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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **National Park Service Partners with Eastern National to Create Passport To Your National Parks® Junior Ranger Edition**

*New book enhances kids' national park experience with educational, interactive content, and dedicated spaces to collect official park cancellations*

**FORT WASHINGTON, PA — April 20, 2018**—Kids now have their own version of the popular national park passport book. Designed to complement and encourage participation in national parks' Junior Ranger programs, [\*Passport To Your National Parks® Junior Ranger Edition\*](#), will be available in time to celebrate National Junior Ranger Day on April 21, 2018, the first day of National Park Week. The book is a collaboration between the National Park Service and Eastern National, a not-for-profit partner of the National Park Service.

“National Parks are a great place for families to spend quality time together and tools like the Junior Ranger Passport help engage kids at a young age and turn them into national park enthusiasts,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “I love taking my kids and grandkids to parks to teach them about our nation's history and wild places. Educating kids about everything our national parks have to offer is critical as we pass on the legacy of our public lands to future generations. The Passport program facilitates that education and also allows them to take a piece of our parks back home with them until their next visit.”

“This new book will be a fun way for young visitors to learn about, and connect with, their national parks,” said National Park Service Deputy Director Dan Smith. “And, just like the adult version of the book, it will provide a great keepsake to serve as a reminder of park visits.”

Part of the [Passport To Your National Parks® program](#), the Junior Ranger Passport book features dedicated pages to collect [official park cancellations](#), or ink stamps, indicating the name and date of a park visit. Intended for children ages 6-12, the new book is full of vivid artwork from renowned illustrator Dave Klug and includes contemporary, interactive and educational content. Kids can personalize their books and commemorate their park experiences with a free starter set of colorful park-themed stickers, as well as collect a new set of stickers that will be released for sale each year.

Coinciding with the release of the new book, official Junior Ranger cancellations are available at more than 300 national parks with Junior Ranger programs. The specially designed cancellations resemble the badges earned by visitors who complete Junior Ranger programs and include the name of each park. Park rangers can administer the cancellation stamp at their discretion to anyone who takes the Junior Ranger oath to “Explore, Learn, and Protect.”

“We’re pleased to offer a new activity for kids that combine the Passport program with the National Park Service Junior Ranger Program,” said Kevin C. Kissling, President and CEO of Eastern National. “With the new Junior Ranger Passport book and cancellation, kids are encouraged to ‘Explore, Learn and Protect’ while they collect cancellations during their national park visits.”

### **About Passport To Your National Parks**

Launched by Eastern National in 1986, the Passport To Your National Parks® program has introduced millions of visitors to the national park system. This popular program consists of a guidebook that highlights each unit of the national parks and provides space for dated ink “cancellation” stamps, which allow visitors to commemorate their experiences. Visitors can also purchase annual stamp sets, which feature photos from 10 new national park sites each year. Learn more about the Passport at: [www.easternnational.org/what-we-do/passport](http://www.easternnational.org/what-we-do/passport).

### **About Eastern National**

[Eastern National](http://www.EasternNational.org), a not-for-profit cooperating association, promotes the public’s understanding and support of America’s national parks and other public trust partners by providing quality educational experiences, products, and services. Since 1947, Eastern National has donated over \$142 million to the National Park Service in the form of direct donations and grants that support vital educational and interpretive programs in America’s national parks. Learn more at [www.EasternNational.org](http://www.EasternNational.org).

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