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**Passport To Your National Parks<sup>®</sup> Photo Contest Winners Announced**

Fort Washington, PA Today, Eastern National announced the winners of the 2006 Passport To Your National Parks<sup>®</sup> Photo Contest.

Eastern National and the National Park Service (NPS) first introduced the Passport program in 1986. The Passport book is a 104-page booklet designed to be a travel companion for park visitors. The pocket-sized guide contains full-color maps and photographs, a national park list, and interesting facts about America's national parks. National park visitors can collect annual commemorative stamps and rubber-stamp ink cancellations inside the Passport book.

Each year, Eastern National holds a contest for NPS employees and Volunteers-In-Parks to select ten images (one national and nine regional) for the collectable Passport commemorative stamp set. The stamps are distributed on a single perforated sheet and can be detached and placed in designated sections of the Passport book.

The 2006 stamp set will be available by February 21, 2006 and can be purchased online at [www.eParks.com](http://www.eParks.com); by calling (877) NAT-PARK (877-628-7275); or by visiting a participating national park. The Passport book and commemorative stamp sets from previous years (1986 through 2005) are also available. Retail price: Passport book (\$7.95 each) and commemorative stamps sets (\$3.95 each).

The 2006 Passport Photo Contest winners are:

**National Stamp:** Photo by T. Scott Williams

*Petrified Forest National Park* celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2006, commemorating a century of opportunities for exploration of the diverse grassland environment and investigation into the evidence of a more ancient world. The human story told at Petrified Forest National Park reaches 10,000 years into the past, from the intriguing artifacts of ancestral Puebloan people to the ghostly alignment of Route 66. Clues to an even deeper past fossils hidden within the colorful badlands of the Painted Desert reveal the ecosystem of the Late Triassic period.

**North Atlantic Region:** NPS photo by John Robson

*New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park* commemorates the history and contributions of the American whaling industry. The park and its partners preserve New Bedford's cultural

landscapes, historic buildings, and museum collections. The park celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2006.

**Mid-Atlantic Region:** Photo by Richard Maxwell

*Booker T. Washington National Monument* celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2006. The site commemorates the life of Booker T. Washington, who was born a slave in 1856 and went on to become one of the 20th century's most influential African Americans. The reconstructed cabin stands as a symbol to his legacy.

**National Capital Region:** Photo by Robert Epstein

*West Potomac Park* - Located on the National Mall, the park includes approximately 3,700 Japanese cherry trees that bloom each spring. In 1912, Viscountess Chinda of Japan helped plant the first of the donated trees to the U.S. Today, the trees continue to embody the enduring cultural links between the countries.

**Southeast Region:** NPS photo

*Obed Wild and Scenic River* winds its way through the Cumberland Plateau of eastern Tennessee. The Obed has carved spectacular gorges in the sandstone cliffs that surround it. The river is a prized recreation spot for kayaking, fishing, and rock climbing. The site was added to the National Park System in 1976.

**Midwest Region:** NPS photo by Kevin Sink

*Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve* was established in 1996 to preserve, protect, and interpret the less than four percent of remaining tallgrass prairie ecosystem, once the bed of a vast inland sea in the Kansas Flint Hills. The site also interprets the cultural values represented by the Spring Hill Ranch.

**Southwest Region:** NPS photo by Steve Black

*Pea Ridge National Military Park* celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2006. Recognized as one of the most important Civil War battles west of the Mississippi River, this March 7-8, 1862 fight saved Missouri for the Union. The Elkhorn Tavern was the site of heavy fighting and was used as a hospital for both sides.

**Rocky Mountain Region:** Photo by Levi T. Novey

*Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site* is the nation's ranch, where the stories of cowboys and cattlemen, trail drives and roundups are kept alive. Historic buildings, original artifacts, cattle, horses, and history await visitors to the ranch Johnny Grant began and Conrad Kohrs made the largest in Montana.

**Western Region:** Photo by Dave Bly

*Tonto National Monument* preserves masonry dwellings built in the early 14th century. These dwellings are located in shallow caves lodged in high cliffs. Out of a melting pot of cultures, the Salado emerged, prospered, and expanded throughout south-central Arizona and much of the Southwest.

**Pacific Northwest and Alaska Region:** Photo by Marv Binegar

*Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve* is often considered the birthplace of the American wilderness concept. Robert Marshall explored this remote and yet-to-be-mapped area in the 1930s, later helping to establish the Wilderness Society. The park contains over seven million acres of wilderness.

Eastern National is a non-profit organization that provides quality educational products and services to the visitors to America's national parks and other public trusts. Eastern National operates educational outlets in over 150 national parks and public lands in 30 states. Since 1947, Eastern National has donated over \$83 million to the National Park Service. For more information, visit [www.easternnational.org](http://www.easternnational.org) and [www.eParks.com](http://www.eParks.com).

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