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A ranger assists a hiker in Zion National Park, Utah.

100 Years of the National Park Service

In August 2016, the National Park Service (NPS) celebrated one hundred years of caring for parks all over the country. During this time, the number of areas protected by NPS has grown from thirty-five to over four hundred.

National parks are special protected areas in nature. Park rangers and scientists look after the land, plants, and animals that live in the parks. They also help people learn about the outdoors.

NPS also cares for sites that are special to history, such as battlefields.

Without the National Park Service, many of these places would not exist as we know them today.

The people who work for NPS keep national parks and sites as they are for years to come. They look forward to another one hundred years of caring for the country's most special places.

Do You Know?

The United States has fifty-nine national parks and many more state parks. State parks are protected by individual states. NPS is responsible for areas protected by the U.S. government, such as national parks, monuments, preserves, and historic sites. Below are the top ten most visited national parks, numbered in order of how popular they are.

Top Ten Most Visited National Parks

