



National Park Foundation Fact Sheet:

- The first designated national park started in 1872 with Yellowstone National Park.
- Woodrow Wilson created the official National Park Service in 1916 when he signed a law protecting the 35 national parks and future national parks.
- In 2016, the national park service contributed an estimated 34.9 billion to the United States economy.

Table 4. Education level of national park visitors compared to the 2010 Census

| Educational Attainment | National Park Visitors (VSP Database) | | 2010 Census |
|---------------------------|--|---------|----------------|
| | Number | Percent | Percent |
| Some High School | 433 | 2 | 16 |
| High School Diploma / GED | 2,935 | 11 | 30 |
| Some College | 6,021 | 24 | 30 |
| Bachelor's Degree | 8,112 | 32 | 16 |
| Graduate Degree | 8,099 | 32 | 16 |

- Most visitors hold a bachelor or masters degrees.

- Only 4% of visitors are between the ages of 18 - 24 (13% of the United States population is between the ages of 18 - 24).

Table 13. Race of national park visitors compared to the 2010 Census

| Race | National Park Visitors (VSP Database) | | 2010 Census |
|---|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| | Frequency | Percent ¹ | Percent ¹ |
| One Race | | | 97 |
| American Indian/Alaska Native | 331 | 2 | 1 |
| Asian | 418 | 2 | 5 |
| Black or African American | 160 | 1 | 13 |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | 31 | <1 | <1 |
| White | 18,859 | 95 | 72 |
| Some Other Race | | | 6 |
| Two or More Races | | | 3 |

- A large 95% majority of visitors identify their race as white.

¹ total percentages do not equal 100 because visitors could select more than one answer

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For more information, please visit: <https://www.nationalparks.org/>