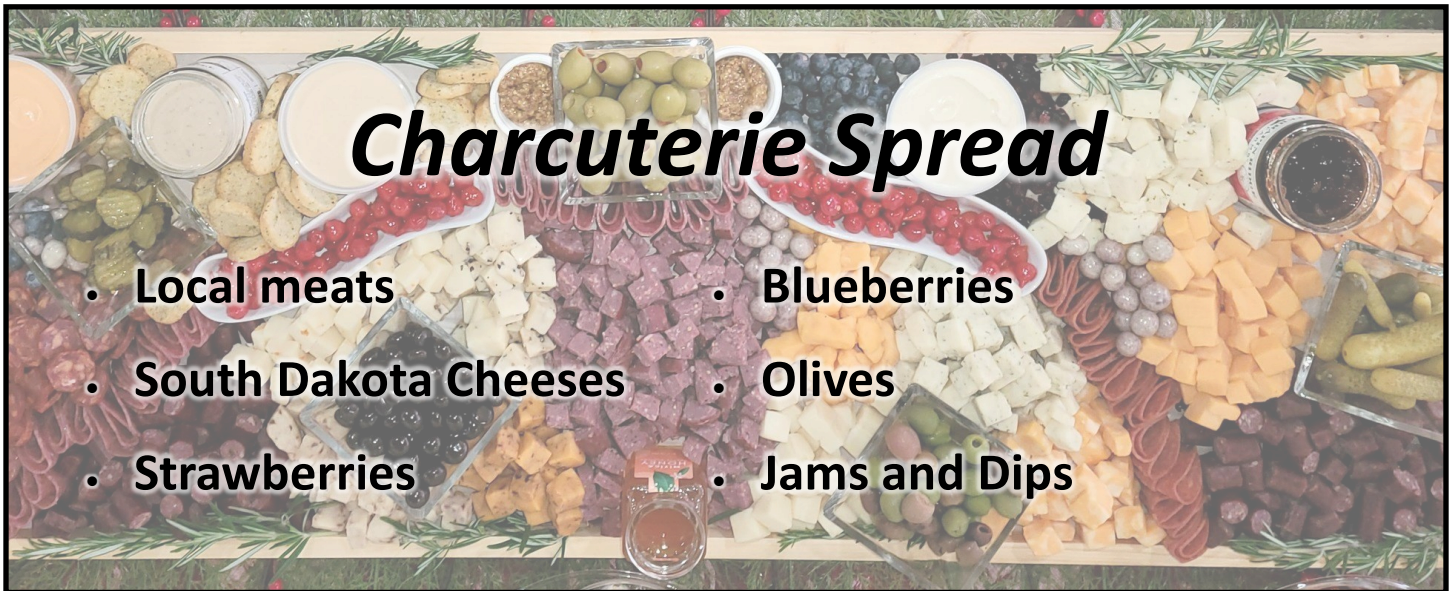
“I am honored to be selected as superintendent of Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site,” **said Smith.** “I look forward to collaborating with all who are connected to this special place and who call this their ancestral homeland. It is a privilege to continue the legacy of dedicated stewardship of those who served before me.”

Tom and his wife Helen, who also works for the NPS, are planning to relocate to North Dakota in December with their son and two dogs. They are looking forward to establishing themselves in the community. In their spare time, they enjoy gardening, camping, and fishing.

Medora's Christmas Celebration

The holiday season begins with Medora's annual *Old Fashioned Cowboy Christmas* December 6-8. TRNHA is participating in this year's *Eats on The Streets* where we are showcasing our amazing charcuterie board full of meats and cheeses perfect to satisfy your hunger. Stop by the South Unit Visitor Center on December 7th between 11 am and 1pm. We hope to see you there!

For a full schedule of events please visit the [Medora Chamber of Commerce](#).



  **Christmas**  

HORSE DRAWN HAY RIDES
Enjoy a ride throughout Medora on a horse drawn wagon.

Wreaths Across America
Recognize Veterans whose final resting place is overlooking Medora.

Eats on the Streets
Enjoy Christmas goodies as you complete your holiday shopping.

OUTHOUSE RACES
Try your luck at controlling an outhouse as you and 2 friends compete for the title of Outhouse Race Champion

THE WADDINGTON BROTHERS
Purchase tickets at www.medora.com

CANVAS PAINTING
Show off your artistic abilities with a canvas painting class. Class is open to all abilities and ages.

BINGO
Joins Friends of the Chateau in a friendly game of BINGO.

KIDDIE CARNIVAL
Let the kids try their luck and win prizes.

DINNER
Free-will donation dinner sponsored by Billings County Close-Up

VETERANS TRIBUTE
Honoring of local Veteran, we can never say Thank you enough.

FIREWORKS
Moisture permitting, enjoy a shower of fireworks over the snow covered buttes.

DANCE
End a perfect day dancing to Sawdust and visiting with friends.

SANTA
A visit to Santa is needed to make sure he receives the wish list.

December 7, 2024



2024 Cowboy Christmas Schedule - Medora Chamber of Commerce

Can You Guess In 7 Hints?

A theme and seven questions are found below. Each question relates to a single answer associated with Theodore Roosevelt National Park, Knife River Indian Villages National Historic Site, or the life of Theodore Roosevelt. How many questions will you need to determine the answer? Let's find out!

Last Month's Answer: Three Affiliated Tribes

For centuries the Upper Missouri River Valley drew Northern Plains Indians to its wooded banks and rich soil. These earthlodge peoples, like the nomadic tribes, hunted bison and other game, but were essentially farmers who dwelled in villages along the Missouri and its tributaries. The Hidatsa Tribe was originally made up of three distinct subtribes— Awatixa, Awaxawi, and Hidatsa Proper. The Hidatsa borrowed from the Mandan, learning corn horticulture, and adopting some pottery patterns. With the Arikara to the south, they formed an economic force that dominated the region. The three tribes adapted to the conditions in the Upper Missouri River Valley. They located their summer villages, with up to 120 circular lodges, on natural terraces above the river. Each lodge sheltered a family of 10 to 30 people from the region's extreme temperatures. A smallpox epidemic in 1837 greatly reduced the populations of the Indian nations. By 1845 the Mandan and Hidatsa moved about 40 miles up the Missouri River to form a new village, Like-A-Fishhook. For mutual defense the Arikara joined them in 1862. In 1885 the federal government forced the tribes to abandon Like-A-Fishhook and move to the Fort Berthold Reservation as part of the Fort Laramie treaty. Today their tribes are known as the Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation.

Information from [nps.gov/knri](https://www.nps.gov/knri)

Theme: Geography

- 1. This river contains multiple difficult passages for boat travel.**
- 2. It is a tributary of a famous river in South America.**
- 3. It wasn't fully explored until the early 1900s.**
- 4. The travelers exploring this river almost died from a lack of supplies.**
- 5. Theodore Roosevelt traveled this river after his presidency.**
- 6. Theodore Roosevelt almost passed away from a leg injury on this river.**
- 7. This river was called El Roosevelt in honor of the 26th President.**

Through TR's Eyes

Winter officially begins on December 21, 2024, it is a quiet time of year. With few cars on the road and life in winter-mode, a trip through the North Dakota Badlands seems to be just what the doctor ordered. We promise more beautiful views and many creatures stirring throughout the drive. Theodore Roosevelt had a knack for observing and describing life in winter-mode. Turning back to TR's *Hunting Trips of a Ranchman*, we can find a valuable guide on what to look for when exploring the badlands in the wintertime.

✓ Pronghorn

In the late fall, when the bitter cold has begun, a large number of these bands collect together, and immense herds are formed which last throughout the winter. Thus at this season a man may travel for days through regions where antelope are most plentiful during the hot months and never see one; but if he does come across any they will be apt to be in great numbers, most probably along the edge of the Bad Lands, where the ground is rolling rather than broken, but where there is some shelter from the furious winter gales.

✓ Magpies

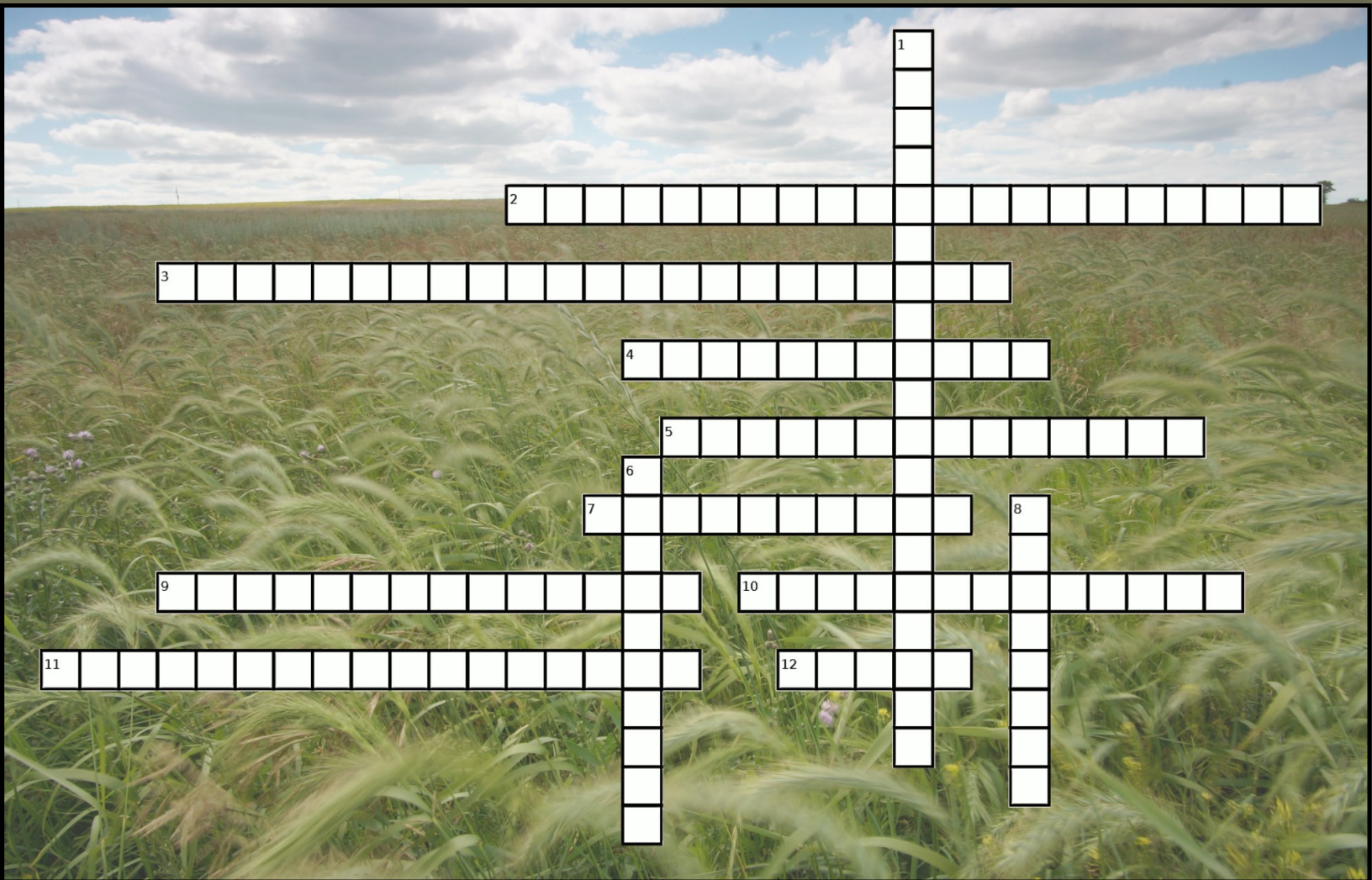
Magpies are birds that catch the eye at once from their bold black and white plumage and long tails; and they are very saucy and at the same time very cunning and shy. In spring we do not often see them; but in the late fall and winter they will come close round the huts and outbuildings on the lookout for anything to eat.

✓ Buttes

Through the high, clear atmosphere, the intense sun-light casts unnaturally deep shadows; and where there are no shadows, brings out in glaring relief the weird, fantastic shapes and bizarre coloring of the buttes. In winter, snow and ice coat the thin crests and sharp sides of the cliffs, and increase their look of savage wildness; the cold turns the ground into ringing iron; and the icy blasts sweep through the clefts and over the ridges with an angry fury even more terrible than is the intense, death-like, silent heat of midsummer.

When you take your winter or holiday drive through the badlands, use this checklist to see winter in the badlands through TR's eyes.

National Crossword Day!



Down:

1. A 10.5-mile loop focused on a type of fossil in TRNP.
6. A home structure where people lived along the Knife River.
8. The second highest point in TRNP.

Across:

2. This group of Native Americans that lived in the Great Plains.
3. Old Highway Ten entered into this spot in TRNP.
4. These animals are found in the ground in towns.
5. The second wife to Theodore Roosevelt.
7. A group of dedicated people who work in the public lands of the US.
9. The political party TR created in the election of 1912.
10. The seasonal visitor center in the South Unit of TRNP.
11. The 26th President of the US.
12. One of the largest herbivores found at TRNP.



December 2024 Online Coupon

December ONLINE SPECIAL!



HAT SALE!

25% OFF

Online Only through December 31, 2024
Use coupon code
"December2024" at checkout.

Shop online now at: www.shoptrnha.org

Not good with any other discounts.

Check out these New and Returning Items !



Pink Sky Butte Magnet

Check out one of our new products featuring the badlands painted in a vibrant pink and purple light!



**Reach for the Stars
Magnet &
TRNP Badlands
Bison Magnet**

Love our posters?
Well, now we have
those designs back in
stock as magnets!

Visit one of our stores to buy them in person or order online at www.shoptrnha.org

Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association

TRNHA Membership

Our members are passionate about our park partners and believe in helping us spread the word about the beauty that can be found in North Dakota.



- **15% off in our park stores**
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- **Choose our Board of Directors**
- **Free Stickers**

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- Promote North Dakota's public lands
- Offer housing assistance for Volunteers and Interns
- Provide support staff in visitor centers

Learn more at: www.trnha.org/membership.htm



WISHING
YOU

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

& A BRIGHT NEW YEAR

FROM TRNHA

