



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Tourism Cares awards Save Our Sites grants**

*Five deserving non-profit organizations receive grants*

Canton, Mass. (May 28, 2010)-Tourism Cares is proud to award five grants to the recent Save Our Sites voting round nominees. The Save Our Sites program gives travellers an opportunity to make donations while on vacation in order to give back to preserve and enhance natural, historic and cultural sites around the world that are important to save for future generations. All grantees are US National Parks.

Save Our Sites grants will assist projects at the following organizations:

#### **Glacier National Park Fund: Trails Forever Fund**

Over time, the park has experienced nature's rampage with record snowfalls, avalanches, floods and forest fires all of which have taken a toll on the trail systems. The Tourism Cares *Save Our Sites* grant will assist with the consistent maintenance that has been the hallmark of the trail program for many years.

#### **Cuyahoga Valley National Park Association: Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (CVEEC)**

Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center provides innovative education programs that offer children the opportunity to discover the wonders and magic of learning in and about the outdoors. The Tourism Cares *Save Our Sites* grant will assist its programs such as residential environmental education programs that help more than 3,000 children each year and its award-winning residential, day camp and urban outreach programs that serve more than 9,000 children each year.

#### **Voyageurs National Park Association: Volunteer Rendezvous for Preservation of Wildlife Habitat and Visitor Use Sites**

The Volunteer Rendezvous is a vital native habitat preservation project held in Voyageurs National Park in northern Minnesota bordering Ontario, Canada. The purpose of the Volunteer Rendezvous is to help Voyageurs National Park Service staff restore these areas to their wild, natural state in order to improve both visitor enjoyment and wildlife habitats. The Tourism Cares *Save Our Sites* grant will aid in helping

volunteers to plant native trees and wildflowers, remove destructive nonnative plants and collect seeds for greenhouse propagation.

#### **Friends of Acadia: Restoring the bog in the Wild Gardens of Acadia**

The Tourism Cares *Save Our Sites* grant will help this project to re-establish the Wild Gardens bog, a delight to birdwatchers, amateur botanists, ecology classes, photographers and visitors in general. Being created is a natural berm to keep out flowing water, to re-excavate its basin and to replenish the peat moss that is the crucial substrate for most bog plants. Then, the area will be replanted and a low boardwalk will be built through this wetland to help visitors get into and around the bog.

#### **Joshua Tree National Park Association: Key's Ranch Restoration**

In the high desert country that was to become Joshua Tree National Park, rugged individuals tried their luck at cattle ranching, mining, and homesteading. The Tourism Cares *Save Our Sites* grant will help to preserve the historic buildings that tell the amazing homesteading story of the Keys family who representative the hard work it took to settle and prosper in the Mojave Desert. The buildings require stabilization and restoration to prevent them from deteriorating into the desert.

The summer 2010 Save Our Sites voting round will begin in late June. For more information and updates, visit [www.tourismcares.org](http://www.tourismcares.org).

**Tourism Cares** is a 501c(3) non-profit public charity that benefits society by preserving the travel experience for future generations by awarding grants to natural, cultural and historic sites worldwide; by presenting academic and service-learning scholarships to students of hospitality and tourism; and by organizing volunteer efforts to restore tourism-related sites in need of care and rejuvenation. For additional information about Tourism Cares, visit [www.tourismcares.org](http://www.tourismcares.org).