

Glacier National Park Centennial Story Ideas

Below are a few story ideas and links. Please contact us if we can assist with further information, research and/or photography.

The Legacy

Glacier National Park has a rich legacy of preservation, enjoyment, and history dating back to 1910. Looking ahead at Glacier's 2nd Century, the Centennial Program is planning to continue this rich legacy through signature events, programs, and projects. As we quickly approach 2010, over 50 people are steering the program in an attempt to enhance our partnerships, foster new personal connections, and engage future stewards. The extensive engagement of the Centennial Program will ensure the continued legacy and preservation of the million acres and all of the resources that it consists of. To learn more, visit www.glaciercentennial.org

The Crown of the Continent

One of the most diverse and intact ecosystems in the world, the Crown of the Continent includes 10 million acres in southeastern British Columbia, southwestern Alberta and northern Montana. Covering approximately 44,000 square kilometers, the Crown of the Continent Ecosystem is one of the premier mountain ecoregions of the world where natural processes continue to unfold, largely unimpeded by human tinkering. As a result, rare species of fish and wildlife can still be found here, including grizzly bears, gray wolves, lynx and bull trout. This diverse area also encompasses Glacier National Park, Native American tribes and traditions, ranches and charming communities. The keys to this region include the world's first peace park—Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park—more than 10,000 years of documented human occupations and numerous public wildlands. To learn more, visit www.crownofthecontinent.net.

The First People

Before the Going-to-the-Sun Road, historic park lodges and red bus tours, Glacier National Park was home to members of the Flathead and Blackfoot nations. Called the “Backbone of the World” by the Blackfeet, both nations hold these lands sacred and drew wisdom from the surrounding mountains. For centuries, the park has played an important role in the lives and traditions of the tribes. Tribal members navigated the mountain passes of the park on hunting and scouting expeditions and years later, led early explorers through the park. Regarded as sacred to the tribes, Chief Mountain is located in the northeast corner of the park. Legend has it that when young warriors were being initiated into manhood, they would climb the mountain and fast, open their minds and receive a vision as part of the “medicine vision” ritual. To learn more, visit www.nps.gov/glac/historyculture/index.htm.

See America First

From the vast prairies, to the rugged Rocky Mountains, the Great Northern Railway stretched 1,181 miles from St. Paul, Minnesota to Seattle, Washington. The most breathtaking stretch – the sixty miles of rail from east of the Rockies through Marias Pass and along the Middle Fork of the Flathead River – bordered beautiful Glacier National Park, luring people from all over the world to the conductor's call to see what the railway coined “Somewhere West of Worry, USA”. Glacier National Park's rich history is inextricably linked to the Great Northern Railway, giving millions of travelers the opportunity to explore one of America's greatest treasures. Back in the day, they would come by train and travel by horse to backcountry chalets with stunning vistas from every room. Even today, train travel offers an enjoyable way to see Glacier National Park. To learn more, visit www.amtrak.com.