



GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK

“The Smoky Mountains are a rare jewel..Why not have a place where you can still see the stars? There is value to keeping things primitive.”

– James Dawson

Human beings have long imagined other worlds that exist just above the clouds and you need only visit Great Smoky National Park to understand why. Here you can stand atop the nearly 1,500 foot high trail dubbed The Chimney Tops and take in the expanse of mossy green hilltops. At night, a hazy fog appears and hangs softly in the trees which makes each moment spent exploring feel mystical and exciting. In the morning, Smoky’s signature fog can somehow mute each eyeful of color, making the landscape look like a vintage polaroid – quick changes abound in Great Smoky National Park. Trout, shiners, suckers, and bass populate the naturally occurring streams and over 100 waterfalls parkwide. Perhaps the most well-known waterfall, Laurel Falls, hosts an endless rush of water that trickles in the brooks and streams swirling through the hollows and hills of this living, breathing marvel of nature. There are new worlds here. They’re yours to discover underneath every waterfall and beyond the fog.

- In 2019, Great Smoky saw 12.5 Million Visitors, making it the most visited national park in the United States of America.
- Great Smoky is a geological marvel with its diverse population of sedimentary rocks formed over millions of years.
- There are 140 different types of trees throughout Great Smoky. Some of the most common include: Red Maple, Yellow Birch, Yellow Buckeye, and White Oak.
- Great Smoky is known for its amenable climate. At high elevation in the Smoky Mountains, the temperature rarely climbs above 80 degrees.
- The Smoky Mountains are estimated to be between 200 and 300 Million years old, making them among the country’s oldest mountain ranges.

DIRECTIONAL
**Great Smoky Mountains
National Park**
Chris Turnham



JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

“It’s the Joshua Tree’s struggle that gives it its beauty.”

– Jeannette Walls

Walk upon the splintered sands of the Mojave and take in the impossibility of this against-all-odds ecosystem. Hike the inspiring rock formations and watch the sunset only to find yourself staring up at one of the most star-filled sky you could ever dream of. A certified Dark Sky place, the park is far enough from the light pollution of nearby population centers for visitors to enjoy some of the best stargazing in the country. The unique combination of the ultra-dry climate of the Mojave with the high and cool elevation of the area yields an unreal juxtaposition of dry gulches alongside lush greenery. The park is most famous for the eponymous Joshua Tree, also known as the *Yucca brevifolia*. The peculiar-looking, often short tree can be found by the thousands in the park’s grassland areas known as Queen Valley and Lost Horse Valley. The tree was initially called Joshua Tree by early Mormon settlers. They believed the tree’s thick and stubby branches resembled the biblical hero Joshua—who extended his arms to guide his people to the land of milk and honey. By thriving in the desert climate, these trees, with their stout, ropy branches, are a testament to the strength of nature. This place can feel like a mirage, instead, it’s proof of the extraordinary.

- The highest point in Joshua Tree is at the top of Quail Mountain which stands 5,816 feet high.
- There are six mountain ranges within the park: Little San Bernardino Mountains, Cottonwood, Hexie, Pinto Mountains and Eagle and Coxcomb Mountains.
- Though it’s quiet during daylight hours, the wildlife community of Joshua Tree comes alive during the nighttime. Inhabitants include: bighorn sheep, lynx and jackrabbits.
- The entirety of the park covers 789,745 acres.
- Joshua trees grow 1-3 inches per year and take 50-60 years to grow to maturity which can vary from 15-40 feet.
- Along the main east-west park road in Joshua Tree is a place known as Skull Rock where a large rock formation eroded slowly from rainwater giving

DIRECTIONAL

Joshua Tree National Park
Little Friends of Printmaking



REDWOOD NATIONAL PARK

“The redwoods, once seen, leave a mark or create a vision that stays with you always.”

– John Steinbeck

With your arms outstretched between two Redwoods shielded from the sky by an endless canopy of this luscious park – you’ll feel that the world is just yours, if only for a moment. Nearly half of the Redwoods in the world live in Redwoods National; containing some of the oldest and tallest trees on the planet, many of them as much as 2,000 years old. You’ll have to journey along the California coastline to find this jewel of a park, and the drive will inspire with breathtaking views of the Pacific Ocean. There are trees, as well as the prairies, streams, rivers, and rich natural woodlands that surround them. Many of the animal species that call the Redwoods home have had their existence threatened over the years, like the Northern Spotted Owl or the Stellar Sea Lion, yet many local conservationists and charities have come together to celebrate this park and in the end, the animals persevered. Redwoods National Park is a monument to the will of the natural world.



- Humboldt Redwoods State Park is the oldest old growth coastal Redwood.
- The park covers 789,745 acres.
- Redwood trees predate human beings by a longshot. At over 240 Million years
- Elk, black bears, beavers, bobcats, otters, owls and bald eagles all call Redwood National Park home.

DIRECTIONAL

Redwood National Park

Glenn Thomas (Left)

Jay Gordon (Above)



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

ESTABLISHED 1915



ROCKY MOUNTAIN NATIONAL PARK

“They have the extravagant beauty of youth, the allure of adolescence, and they are mountains to be loved.”

– James Michener

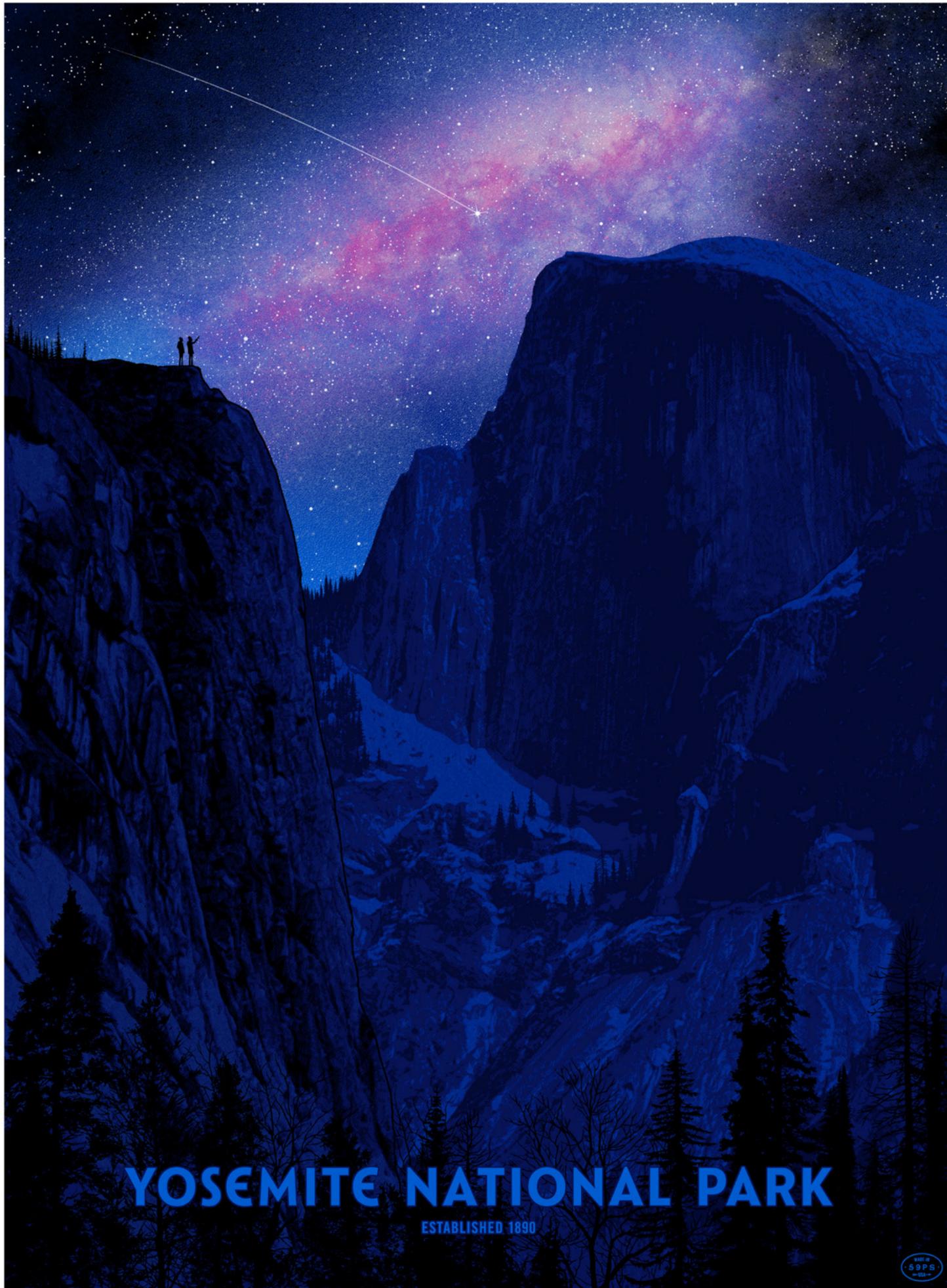
Gaze up at the cragged rocks and below to the balmy valleys and remind yourself that there’s always more to be seen. Come here to celebrate the beauty of life. The blue of a cloud flecked sky so deep you feel it in the pit of your stomach and a green landscape so rich in scent it tingles the tip of your nose. Nestled in the front range of the majestic Rocky Mountains in a rigid swath above this National Park is a beautiful reminder of nature’s will to thrive. These are the treacherous paths the settlers braved to win the west. From the enormous Bighorn sheep grazing in the valleys to the black bears exploring natural caves in the backcountry. From Boreal owls observing in the Cottonwood trees to the trout swimming in Dream Lake. The diversity of wildlife in Rocky Mountain National Park is astounding.

- Trail Ridge Road is a forty-eight-mile long road that stretches along the Rockies. The road’s highest point reaches 12,183 feet, making it the highest road in the USA.
- Over 280 bird species call Rocky Mountain National Park home.
- The diverse elevation throughout the park makes it a wonderland for wildflowers. Elephantella, Wood lily, and The Colorado Columbine are just a few of the over 1000 species of wildflowers in the park.
- Bighorn Sheep are so common to the park that they’ve become synonymous with the area. Bighorns are the largest wild sheep in the world. Their horns alone can weigh as much as 30 pounds.

DIRECTIONAL

Rocky Mountain National Park

Rory Kurtz



YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK

“By far the grandest of all the special temples of nature I was ever permitted to enter.”

– John Muir

The cliffs and valleys of Yosemite are an inspirational treasure. Gleaming lakes are tucked quietly beneath sweeping mountain ranges speckled with blue-grey stone bluffs. Snowcapped mountains tower over fields of green. Deer graze alongside the sequoia groves while wolves tramp along the banks and black bears sleep in the tall grass; a wildlife mecca. Generations of artists, writers and politicians have been inspired by Yosemite’s majesty. Famous landscape photographer Ansel Adams risked life and limb capturing the natural rock formation known as the Half Dome and yet right across the valley, another 3,000-foot high vertical rock formation dubbed El Capitan’s ambitious ascent is braved daily by rockclimbers. Yosemite Falls is another flagstone marker of this wonderful park; a brutalist marvel of nature, where three levels of rapids roar from between two sloping cliffs in the Sierra Nevada. Nearby the waterfall known as Horsetail Fall pours down from 1,000 feet above the valley floor and often absorbs the sunset’s orange hue, appearing as if it’s on fire. It’s impossible to traverse this land without feeling a yearning to contribute your best to this already incredible world.

- Yosemite is considered to be the birthplace of rock climbing.
- The famous Buffalo Soldier army regiment are known for their service during the frontier. They also contributed greatly to the protection of Yosemite, warding off poachers and forest fires.
- The decision of President Abraham Lincoln to sign the Yosemite Land Grant of 1864 is said to be the birth of the idea of the national park in the United States of America.
- Yosemite is known for its gigantic Sequoia trees. Perhaps the most famous tree in the park is the Wawona Tunnel Tree, which was so wide that a tunnel was carved inside of it.
- The Ahwahnee Hotel is known for its plush accommodations and for being the inspiration for the look of the hotel in Stanley Kubrick’s *The Shining*. In 1943, the US Navy used the hotel as a rehabilitation center, hoping Yosemite’s natural beauty would help calm service members’ nerves.

DIRECTIONAL

Yosemite National Park

Dan McCarthy



INTRODUCTION

What you hold represents six years of actual blood, sweat, and tears. Bringing this series to life has been a challenge but incredibly rewarding. We're forever grateful to do work that is fulfilling on both a personal and professional level. A big reason for that sense of fulfillment comes from the company we keep. It's a genuine honor to collaborate with so many inspiring people. The old adage rings true: if you want to go fast—go alone. If you want to go far—go together.

Our love of posters and National Parks go back to 1999. Friends and I grew up in sleepy Palmer, Massachusetts. In high school we began setting up all-ages DIY music and art events. We hosted hundreds of shows in eclectic spaces like church basements, VFW halls, and spooky campgrounds. 39 of these shows took place in an empty store front. Another 101 shows were held in my mom's backyard shed. We hosted bands and artists from all around the world. Sometimes we'd see twenty-five people come out—sometimes a few hundred. A lot depended on the venue and the inventive mix of bands we'd curate. This work was important to us because it was our way of doing something positive in our community.

We discovered screen printing through the necessity to promote these shows. Our love of the medium was immediate. There's something so beautiful about the way the ink stacks up one layer at a time. Or the quiet intention involved with dialing in registration for a print. Screen printing has its limitations—especially when printing on your bedroom floor. But those limitations made us more creative. We worked hard on these shows. That's why we felt it was so important to design—and print—a compelling poster.

Our adventures weren't just limited to Palmer. We spent years touring the U.S. with friends and our bands. Being young—and broke—meant we couldn't afford much on the road. We often visited parks, monuments, and museums because they were within our means. It was so humbling to visit The Grand Canyon on an early tour out west. The memory of my first hike through Glacier National Park is just as vivid. These parks made our curiosity for the natural world grow deeper. They reinforced the notion that these places—and their inhabitants—must be treated with reverence. These experiences also provided some much needed perspective during our youth. It turns out each of us is not the center of the universe. In many ways we are stewards of the land. Thanks for the insight, nature!

It was around this time that we discovered the posters of the WPA (Works Progress Administration). The simple charm of those prints is captivating. They're bold and modest all at once. The work from this era is inspiring from a design perspective—but also from a social standpoint. The spirit of the WPA is all about what we can do together

- 1998 Began playing in bands and going to shows
- 1999 Began hosting all-ages DIY art and music events
- 1999 Began designing posters for our bands and our DIY shows
- 2000 Formative trip to D.C. Monuments and Museums
- 2000 Introduced to the inspiring art of the WPA
- 2001 Picked up a squeegee—began screen printing posters
- 2002 First trip to The Grand Canyon—mind blowing!

during times of real adversity. It's about celebrating where we are and working together toward a larger goal. Amazing.

The next evolution of our DIY shows came by way of The National Poster Retrospecticus. The NPR covers gallery walls from floor to ceiling with hand printed posters. The first show took place in 2006 and was revisited again in 2012—this time as a touring show. The collection now features over 600 posters made by more than 200 amazing artists! We've hosted more than 150 of these shows in the last decade. Many of which took place in musty basements and makeshift galleries. We've also shown in places like The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Marvel Studios, and The Library of Congress. We love the spirit of these events because they bring together a diverse and creative crowd. The vibe at these shows is one of genuine warmth and enthusiasm. We live for this stuff!

So where does Fifty-Nine Parks fit in all this? Well, after a few years of touring with The NPR we had an idea: what if we brought something else we love into the mix? Something like—The National Parks! The idea was to work with artists from around the world to celebrate these natural wonders. We set out to highlight the beauty of each park and the unique voice of every artist. The result is an eclectic—but cohesive—series that pays respect to the past while still feeling new.

The leap of faith to turn our passion project into full time work came in 2015. We spent the last decade working nights and weekends on posters and shows. We never made any money on some 200 events—this was always a labor of love. That usually made for a 70 hour work week. There was also a good seven year stretch without a single vacation. We knew that the only way Fifty-Nine Parks could meet its full potential was to give it 100% of our bandwidth. We'd also need to make this a self-sustaining effort. For years we relied on the paycheck from our day jobs to fund our passion projects. It was a terrifying leap but we went all in—determined to bring this dream to fruition.

We struggled a lot in those first two years. We encountered random setbacks and made our share of mistakes. We did our best to learn something new every day and use each hiccup as an opportunity for growth. Touring with the series definitely contributed to some of those challenges. On average we spent nearly half of the year on the road doing shows and half back home in Austin, Texas. It wasn't uncommon for us to drive 10-14 hours between shows. We'd hang 100 posters, host a few hundred guests, and take it down in the same day. Then we'd hit the road and repeat for weeks. It was intense but it was also an adventure!

It was during this era that we learned how far a jar of peanut butter could go. We practically lived off the stuff. Struggling to make ends meet can be weirdly life-affirming though. Your clothes may be falling apart—and you're living month-

- 2004
Life changing trip to Glacier National Park
- 2005
Hosted our 150th show
- 2006
First Western Massachusetts Flyer Retrospecticus show
- 2007-2010
Visiting more parks, back to college, full time design work
- 2011
Hosted our 200th show
- 2012
The National Poster Retrospecticus revisited
- 2013
First NPR Tour
- 2015
Fifty-Nine Parks is born
- 2016
First park posters released





to-month, but it's totally worth it. The work feels rewarding because you've invested so much of yourselves—and had so much at stake. We're fortunate to have a wealth of past experiences to draw upon. Our early days of setting up events helped foster the work ethic—and values—that still guide us today. That era taught us so much about creative problem solving and resiliency. We also learned how to do a lot with very little. This made all the difference during the initial six year journey with Fifty-Nine Parks.

When I think about the series I'm filled with so much joy and gratitude. It's through this work that we've been able to spend more time visiting parks and digging deeper into their history. To date we are fortunate enough to have visited two-thirds of the parks! We're also fortunate to team up with some of the hardest working artists and printers in the world! Everything contained in this book is the result of a team effort. From the art, printing, branding, typography, and the creation of this book. We're also fortunate to work with brilliant partners outside of the poster world. Work on board games, notebooks, and hiking gear help the series take on life in new ways. True to our ethos in the early days of DIY shows—we still want to do something positive with our efforts. It's through the series that we have collectively raised over \$100,000 for the preservation of public lands. We intend to expand upon this work for years to come!

Our goal has always been simple: get park nerds into posters and poster nerds into the parks. We love the heart warming stories that speak to that aspiration. Like the son who went to his first park with his mom—the park goer—and she got into posters with her son—the poster enthusiast—because of the series. If there's one thing we hope to reinforce it's that art—and the parks—are for everyone. Just like our shows have always been. One of our greatest joys in this work is filling countless event spaces with people from all walks of life. It's in the spirit of treating our differences—and our commonalities—with a sense of reverence. We can't think of a better way to celebrate this thing called life than to share it with one another. We're so grateful that the series can be a conduit for doing just that!

Thank you so much for your support and enthusiasm! All our best from Austin!

JP Boneyard
Creative Director; Fifty-Nine Parks
November 2020

2016
Series archived by The Library of Congress

2017
Visited our 40th National Park

2018
Hosted our 300th show

2019
Completed all 62 National Parks in the series

2020
\$100k donated to Orgs that preserve public lands

2021
Our dream comes true and this book is made!