

Centennial Challenge Checklist



New York State
Parks, Recreation and
Historic Preservation

Are you ready to take on the Challenge?

As you head off on your next adventure to a New York State park or historic site, take on the Centennial Challenge! Complete 24 of the 100 listed activities to win a commemorative sticker and be entered into a promotional giveaway for a three-year Empire Pass and Centennial swag!

Additional details on page 6. For each additional 10 activities you complete, you'll receive one extra entry into our promotional giveaway.



Festival Fun

- Attend a festival at any state park or historic site throughout the year.

Go for a Spin

- Visit one of our four carousels at state parks throughout the system!

Say, "Parks!"

- Find a Park Ranger at one of our state parks and take a selfie with them!

Say, "Historic Sites!"

- Learn something new from a historic sites interpreter.

Splish, Splash

- Go swimming at one of our nearly 70 beaches or pools!

Bring Your Swing!

- Play a round of golf at one of our 19 courses across the state!

DISC-over Disc Golf

- Visit one of our 17 disc golf courses at state parks throughout New York.

Take a Hike!

- Find a hike at a state park near you.

Waterfall Wonders

- Explore the more than 50 wonderful waterfalls located throughout our state parks!

Gorge-ous Views

- Explore a gorge park throughout our system.

Ready, Set, Run!

- Find a race at your local state park and join in on the fun!

Snow Much Fun!

- Bundle up and take on winter by going snowshoeing at one of our state parks.

We'll see you out there

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Snow Much MORE Fun!

- Bundle up and take on winter by going cross country skiing at one of our state parks.

Sleep Under the Stars

- Make a reservation at one of our more than 8,500 campsites!

Picture Perfect Picnic

- Visit a new state park or historic site and bring a picnic for fun!

Attend a Performance

- Attend a concert or performance hosted at one of our state parks or historic sites.

Bright Lights

- Visit one of our seven magnificent lighthouses!

Sharpen Your Blades

- Pack your skates and head off to visit one of our ice rinks throughout the state!

New Year, New You!

- Participate in a 2024 First Day Hike at one of the 80+ host sites across the state!

Yak about it

- Bring your own or rent a kayak or canoe for a water-themed adventure.

For the Birds

- Go birdwatching at any of our state parks and historic sites.

Stay Connected!

- Download the Parks Explorer app and favorite some of your local state parks and historic sites.

Surf, Sun, and Sand Castles

- Build a sand castle at one of our beaches located at state parks across New York.

Reunite with the Revolution

- Visit a Revolutionary War battlefield at one of our historic sites.

Go Green

- Bring your re-usable water bottle on a hike or walk at one of our state parks or historic sites.

Fabulous Forests

- Try forest bathing to decompress at one of our state parks or historic sites.

Cool Campers

- Join the Camper Loyalty Rewards program and start collecting points!

Host Book Club!

- Hold your next book club meeting in a state park or historic site.

Art in the Park

- Sketch a wildflower or wildlife you see at a state park or historic site.

Spooky Stories

- Tell a ghost story by flashlight around a campfire!

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Spot a Rainbow

Spot a rainbow in a state park or historic site!

Largest New York State Park

Visit the largest state park in our system (Allegany State Park)!

Explore the Empire State Trail

Bike, walk, or run on the Empire State Trail!

Smallest New York State Park

Visit our smallest state park (the State Park at the NYS Fair) and make a wish by the reflecting pool!

Snowy Days and Snowy Angels

Make a snow angel at a state park or historic site.

First New York State Historic Site

Visit the first NY State historic site in our system (Washington's Headquarters)!

Covered Bridge Creations

Walk across a covered bridge at one of our state parks or historic sites.

Time for a Tour

Take a tour at one of our historic sites!

Visit a Farmers Market

Check out a Farmers Market at a state park or historic site.

Wildlife Watch!

Keep your eyes out for wildlife while you're in a state park or at a state historic site.

Here for the S'mores

Make s'mores over a fire at a state park campground!

Bike the Hudson Valley Greenway Trail

Bike on the Hudson Valley Greenway Trail - which is a portion of the Empire State Trail!

Dog Days

Enjoy a walk with your leashed dog at a state park (where allowed).

Bike the Erie Canalway Trail

Bike on the Erie Canalway Trail - which is a portion of the Empire State Trail!

Be a Bookworm

Read under a tree at a state park or historic site.

Bike the Champlain Valley Trail

Bike on the Champlain Valley Trail - which is a portion of the Empire State Trail!

America's Oldest State Park

Visit the oldest state park in the system (Niagara Falls State Park)!

Unlock Adventure

Use your Empire Pass to visit one of our participating state parks!

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Welcome!

- Take a friend or family member who has never been to a state park or historic site to your favorite one.

Fall Foliage Fun

- Visit one of our state parks or historic sites in the fall.

Connect Kids

- Check out our Connect Kids program!

Happy Holidays

- Attend a holiday tree lighting or decorated historic site.

Cast A Line

- Take part in a free 'Learn to Fish' event in a park or cast a line at one of over 130 parks where you can go fishing.

Find a Statue

- Find one of our statues dedicated to a historic figure throughout our state parks.

Totally Awesome

- Experience a Total Solar Eclipse at a state park on April 8, 2024.

Share Your Story

- Share a park or site memory for our Share Your Story project with #NYStateParksStory

Serve It Up

- Play tennis or pickleball at one of 15 parks with tennis courts.

Cache It In

- Take on a geocaching challenge at one of our state parks or historic sites.

Ladders to the Outdoors

- Learn something new about our Ladders to the Outdoors program.

Head off on an Adventure

- Take a ride on one of our Nature or Adventure buses throughout the state to visit a state park or historic site.

Visit an Urban Park

- Stop by one of our urban parks located throughout New York City.

Finger Lakes Trail

- Hike a portion of the Finger Lakes Trail and enjoy nature!

North Country Trail

- Hike a portion of the North Country Trail and enjoy nature!

Float like a Butterfly

- Visit a butterfly garden at one of our state parks.

Natural Communities

- Visit a new natural community in a state park or historic site near you

Seasonal Beauty

- Visit the same place in a state park or historic for all four seasons of the year

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Polinator Power!

Notice a pollinator in action at a state park or historic site.

New York Native

Identify a plant native to New York at a state park or historic site.

Wild Water Plants

Identify an aquatic plant at a state park or historic site.

Centennial Celebration

Join us for a special Centennial event at a state park or historic site!

Sunset/Sunrise

Experience a sunrise or sunset at your favorite state park or historic site

Sweet Sugar Maple

Find New York State's official tree at a state park or historic site - the sugar maple!

Look to the Stars

Go stargazing at your local state park or historic site.

Snowmobile Safety

Prepare for winter by taking a snowmobile safety course.

Boat Safe, Boat Smart

Take a safe boating course!

#SeeYouOutThere

Follow us on Instagram, Facebook, X, LinkedIn, and YouTube. Tag us in a post!

Leave No Trace

Learn the seven Leave No Trace principles and apply them on your next visit to a state park or historic site.

Nature Center Knowledge

Attend a nature center program.

You've Got Mail!

Sign up for the ParkConnect newsletter to learn about what's happening at your New York State parks and historic sites!

Navigation Know-How

Learn how to use a compass on the trail.

Ah, the Golden Days

Tell any two seniors (age 62+) about the Golden Park program's free weekday access.

Knowledge is Power

Attend a lecture or program at a state historic site.

Pulse of the Parks

Read the "Pulse of the Park" Report.

Take a Stroll

Take a self-guided nature walk to learn about insects, plants, fungi, birds and more.

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Parks & Sites Blog

Check out our blog and read a post about something that interests you!

Explore Indigenous History

Explore indigenous history at a state park or historic site.

Heritage Trails

Embark upon an adventure on one of our heritage trails and explore significant historical themes throughout New York!

Explore LGBTQIA+ History

Explore LGBTQIA+ history at a state park or historic site.

Experience History

Attend a historical re-enactment at one of our historic sites!

Engage in Education

Attend an environmental education program at a state park.

Tree I.D.

Take a walk at a state park or historic sites and identify a tree native to New York State!

Takin' Out the Trash

Pick up any litter at a state park for 30 minutes!

What's Your Sign?

Use the Explorer App interactive maps along a trail.

Give Back on I Love My Park Day

Volunteer for the 2024 I Love My Park Day at any of the 100+ sites!

Wildlife Tracking

Look for signs of wildlife in a state park such as tracks in the mud or the snow.

Lend us a Hand!

Join a volunteer event at any of our parks and historic sites!

Explore NY Black History

Explore black history in New York State at a state park or historic site.

Hello, Friend!

Join a friends group!

Explore NY Women's History

Explore women's history in New York State at a state park or historic site.

Take to the Trails

Volunteer as a trail steward, talking to other hikers about Leave No Trace and how to best protect our parks.

Mail in your checklist to the address below once you've earned as many points as you can.

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
625 Broadway | Albany, N.Y. 12207 | Attn: Centennial Challenge

Challenge submissions will be accepted from January 1, 2024 to January 10, 2025. Winners of the promotional giveaway will be announced the week of January 13, 2025.

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