

# Activity Idea

## Explore US National Parks Celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day *Recommended for Adults*

“The power of imagination makes us infinite.”– John Muir, naturalist and author

Created in 1916 by President Woodrow Wilson, The National Park Service today protects over 85 million acres of magnificent wild landscapes and historic sites in every state. In 2019, national parks set visitation records, with more than 300 million visitors! The most-visited national park is Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina and Tennessee with 12.5 million visitors. National parks contain more than a thousand species that are considered rare or endangered plants and animals, and over 200 national parks monitor and study changes to species and their habitats, protecting and managing the lands for each species’ success.

With over 18,000 miles of trails, national parks are treasured by people around the world seeking adventures in nature, and safeguard some of the most breathtaking landscapes on the planet for the future. Check out these resources to help you adventure to our nation’s national parks, all from the comfort of your home.

### **eBooks & Audiobooks:**

Step into the shoes of these adventurers and see national parks through their eyes.

- *Lonely Planet USA's National Parks* on Hoopla [tinyurl.com/qoyxtwe](https://tinyurl.com/qoyxtwe)
- *Steep Trails* by John Muir on OverDrive [tinyurl.com/u3g5c9j](https://tinyurl.com/u3g5c9j)
- *Call of the Wild* by Jack London on OverDrive [tinyurl.com/rgrs8f5](https://tinyurl.com/rgrs8f5)

### **Magazine:**

National Park Journal Magazine on RBDigital [tinyurl.com/rquva4u](https://tinyurl.com/rquva4u)

### **Film:**

A Geology of North America on Kanopy [tinyurl.com/wcqa653](https://tinyurl.com/wcqa653)

### **Music:**

Relax with these nature sound albums on Freegal inspired by or using sounds recorded at national parks.

- Solitudes, Vol. 11: National Parks and Sanctuaries Edition [tinyurl.com/qs52n37](https://tinyurl.com/qs52n37)



- America's Great National Parks [tinyurl.com/qpm9nnu](https://tinyurl.com/qpm9nnu)
- Impressions of America's National Parks [tinyurl.com/v6f556q](https://tinyurl.com/v6f556q)

#### **Virtual Tours:**

- National Park Service [tinyurl.com/gwktuz3](https://tinyurl.com/gwktuz3)  
Alongside virtual tours and programs, watch live webcams at your favorite park, peruse their digital archive of beautiful photos, or walk through their artist-in-residence gallery of art, photography, paintings, and poetry inspired by national parks.
- National Park Foundation [tinyurl.com/wo6a6oo](https://tinyurl.com/wo6a6oo)  
Take a virtual visit to a national park, discover activities you can do from home.
- Google Art & Culture: The Hidden Worlds of the National Parks [tinyurl.com/vbgardz](https://tinyurl.com/vbgardz)  
Follow rangers on a journey to places most people never go on this interactive first-person perspective journey through 5 national parks filled with beautiful videos and soundscapes.

#### **Activities:**

- Find Your Park Quiz [tinyurl.com/wxpdrhc](https://tinyurl.com/wxpdrhc)  
Take this fun light-hearted quiz from FindYourPark.com to get a suggestion on which national park to visit next!
- Create Your Own National Park Poster [tinyurl.com/qltxhna](https://tinyurl.com/qltxhna)  
Vintage national park posters from the 1930s and 1940s have become iconic images promoting the beauty of national parks. Though many of the original posters and designs have been lost, a few have been preserved at the Library of Congress.

Take a look at their collection to get inspired and create your own poster for the next national park you'd like to visit! Get creative and use crayons, colored pencils, paint, or make a collage from magazine cut-outs!

Show some love for your favorite national park and share your travel poster with us on Twitter or Instagram @LACountyLibrary or #LACountyLibrary! Adventure awaits!