



A Partnership that Persists

by William Penn Mott, Jr.,
Director, National Park Service

The National Park Service proudly welcomes you to the National Mall for the 1985 Festival of American Folklife. Every year since 1967, two great federal agencies – The National Park Service and the Smithsonian Institution – have pooled their resources to focus attention on particular facets of this country's rich folklife. From communities throughout the nation, Festival participants have brought to the nation's Capital their special crafts, songs and stories as cultural mirrors of their everyday life and work.

The combined institutional and community talents provide an in-depth look at our cultural diversity and its roots, while suggesting how it should be conserved for future generations of Americans. We present it to you in the form of a national Festival for all ages to enjoy at their leisure against a backdrop of the nation's most magnificent museums, public monuments and memorials.

Here in the nation's Capital and throughout a total of 334 areas in the National Park System across the country, the National Park Service works to accommodate its citizens' leisure-time use of parks while safeguarding our greatest natural and cultural resources for the future. America's National Park System has served as a model internationally, helping to foster a greater understanding and appreciation of the natural world and our human response to it.

Parks are often called outdoor museums for the stimulation they offer the senses. This label in fact suggests the close affiliation between the National Park Service and the Smithsonian Institution. Our partnership persists in the belief that each generation wants to learn and share in the rich and diverse legacy of America's great natural and cultural heritage.

Please enjoy your visit to this year's Festival and include some time for the other parks that contribute so much to the beauty of the nation's Capital.