

YELLOWSTONE PARK FOUNDATION



P R E S S K I T



www.ypf.org

Revised September 2010



YELLOWSTONE PARK FOUNDATION

The Official Fundraising Partner of Yellowstone National Park

OVERVIEW

Mission: The Yellowstone Park Foundation works in cooperation with the National Park Service to fund projects and programs that protect, preserve, and enhance the natural and cultural resources and the visitor experience of Yellowstone National Park.

Founded: 1996

Location: Bozeman, Montana

President: Karen Bates Kress

Governance: The Foundation is governed by a 26-member, volunteer Board of Directors.

Supporters: The Foundation is supported by contributions from a nationwide base of more than 10,000 private individuals, foundation, and corporations. It provides everyone who cares about Yellowstone the opportunity to become a Friend of Yellowstone and help protect the wonders and wildlife of this special place.

Projects & Initiatives: The Yellowstone Park Foundation raises funds to address both short- and long-term needs of Yellowstone National Park. Each year, the Foundation makes grants to the Park to:

- conserve wildlife and fisheries
- repair trails and backcountry cabins
- expand educational opportunities
- sponsor critical scientific research studies
- preserve Yellowstone's cultural heritage
- support Park visitor and ranger safety

CONTACT: Christine Weinheimer, Yellowstone Park Foundation, 406.586.6303, cgianas@ypf.org



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ACCOMPLISHMENTS & CAMPAIGNS

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since its inception in 1996, the Yellowstone Park Foundation has raised more than \$60 million and funded more than 200 important projects and initiatives in Yellowstone, including:

- long-term research on **Yellowstone's wolves** and their impact on the ecosystem, performed by the Yellowstone Wolf Project
- a capital campaign to fund the state-of-the-art **Old Faithful Visitor Education Center**, which opened in August 2010 (visit www.ypf.org/OFVEC)
- a million-dollar landscape restoration of historic **Artist Point**
- multi-year funding of research to support native **cutthroat trout restoration** in Yellowstone
- a fundraising initiative to enable the rehabilitation of 100% of Yellowstone's most heavily used **trails** by 2016
- financial support to preserve and care for the Park's **several-million-piece museum collection**
- **excavation and preservation of prehistoric artifacts** from eroding, prehistoric archeological sites

CURRENT CAMPAIGNS

The Foundation is currently raising funds for a variety of projects and initiatives, including:

- Yellowstone Ranger Fund: www.ypf.org/rangerfund
- Yellowstone Environmental Stewardship (YES!) Initiative: www.ypf.org/YES
- Sponsor a Bear Box: www.ypf.org/bearbox
- Fly Fishing Volunteers Program: www.ypf.org/flyfishvolunteer
- Sponsor a Wolf Collar: www.ypf.org/wolf

See more at: www.ypf.org/projects.asp

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OLD FAITHFUL VISITOR EDUCATION CENTER

There are more geysers and hot springs in Yellowstone than in the rest of the world combined, yet most visitors used to leave the Park without a basic understanding of the rare and precious geysers they saw or the volcanic activity beneath their feet. Now that has all changed.

A new Visitor Education Center opened in the heart of Yellowstone National Park -- Old Faithful Geyser. Within the Center, educational activities and hands-on exhibits are enhancing the experience of visitors and their appreciation for Yellowstone.

The Yellowstone Park Foundation conducted a successful \$15-million capital campaign to build the Old Faithful Visitor Education Center. The contribution was matched by \$12 million in federal funding for the project.

The state-of-the-art Old Faithful Visitor Education Center opened on August 25, 2010. It will serve nearly three million visitors per year, and is a model of sustainable building practices. In fact, it has earned Gold-Level LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

Contributors: Hundreds of individuals, foundations, and corporations contributed to the Yellowstone Park Foundation's Old Faithful Visitor Education Center capital campaign, including:

ConocoPhillips
National Science Foundation
Shalin Liu
Cheng Wu

Unilever
Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A.
The Coca-Cola Foundation

For more information, visit <http://www.ypf.org/OFVEC> and see the news release attached.

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Yellowstone Park Foundation

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 25, 2010

Yellowstone Park Foundation Helps Provide a New Experience at Old Faithful

Public-Private Partnership Generates \$15 Million for New Visitor Education Center at Old Faithful

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, WY -- Yellowstone National Park unveiled its new, state-of-the-art Visitor Education Center at Old Faithful, creating a focal point of innovative learning opportunities in the heart of Yellowstone.

"While there are more geysers and hot springs in Yellowstone than in the rest of the world combined, most visitors were leaving the park without a basic understanding of the amazing hydrothermal wonders they had just encountered," explained Karen Bates Kress, President of the nonprofit Yellowstone Park Foundation. "Now, thanks to many generous donors, we can open this Center -- and the minds of nearly 3 million visitors annually -- to the wonders of the park."

Multi-media and interactive exhibits will enable visitors of all ages to discover what makes a geyser erupt, what creatures thrive in the scalding hot spring waters, and how the park's fascinating volcanic past is visible today.

The Center, a result of a 10-year collaboration between federal and private partners, has already been recognized for its eco-friendly design with a Gold LEED designation (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) from the U.S. Green Building Council. It is one of the first National Park Service visitor centers to achieve this Gold rating through its use of sustainable elements in building construction and materials, energy and water conservation, and indoor air quality.

In 2000, the Yellowstone Park Foundation officially launched its capital campaign to help fund the new Visitor Education Center, and ultimately contributed \$15 million of the total cost of design, construction, and exhibits. This was matched by \$12 million in federal funds.

More than 400 individuals, foundations, and corporations made donations to the Yellowstone Park Foundation for the project. ConocoPhillips, Unilever, Coca-Cola, and Toyota stepped up to help America's Park with gifts of \$1 million or more.

An undersized and outdated visitor center built in the late 1960s was demolished to make way for the new two-story, 26,000-square-foot structure. The new building has been designed to be compatible with the rustic architectural style of the Old Faithful Historic District.

The nonprofit Yellowstone Park Foundation has been Yellowstone National Park's official fundraising partner organization since 1996. The Foundation works in cooperation with the Park to fund projects and programs that protect, preserve, and enhance the natural and cultural resources and the visitor experience of Yellowstone. For more information, visit www.ypf.org

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Photographs available upon request