

ADVOCACY ALERT!

June 13, 2025

As of today, National Park Service (NPS) sites across the United States will be required to display signs and QR codes asking visitors to self-report content that they disagree with on ideological grounds, regardless of whether it reflects accurate history. This is to comply with the order from Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum issued on May 20, entitled “[Restoring Truth and Sanity to American History](#),” and with the follow-up memo “Encouraging Public Participation,” sent to regional directors on June 9 and [subsequently shared with NPR](#). NPS staff, including site superintendents, were not consulted on this directive.

National Park Service sites are instructed to display the following message:

“(Name of property) belongs to the American people, and (name of land management Bureau) wants your feedback. Please let us know if you have identified (1) any areas of the (park/area, etc. as appropriate) that need repair; (2) any services that need improvement; or (3) any signs or other information that are negative about either past or living Americans or that fail to emphasize the beauty, grandeur, and abundance of landscapes and other natural features.”

We encourage NCPH members to support the National Park Service and your national parks and historic sites in the following ways:

- Show compassion: NPS staff, particularly front-line employees, are navigating a difficult climate shaped by directives from the Department of the Interior designed to politicize public opinion and pressure parks to distort or erase history. Please treat them with respect and kindness; they are not responsible for these policies but may fear reprisal if they do not comply, and they are likely to bear the brunt of public frustration from all directions.
- Respond positively: If you encounter one of these signs while visiting a national park, consider using the associated comment form to submit positive feedback for that park or site. These forms are being weaponized to suppress truthful and complete histories, and you can help counter that tactic by praising site interpretation instead.
- Comment carefully: You might express general support for NPS and its sites, emphasize the essential role national parks play in preserving public lands and our shared national history, or underscore the value of accurate, inclusive interpretation at historic sites.
- Protect colleagues: Singling out specific programs or individuals in your comments may unintentionally expose them to unwanted scrutiny or political backlash. Instead,

keep praise broad or tied to general topics, such as education, access, or interpretation, rather than naming specific staff.

NCPH stands committed to supporting public-facing work that tells truthful historical narratives, and to defending the work of public historians within the federal government. Through [our partnership with the National Park Service](#), we work regularly with the professional, knowledgeable, and committed staff of parks, historic sites, and regional offices around the country to facilitate rigorously-researched projects documenting and engaging with our nation's histories, all in service to the American people.

Requests for public feedback will be met with public feedback. Let's counter historical erasure and ideologically-motivated censorship with support for our parks.



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