DES MOINES, Iowa — While at Neil Smith National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Secretary of the Interior David L. Bernhardt signed a Secretary’s Order that waives entrance fees to national parks, wildlife refuges and other public lands and waters managed by the Department of the Interior for 5th grade students and their families from now until Aug. 31, 2021.

Secretary Bernhardt’s actions ensure that American 5th grade students who may have been unable to make full use of the Every Kid Outdoors Annual 4th Grade Pass during the 2019-2020 academic year due to the COVID-19 pandemic will have free access to national parks and other Federal lands managed by the Department during this academic year.

“The Trump Administration has made expanding public access to America’s national parks and public lands a top priority, especially during this year’s pandemic,” said Secretary Bernhardt. “Programming was limited at times for last year’s fourth graders through the Every Kid Outdoors program, so we’re allowing this year’s 5th graders free access to our public lands throughout the 2020-2021 academic year. We hope these kids and their families take advantage of the incredible physical and mental benefits of getting outside and visiting a park, refuge or campground near them.”

“As the mother of a fifth grader I am particularly excited for families across the country to have more opportunities to explore, play and learn in America’s parks and public lands,” said Margaret Everson, Counselor to the Secretary, exercising the delegated authority of the National Park Service Director. “We know many 4th graders were disappointed they were unable to use the pass last year and we are grateful to Secretary Bernhardt for giving them this opportunity.”

A majority of Interior-managed lands remained accessible to the public at the onset of the pandemic to serve as places of respite and rejuvenation and allow for social distancing. Services were limited for visitors, in particular impacting the Every Kid Outdoors Program. Nearly all units and locations are currently accessible with many having restored services for the public to enjoy following proper public health and safety guidelines.

Families and students can download their 5th grade passes online at www.nps.gov/kids.
Background Information on the Every Kid Outdoors Program

Through the Every Kid Outdoors Program for fourth grade students, entrance fees for the National Park Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and standard amenity recreation fees for the Bureau of Land Management and the Bureau of Reclamation are waived, providing limitless opportunities to explore, learn, and recreate in spectacular settings. The pass does not cover expanded amenity fees such as camping or boat rides.

The program focuses on children around 10 years of age based on research that indicates children ages 9–11 are at a unique developmental stage in their learning where they begin to understand how the world around them works in more concrete ways, and they are more receptive to engaging with nature and the environment. By focusing on this age group year after year, the program aims to ensure every child in the United States has the opportunity to visit their Federal lands and waters by the age of 11 years, hopefully establishing lifelong bonds to our country’s natural and cultural heritage.

More information is available online at www.nps.gov/kids.

Vote for Your Favorite Photos

Here is your chance to choose your favorite photo that was submitted to this years contest. While judges will be choosing the contest winner, we want to give you a chance to chose your favorite. Head over to our Facebook Page and find our 2020 Photo Contest Album. The photo that receives the most likes as of 11:49 pm MT on November 30, 2020 will be awarded fan favorite.

Here's how it works!
1. Click like on your favorite photo or photos (as many as you want)
2. Invite your friends to come and choose their favorite.
3. Wait until Dec. 1st to find out which photo wins fan favorite.

YOU BE THE JUDGE!

www.Facebook.com/trnha1951
Meet our 2020 Donors

We gratefully acknowledge the support of those who contributed to Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association in 2020. Many people, companies, and organizations supported TRNHA through donations. Due to space constraints we are only able to list donors who contributed $100 or more. Thank you to all who contributed! No matter how big or small your donation was, it has helped us to assist the NPS in the preservation and promotion of North Dakota’s public lands.

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Every effort has been made to ensure this list is accurate and complete. We apologize if your name has been omitted or improperly reported. Please contact us with corrections.
Become a Member

Our members are passionate about our park partners and believe in helping us spread the word about the beauty that can be found in North Dakota. By joining Theodore Roosevelt Nature and History Association as a member you will be helping us:

- Support educational and interpretive programs
- Enhance the visitor centers in all our partner parks
- Publish trail guides, books, and multi-media products to educate our visitors.
- Host special events in our parks including Teddy Bear Picnics, Birdwalks, and photo contest
- Promote North Dakota's public lands.
- Offer housing assistance for Volunteers and Interns.
- Provide support staff in visitor centers

Learn more at: www.trnha.org/membership.htm

November Online Only Coupon

25% Discount when you spend $50.00 or more

Online Only through November 30, 2020
Use coupon code “November2020” at checkout.