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MOUNT RAINIER WINS HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANT FOR SEARCH AND RESCUE HOUSING THROUGH PARTNERS IN PRESERVATION: NATIONAL PARKS CAMPAIGN

\$42,412 was awarded based on popular vote during the campaign

Funds will be applied toward restoring a historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) cabin in the Longmire Historic District to provide housing for search and rescue crews

Created by American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the program celebrated the national park service centennial

Seattle, WA — Mount Rainier National Park will receive a \$42,212 grant provided by American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Mount Rainier qualified for the grant as one of the top nine parks in the Partners in Preservation: National Parks campaign.

The grant will be applied toward restoring a historic Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) cabin in the Longmire Historic District. A total of \$218,000 in funding is needed to renovate the Rustic-style cabin to provide much-needed housing for volunteer search and rescue staff.

With more than two million visitors a year experiencing Mount Rainier's trails, search and rescue teams are called into action at a moment's notice to help and are critical to park operations. The CCC cabin at Mount Rainier was one of 20 historic places in the running as part of the PIP campaign.

"This campaign was embraced by so many people who care passionately about Mount Rainier and respect and value the work of hard-working search and rescue volunteers,"

said Laurie Ward, Executive Director of Washington's National Park Fund. "More than ever, we saw how much people care about our national parks and want to see them receive the financial support they need and deserve."

Mount Rainier National Park received 61,734 votes over the course of the competition.

A decade after its inception, Partners in Preservation, a community-based initiative created to raise awareness of the importance of preserving historic places, honored the National Park Service Centennial by directing its efforts to historic sites within national park units in need of preservation support. Twenty different park sites with unique histories, reflective of the diverse communities and experiences that comprise our nation's cultural fabric, participated in the campaign. The nine winning sites accumulated the most votes throughout the campaign, which was hosted by media partner National Geographic, from May 25 through July 5.

"We are thrilled with the response and support for **Partners in Preservation: National Parks** and are proud to be awarding \$2 million in grants to extraordinary sites that tell the story of our national park system and reflect the rich cultural resources within it," said Timothy J. McClimon, president of the American Express Foundation. "The campaign received more than [insert final number of votes]. We thank everyone who voted and applaud all participants of the campaign, as each helped further the public dialogue about the National Park Service's preservation needs."

"Partners in Preservation: National Parks has shone new light on the importance of rehabilitating historic resources in national parks and provided much needed funding to make them more accessible to visitors for years to come," said Stephanie K. Meeks, President and CEO, National Trust for Historic Preservation. "And through their participation in the campaign, more than 140,000 Americans have reaffirmed that these places matter – to our history, our nation, and our communities."

"The Partners in Preservation program is an excellent example of the many ways private organizations have always been essential to the success and longevity of the National Park System," said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. "These grants will enable our parks to restore and preserve priceless historical features that make a visit to a national park so unique."

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About Partners in Preservation

Partners in Preservation is a program in which American Express, in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, awards preservation grants to historic places across the country.

Through this partnership, American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation seek to increase the public's awareness of the importance of historic preservation in the United States and to preserve America's historic and cultural places. The program also hopes to inspire long-term support from local citizens for the historic places at the heart of their communities.

To date, Partners in Preservation has awarded \$16 million in support of historic places across the United States.

About American Express

American Express is a global services company, providing customers with access to products, insights and experiences that enrich lives and build business success. Learn more at americanexpress.com and connect with us on facebook.com/americanexpress, foursquare.com/americanexpress, linkedin.com/company/american-express, twitter.com/americanexpress, and youtube.com/americanexpress.

About the National Trust for Historic Preservation

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, a privately funded nonprofit organization, works to save America's historic places. www.savingplaces.org.

About Washington's National Park Fund

Over the past seven years, more than \$3 million has been contributed to the parks through [Washington's National Park Fund](#), the official fundraising partner for Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. Annually, superintendents of the three parks submit a list of priority projects that, except for charitable contributions, could not otherwise happen. 100% of donations to Washington's National Park Fund stay right here in Washington for the benefit of Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks.

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