



**NATIONAL
PARK TRUST**
TREASURE FOREVER.



Teacher Talking Points

Pre-trip:

- Introduce students to National Park Trust (NPT) and Buddy Bison School Program
- Explain the 3 pillars of the Buddy Bison School Program:
 - Use parks as outdoor/living classrooms
 - Despite being outdoors, we are still learning!
 - We'll have so much fun you'll forget you're learning!
 - Promote health and wellness
 - Hiking/climbing/walking/paddling for fitness.
 - Appreciating nature and it's beauty.
 - Getting sunshine and fresh air while unplugging.
 - Create park stewards for tomorrow
 - It's everyone's job to take care of our parks.
 - What are some ways we can practice stewardship? (Disposing of trash/recyclables properly, using reusable water bottles, staying on trails, etc.)

Post-trip:

- If students receive Buddy Bison pint-sized mascots:
 - Buddy's motto is *"Explore outdoors, the parks are yours!"*
 - Explain why they received their very own Buddy Bison. Remind them to take him on adventures to discover and explore our parks. Time outside helps students learn how to exercise and feel healthier and also helps promote keeping our parks healthy too.
 - Take pictures on social media and tag #BuddyBison or #WheresBuddyBisonBeen.
 - Former President Obama signed the National Bison Legacy Act in May of 2016 to make bison the National Mammal.
 - Bison represent unity, because all respect the bison; resilience, because they're tough; and healthy communities because they make their environment better just by being in it - just like WE want YOU to be!
- Reflections and Thank-you Notes
 - Ask students for their thoughts during the trip.
 - Encourage students to journal and keep track of their experience - this will make the next step easier!
 - Send NPT a few thank-you notes **from students** and photos that we can pass along to our sponsors.
 - Thank-yous can be student drawings, stories, handwritten letters, video recordings, reflections, etc.
 - Send a quote either **from yourself or another teacher** with a few sentences describing the experience and the impact it had on your students.

4th grade-specific (If applicable)

- Where and what is Washington, DC?
 - The capital, where the seat of our government is!
- The government created a special program just for 4th graders because it's important for kids to get outdoors and explore parks.
- Explain Every Kid in a Park program and/or Every Kid Outdoors Act.
 - See <https://www.everykidinapark.gov/> for details
- Explain how to go online and sign up for your pass (same link as above).
 - This way every 4th grader and their family can explore outdoors. This pass gives free access to federal lands, including National parks, National forests, National seashores, etc.
- Remember once you get your pass to hold on tight to it- don't lose them!