

Park Passion

THE DIFFERENCE YOU'RE MAKING IN THE NATIONAL PARKS • SPRING 2023



A NOTE FROM THE CEO

I know. Auctions aren't for everyone. But those who attend ours always say they offer up something very special: the chance to learn more and say "thanks" to incredible park rangers, scientists, and national park staff.

Join us on Saturday, May 6, when we come "together for the parks" and celebrate all things Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. We'll give special attention to projects that enable ALL to access these public lands.

On another note, later this summer, see the stars in the skies above both Paradise at Mount Rainier and Hurricane Ridge at Olympic when interns and experts pull their telescopes out for some night skies viewing. You can actually see the rings around Saturn. Shocking and quite beautiful. Over the years, your support has funded programs like these. For this and so much more, we extend our gratitude.

LAURIE WARD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
OFFICER



This year's Auction for the Parks will support projects that advance inclusion in Washington's national parks, including entry level National Park Service jobs at Olympic National Park. Photo captured by Elizabeth Gonzalez.

Mount Rainier National Park's Astronomy Interns Share the Stars and Start a Park Service Career – Thanks to Your Support

By Karen Povey, WNPB Board of Directors

Cat Burleaud, originally from Southlake, Texas, wouldn't have dared to imagine that her 2019 internship at Mount Rainier National Park would open the door to a burgeoning career with the National Park Service.

As a University of North Texas geology major with a background in astronomy and interest in working with a national park, Cat was prompted to apply for the park's summer Night Skies intern position to fulfill a graduation requirement. Today she's a permanent member of the park's interpretation staff, educating guests in visitor centers and serving as a park rover. "I applied, got the internship, and haven't left since!" she marvels.

Providing Pathways to the National Park Service

For many National Park Service interns, these seasonal positions provide a critical "foot in the door" that ultimately leads to full-time employment, like it did for Cat. This has proven especially true for the Night Skies internship program. Funded

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Together FOR THE PARKS

Watching the Momentum Grow

Thanks to thousands, Washington's National Park Fund has funded more programs and projects at Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic National Parks. Collectively, all of us have – and continue to – come together for our beloved public lands.

While commendable, it's time to address some of the parks' larger, more pressing issues.

This spring, we're announcing our \$20 million campaign, "Together for the Parks". Over the next few years, we will grow the parks' endowments, aid the parks' transportation needs, support the parks as they build community with tribal nations, address a bit of the housing issues, and restore portions of Paradise. That's just the start.

It's time. Time to step up and in, deeper than ever before. Learn about our campaign goals for the parks – and how you can help make them a reality – at wnpf.org/together.



Laurie Ward
Chief Executive Officer



OUR FLAT HAT SALUTE

It's never too early to become a philanthropist! Our Flat Hat Salute goes out to little Amalie, who generously saved up her allowance and donated it to support projects in North Cascades National Park. We're thrilled to see a new generation of park stewards stepping up – you go, Amalie! Read her story – and get inspired – at wnpf.org/new-generation.

COMING TOGETHER FOR TOMORROW'S PARKS:

Raise the Paddle to Support Projects that Embrace Inclusion

On Saturday, May 6, 2023, park-lovers and park rangers will come together at the Seattle Design Center for a night to give back to the parks so they can continue to thrive for tomorrow's park-goers.

Auction for the Parks will be a memorable evening complete with dinner and a dessert dash, a silent and live auction, and a speaker program featuring park representatives – all to support projects that help the parks embrace inclusion. Register at wnpf.org/rsvp by April 14, and get ready to raise the paddle for:

Welcoming Spanish Speakers with Bilingual Rangers in Mount Rainier National Park. Funding will support one of four new bilingual park rangers who will be stationed at the park's busiest location, Paradise, from May to October and will engage with an estimated 30,000 visitors.



Supporting Food Sovereignty for North Cascades National Park Neighbors. Part of the park's five-year Food Sustainability and Native Plant Education project, funding will enable the community to build two produce stands and provide stipends for two tribal youth interns.



Providing a Foot in the Door through Entry Level Positions in Olympic National Park. Through the creation of three paid seasonal entry-level positions, young people from diverse backgrounds will have a progressive pathway to careers with the National Park Service.



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Mount Rainier National Park's Astronomy Interns Share the Stars and Start a Park Service Career

by your donations to Washington's National Park Fund, this internship provides college students with experience presenting Mount Rainier's popular astronomy program, helping park guests peer beyond our planet during summers at Paradise.

Teaching Visitors to Conserve Dark Skies

You might be surprised to learn that the National Park Service (NPS) is committed to safeguarding the darkness of night skies as a resource as important as wilderness landscapes and historic park structures. NPS' Night Skies initiative recognizes the role that darkness plays in the lives of nocturnal wildlife as well as the cultural value of nighttime conditions free of human-caused light. The Night Skies interns emphasize darkness as a cultural resource, encouraging park guests to consider how the skies help us connect to the past.

Creating Lasting and Life-Changing Park Memories

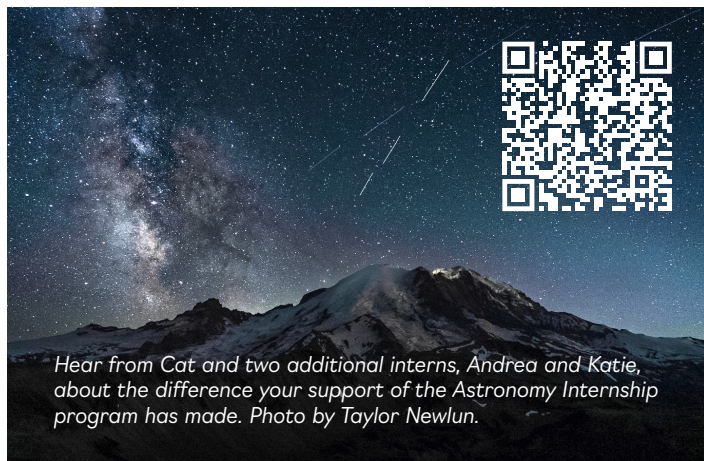
Presenting a program that appeals to kids is a key part of the interns' role. From pointing out constellations and sharing their folklore to providing a glimpse of the rings of Saturn, says Cat, "it's important for young people to participate in the Night Sky program. To have that sense of wonder and appreciation instilled at a young age so that as they grow up, that's something that maybe they want to explore more and be able to have an appreciation for years to come. And then hopefully one day they bring their kids to programs and just continue that generational appreciation for the dark night skies."



Cat Burleaud came to Mount Rainier National Park in 2019 as a Night Sky intern and is now a permanent member of the staff – an internship that was made possible by donors like you.

As our night skies are increasingly threatened by human-caused light pollution, opportunities to experience this awe have become fewer. But on summer nights at Paradise, the Night Skies team is on the job, facilitating the same wonder for the stars and planets today that has inspired our ancestors for millennia.

"This program started my career here at the National Park Service," says Cat, "and I hope to be in this career for a long time." We hope they are, too.



Hear from Cat and two additional interns, Andrea and Katie, about the difference your support of the Astronomy Internship program has made. Photo by Taylor Newlun.

In Memory of Karen Taylor-Goodrich, a Dear Friend to the North Cascades and Washington's National Park Fund

Please join us in remembering Karen Taylor-Goodrich, fierce and fearless trailblazer and former Superintendent at North Cascades National Park Service Complex, who sadly passed away in January.

When Karen reflected on her long career, she shared a favorite quote by Theodore Roosevelt: "Far and away the best prize life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing." She continued, "That sums up



nicely what has kept me working so hard for our important protected areas here and in other parts of the

world for all these years. But, most importantly, I have been so very fortunate to fulfill my passions while working with so many of the best and brightest, those truly dedicated and talented agency, interagency, and supporting organizations colleagues who strive to do their very best at all things, often under very demanding circumstances." Read the entire piece at wnpf.org/karen-taylor-goodrich.



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We recently surpassed 10,000 Washington National Park license plates on the roads! There's no better way to show your park support when you hit the road. Plus, \$28 of your plate purchase or renewal fee is donated to WNPf. These park-inspired plates have generated over \$1.7 million for the parks. Get yours: wnpf.org/plates.

Hit the Road for the Parks

With summer quickly approaching, we're all making plans to get out into the parks and explore all that they have to offer. But with so many options, how can you possibly choose? In honor of National Road Trip Day on Friday, May 26 and the Memorial Day long weekend ahead, the WNPf team compiled a few of our favorite road trips you can take through our three national parks here in Washington state. Find our top recommended road trips through Mount Rainier, North Cascades, and Olympic at wnpf.org/roadtrip.

OUR MISSION is to raise private support to deepen everyone's love for, understanding of, and experiences in Mount Rainier, North Cascades and Olympic National Parks. **OUR VISION** is for our three parks to be strong and vibrant, youthful and everlasting.

EVENTS

FOR A FULL LIST OF EVENTS, VISIT [WNPF.ORG](https://wnpf.org)

SATURDAY, APRIL 22

NPS Fee Free Day to Kick Off National Park Week

Spring's here... visit a park!

nps.gov/subjects/npscelebrates/national-park-week.htm

MONTH OF MAY

Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Learn more: wnpf.org/AANHPI

TUESDAY, MAY 2

GiveBIG for Washington's National Parks

Give a gift to help us get a head start:

wnpf.org/GiveBIG

SATURDAY, MAY 6

WNPF's Auction for the Parks

Get your ticket: wnpf.org/rsvp

MONDAY, MAY 15 – THURSDAY, MAY 18

Climb for a Cause: Mount Rainier

Our first climb of the season!

Learn more: wnpf.org/climb

MONTH OF JUNE

Pride Month

Learn more: wnpf.org/pride

Did you know? WNPf funding enabled the Washington Trails Association (WTA) to host an LGBTQ+ youth crew last July that completed brushing and tread work on the Huckleberry Creek Trail in Mount Rainier National Park.

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

Celebrate Olympic's 85th Birthday at a Fireside Circle in Sequim

Event details: wnpf.org/fireside