

**NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CONTINGENCY PLAN QUESTIONS & ANSWERS
September 27, 2013**

We continue to hope that Congress will reach an agreement to avoid a government shutdown, but we are working to prepare for all possible scenarios. The following document provides information regarding the National Park Service's contingency plans in the event of a government shutdown.

Are national parks open?

No. If there is a lapse in appropriations, all 401 national parks would be closed. Examples include: Statue of Liberty, Independence National Historical Park (including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell), Yellowstone National Park and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. In addition, the following would apply:

- All park entrances are closed and secured.
- Visitor centers and other facilities are closed.
- Education programs and special events are canceled.
- Permits for special events are rescinded.
- Guests staying in hotels and campgrounds will be given 48 hours to leave.
- A small number of National Park Service employees remain to protect park resources.

What about roads through parks?

While the national parks are closed, roads that serve as thruways will remain open.

When would the parks reopen?

We would reopen national parks as soon as appropriations are provided.

What events would be canceled because of the shutdown?

All events scheduled at national parks.

I have a reservation to stay at a park hotel; can I get my deposit back?

This is a question each individual park concessioner would address.

I'm already staying in a park hotel/campground. Can I remain during the shutdown?

No. Visitors in overnight accommodations and campgrounds will be given 48 hours to leave the park.

What happens to rangers during the shutdown?

A limited number of National Park Service law enforcement and other employees needed to secure parks and provide law enforcement, emergency services, and firefighting are exempt from the furlough.

Is there anyone I can contact if I have questions?

Please visit the DOI website at www.DOI.gov.