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National Park Service Awards More than \$2.8 Million in Grants to Preserve and Interpret World War II Japanese American Confinement Sites

WASHINGTON – The National Park Service today announced more than \$2.8 million in Japanese American Confinement Sites grants to fund 19 preservation, restoration, and education projects. These projects will help tell the story of the more than 120,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens, imprisoned by the U.S. government following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

"Sites like Minidoka National Historic Site and Tule Lake National Monument tell a complex chapter of United States history, one that we are honored to preserve for future generations," said U.S. Secretary of the Interior David Bernhardt. "For more than a decade, these grants have supported a wide variety of projects, from oral histories to education programs, and from historic building renovations to digitization of records."

Japanese American Confinement Sites grants may be awarded to projects associated with the 10 War Relocation Authority centers established in 1942 and more than 40 additional confinement sites. The program's mission is to teach future generations about the injustice of the World War II confinement of Japanese Americans and to inspire commitment to equal justice under the law. Successful proposals are chosen through a competitive process that requires applicants to match the grant award with \$1 in non-federal funds or "in-kind" contributions for every \$2 they receive in federal money.

"As America's storytellers, the National Park Service is committed to preserving the stories of our shared history," National Park Service Deputy Director P. Daniel Smith said. "These projects help ensure future generations of Americans learn from the struggles and perseverance of Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II."

Examples of funded projects include:

- **New York Japanese American Oral History Project:** The Japanese American Association of New York will collect oral histories of Japanese Americans detained at Ellis Island during World War II, and of those who resettled on the East Coast after the war. **Snapshots of Confinement:** The University of Denver will produce a feature-length documentary telling stories of World War II incarceration at the Manzanar and Granada incarceration sites in California and Colorado, incorporating new interviews alongside rarely seen photo albums created by incarcerated. **Discrimination, Resilience and Community Building: The Resettlement of Japanese Americans in Eastern Washington after WWII:** Spokane-based KSPS Public Television will produce a series of short videos and curriculum for middle-school and high-school students to teach the history of Japanese Americans who were incarcerated at Heart Mountain in Wyoming and Minidoka in Idaho.

Over the past 10 years of the grant program, successful projects have included a memorial and exhibit to tell the lesser known stories of Japanese Americans who were forced to leave their homes in Juneau, and nearby

Alaskan communities during the war; the restoration of headstones and monuments at the Rohwer cemetery in Arkansas; and the construction of visitors centers in Utah and Wyoming to tell the history of the Topaz and Heart Mountain incarceration sites and the larger, national story of Japanese American World War II incarceration.

Congress established the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program in 2006, authorizing a total of \$38 million in funding for the life of the program. Today's announcement brings the current award total to more than \$29 million.

The full list of the projects receiving funding can be found in the [NPS newsroom](#). For more details about these projects, visit www.nps.gov/JACS/.

www.nps.gov

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 419 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov, and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#), and [YouTube](#).