

STATE OF ARKANSAS

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

PROCLAMATION

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS COME – GREETINGS:

WHEREAS: This year the National Park Service is celebrating 100 years of stewardship of America's national parks and engaging communities through recreation, conservation and historic preservation programs; and

WHEREAS: Arkansas is home to 7 national park sites, with 3,132,898 visitors annually contributing \$163,900,000 to the state's economy through visits to unique treasures such as Hot Springs National Park, the Buffalo National River and Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site; and

WHEREAS: National parks help to safeguard Arkansas's natural and cultural heritage, protecting 10 threatened and endangered species and 1,129 archaeological sites; and

WHEREAS: In recognition of our state's rich history and the importance of preserving it for future generations, the National Park Service has awarded Arkansas \$30,829,087 in historic preservation grants since 1969 and stimulated \$174,017,631 of historic rehabilitation projects through tax incentives since 1995; and

WHEREAS: Since 1965, the National Park Service has partnered with communities in Arkansas and provided \$50,361,454 in Land and Water Conservation Fund grants to create and maintain a legacy of high quality public outdoor recreation opportunities; and

WHEREAS: The National Park Service works in communities through education programs and community assistance projects, carrying out 25 community conservation and recreation projects in Arkansas since 1987; and

WHEREAS: The National Park Service Centennial goal is to connect with and nurture the next generation of park visitors, supporters, and advocates, including encouraging individuals and families to take advantage of our Country's natural wonders and iconic sites as part of the "Find Your Park" initiative;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ASA HUTCHINSON, Governor of the State of Arkansas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the laws of the State of Arkansas, do hereby proclaim April 16th through April 24th, 2016, as

NATIONAL PARK WEEK IN ARKANSAS

across the State, and I urge all citizens to celebrate the beauty, education and entertainment offered through our national parks.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas to be affixed this 15th day of April, in the year of our Lord 2016.



Asa Hutchinson, Governor

Mark Martin, Secretary Of State