



# LOVE *YOUR* PARK Challenge



## About this challenge:

This challenge celebrates the National Parks of Southern West Virginia, New River Gorge National River, Bluestone National Scenic River, and Gauley River National Recreation Area. The challenge was originally conceived as a way to mark significant milestones at these sites in 2018. Now we continue this celebration into 2019!



Earn points by exploring the parks and sharing your **LOVE** for these places as a park steward. Earn 50 points or more to complete this challenge.

## How to participate:

- Explore the National Parks of Southern West Virginia and complete a variety of activities from this challenge list. Check off activities upon completion; add up your points as you go. Build to a total of 50 points; at least ten points must be earned in the **Friends, Volunteers, and Stewardship** activity category. One form per person. **NOTE:** Each activity earns points toward only one log entry. Example: tour of Thurmond during Thurmond Train Day counts toward points earned for participating in that historic tour OR the special event, but not both.
- Return this completed challenge form at New River Gorge National River visitor center to claim your award. Check [nps.gov/neri](http://nps.gov/neri) for current center hours.
- **Deadlines and awards:** Earn 50 points by **December 31, 2019** to earn a **LOVE YOUR PARK** challenge sticker and get your name included in a drawing for the grand prize, sponsored by Friends of NRGNR.
  - \* First 100 finishers: receive a Love Your Park water bottle
  - \* Show your **LOVE** and finish by February 14, 2019 to receive an extra award

## Challenge tips:

- Park maps and site details are available at park visitor centers and at [nps.gov/neri](http://nps.gov/neri)
- Learn and follow all park regulations. Always respect the rights of private property owners.
- **Think safety first!** Check at the park for updates on current site conditions. Current news will be announced on the park website and on social media.
- Help protect park resources by practicing Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics. ([LNT.org](http://LNT.org))



## How to share challenge experiences on social media:



[facebook.com/newrivergorgenps](https://facebook.com/newrivergorgenps)



[instagram.com/newrivernps](https://instagram.com/newrivernps)



[twitter.com/NewRiverNPS](https://twitter.com/NewRiverNPS)

[flickr.com/photos/newrivergorgenps](https://flickr.com/photos/newrivergorgenps)

#LypChallengeSWV and #NatlParksSWV

**Questions:** Call 304-574-2115 or visit Canyon Rim Visitor Center in Lansing (open daily 9:00 am - 5:00 pm)

# LOVE *YOUR* PARK Challenge Activity List

## EXPLORE

Activity	Challenge Activity	Park	Points	Completed (check box)
Art	Draw or paint a scene in the park	New, Gauley, Bluestone	3	
Bike	Mountain bike on the Bluestone Turnpike Trail	Bluestone	4	
Boat	Take a boat trip on a park river (wear a personal floatation device)	New, Gauley, Bluestone	3	
Camp	Camp in the park at a designated primitive campsite	New, Gauley	3	
Fish	Fish from the water's edge (license required; wear a personal floatation device)	New, Gauley, Bluestone	2	
Hike	Count the steps at Grandview's Turkey Spur overlook	New	2	
Hike	Hike in the rain or snow (dress appropriately for the weather)	New, Gauley, Bluestone	2	
Hike	Hike a total of ten miles in New River Gorge	New	4	
Hike	Hike the Kaymoor Miners Trail from the rim of the gorge to the coke ovens at the bottom and back up	New	4	
Hike	Hike along the Bluestone River	Bluestone	2	
Hike	Hike to the confluence of the Gauley and Meadow Rivers on the Old Ferry Road, part of the Patterson Trail, at Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park	Gauley	3	
Hike	Hike to the overlook of the Gauley River at the Copperhead Overlook on the Patterson Trail at Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State Park	Gauley	3	
Hike	Visit the headhouse and tipple at Nuttallburg	New	3	
Hike/bike	Hike or bike a trail that was once a railroad line	New	3	
Horse	Ride a horse on a park equestrian trail	New, Bluestone	3	
Photo	Photograph a waterfall	New, Gauley, Bluestone	2	
Photo	Take a photograph featuring the Allegheny Plateau	New, Gauley, Bluestone	2	
Photo	Take a selfie at a park overlook and post it on your favorite social media site with #LypChallengeSWV and #NatlParksSWV	New, Gauley, Bluestone	2	
Picnic	Have a picnic in the park	New, Gauley, Bluestone	2	
Sightsee	Download the free iTreks park app (i-treks.com) and go to a place in the park you've never seen before	New, Gauley, Bluestone	3	
Sightsee	Visit all four visitor centers in New River Gorge National River	New	4	
Sightsee	Visit Canyon Rim Visitor Center in Lansing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watch the park film</li> <li>• Walk the Canyon Rim boardwalk</li> <li>• Find the photo of Sandstone Falls</li> </ul>	New	1 1 1	
Sightsee	Visit Thurmond Depot Visitor Center in Thurmond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Listen to the three audio exhibits on the second floor of the depot</li> <li>• Find out a day and time Amtrak is scheduled to come through Thurmond</li> <li>• Learn the name of a building in downtown Thurmond</li> </ul>	New	1 1 1	

Sightsee	Visit Grandview Visitor Center in Grandview: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find the bat condo and learn what species live in the park</li> <li>Find the name of the work crew that built the earliest park features at Grandview in the 1930s</li> <li>Find the name of the hunting tool used by Native Americans that lived in the gorge in the Archaic period</li> </ul>	New	1 1 1	
Sightsee	Visit Sandstone Visitor Center in Sandstone: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Watch the park film</li> <li>Trace the flow of the entire New River on the floor map</li> <li>Find your home watershed using the watershed computer</li> </ul>	New	1 1 1	
Sightsee	Name three things you learned at a park visitor center	New	2	
Sightsee	Find Dunloop Falls	New	2	
Sightsee	Walk the boardwalk at Sandstone Falls	New	1	
Sightsee	Visit the Gauley tailwaters at Summersville Dam	Gauley	1	
Sightsee	View the Gauley River from the main overlook at Carnifex Ferry Battlefield State park	Gauley	1	
Sightsee	Visit the historic town site of Lilly on the Bluestone River	Bluestone	3	
Sightsee	View the Bluestone River from Pipestem Resort State Park	Bluestone	1	
Walk	Walk across the bridge over New River at Thurmond (stay safe: stay off the railroad tracks; watch for cars)	New	1	

## GUIDED EXPERIENCES

- Special events, ranger guided programs, Get Active in the Park programs, and self-guided activities

Activity	Challenge Activity	Park	Points	Completed (check box)
<b>Challenge LAUNCH</b>	Attend <b>LOVE your PARK</b> Challenge launch event: December 26, 2018 hike at Grandview, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm	New	5	
Activity book	Become a park Junior Ranger	New	4	
Auto tour	Drive to two stops on the African American Heritage Auto Tour (CD at visitor centers or download <a href="http://nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/african-american-heritage-auto-tour.htm">nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/african-american-heritage-auto-tour.htm</a> )	New, Gauley, Bluestone	3	
Auto tour	Drive Fayette Station Road with the Fayette Station Road Auto Tour (CD at visitor centers or download <a href="http://nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/fayette-station-road.htm">nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/fayette-station-road.htm</a> )	New	3	
Connect	Follow the park on social media	New	1	
Get Active in the Park program	Try a new recreational activity by attending a Get Active in the Park program ( <a href="http://activeswv.org">activeswv.org</a> or follow on Facebook)	New, Bluestone	3	
Ranger program	Attend a scheduled guided walk or talk ( <a href="http://nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/programs.htm">nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/programs.htm</a> )	New, Gauley, Bluestone	3	
Ranger program	Attend a Bluestone River Walk with a park ranger ( <a href="http://nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/programs.htm">nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/programs.htm</a> )	Bluestone	3	
Ranger program	Attend a Bluestone Turnpike Hike with a park ranger ( <a href="http://nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/programs.htm">nps.gov/neri/planyourvisit/programs.htm</a> )	Bluestone	5	
Special event	Attend a program during a park special event weekend ( <a href="http://nps.gov/neri">nps.gov/neri</a> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New River Gorge Wildflower Weekend, April 26-28, 2019</li> <li>Water Safety Weekend, May 25-26, 2019</li> <li>Thurmond Train Day, July 20, 2019</li> <li>Hidden History Weekend, September 27-29, 2019</li> </ul>	New, Bluestone	3	
Town walk	Take a walking tour of historic Thurmond on a guided walk or use the self-guided brochure	New	3	

## FRIENDS, VOLUNTEERS, and STEWARDSHIP

Type	Challenge Activity	Park	Points	Completed (check box)
Art	Youth of Fayette, Nicholas, Raleigh, or Summers County: participate in the Youth Arts in the Parks 2019 Appalachian Spring Wildflower Art Contest ( <a href="https://nps.gov/neri/youth-arts-in-the-parks.htm">nps.gov/neri/youth-arts-in-the-parks.htm</a> )	New	3	
Friends	Attend a Friends of New River Gorge National River event ( <a href="http://FriendsOfNewRiver.org">FriendsOfNewRiver.org</a> )	New	3	
Friends	Become a Friend of New River Gorge National River ( <a href="http://FriendsOfNewRiver.org">FriendsOfNewRiver.org</a> )	New	10	
Stewardship	Become a citizen scientist by taking photos of park plants or animals; share these observations on free iNaturalist app <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Download iNaturalist app on a smart device</li> <li>• Create your iNaturalist account</li> <li>• Join New River Gorge National River project list</li> <li>• Discover and record nature observations in the park, taking at least three photos of plants or animals</li> <li>• Practice the Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics principles of <i>Respect Wildlife</i> by keeping a safe, respectful distance from animals and <i>Leave What You Find</i> by leaving plants and natural objects where you find them</li> </ul>	New, Gauley, Bluestone	5	
Stewardship	Practice Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics principle of <i>Dispose of Waste Properly</i> by picking up a grocery bag/small kitchen garbage bag's worth of trash in the park; put bag in a trash can. Wear safety gloves.	New, Gauley, Bluestone	3	
Stewardship	Practice Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics principle of <i>Leave What You Find</i> by taking a selfie with a park historic object or plant, leaving that resource where found; post photo on social media with #LypChallengeSWV and #NatlParksSWV	New, Gauley, Bluestone	2	
Photo	West Virginia residents: participate in the 2019 Hidden History Photo Contest ( <a href="https://nps.gov/neri">nps.gov/neri</a> )	New	3	
Volunteer	Adopt a park trail for a year (contact Volunteer Coordinator) <a href="https://nps.gov/neri/getinvolved/volunteer.htm">nps.gov/neri/getinvolved/volunteer.htm</a>	New, Bluestone	10	
Volunteer	Participate in a group park volunteer project (contact Volunteer Coordinator) <a href="https://nps.gov/neri/getinvolved/volunteer.htm">nps.gov/neri/getinvolved/volunteer.htm</a>	New, Gauley, Bluestone	5	
Volunteer	Participate in an individual park volunteer project (contact Volunteer Coordinator) <a href="https://nps.gov/neri/getinvolved/volunteer.htm">nps.gov/neri/getinvolved/volunteer.htm</a>	New, Gauley, Bluestone	5	

Participant name	Participant email
Total <b>LOVE</b> <i>your</i> <b>PARK</b> challenge points earned	<b>Administrative use:</b> Ranger signature and date