

# *Yose DEIA Newsletter*

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DEIA COUNCIL

It's already September, and what better way to start off the month than with a federal holiday and a Monday off! Thanks Labor Day! This month, we have planned tons of events right here at the park. We have Employee Resource Group events, movie showings and dialogues, the community farmer's market, and more! Make sure you check out the upcoming events page to stay in the loop. We have also highlighted a couple trainings offered by the NPS Office of RDI, which can be found after the events calendar page. These trainings can help you become more involved with DEIA at the park and with the Park Service at large. September also marks the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month, which will continue until mid-October. And finally, we have some exciting information about the NPS's newest park, the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument, as well as some book, podcast, and movie recommendations for you to check out this month.



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# Upcoming Events

## RISE Innovation Station

**Workshop 2: Sept 28th, 9am-12pm**  
@ Valley Auditorium

**Workshop 3: October 19th, 9am-12pm**  
@ EP Warehouse Large Breakroom

Join the Yosemite Wellness Coalition and Allies for Inclusion facilitators for an open forum brainstorm to explore the new [NPS RISE Framework](#) and [Surgeon General Mental Health in the Workplace Framework](#). This interactive style workshop with breakout groups provides employees with a to engage with the material and your peers. Email [yose\\_dei@nps.gov](mailto:yose_dei@nps.gov) for the info session link and/or to RSVP for a workshop! And check out the rest of the newsletter to learn more about the NPS RISE Framework.

## Picture a Scientist

**Showing: Sept 14, 6:30pm-8:30pm**  
@ EP Community Hall

**Discussion: Sept 21, 4:00pm-5:00pm**  
@ EP Community Hall

Join the Allies for Inclusion group for a showing of the Picture A Scientist, a 2020 documentary highlighting gender inequality in science. We will host a movie showing in El Portal, followed by an optional facilitated discussion, also in El Portal, regarding the interaction between gender and one's experience in the workplace. All are welcome!

## Community Yoga

**Mondays, 6:00pm - 7:15pm**

These classes are donation-based, volunteer-led, and welcome to all levels. Classes are held at the same time every week in two locations: Wawona Redwoods with Breezy Jackson, and El Portal Community Hall with rotating instructors. More info: [balancedrock.org/community](http://balancedrock.org/community).

## Yosemite Community Farmer's Market

**September 7, 4:30pm - 6:30pm**

Join us behind the Valley Wellness Center for a Farmer's Market created in collaboration with Farm to Crag! Vendors include Raw Roots Farm, Olds Family Farms, FAT Cattle, and Yosemite Flower Farm. Park residents, staff, and volunteers only. Remember to bring your reusable bag, and email [yose\\_safety@nps.gov](mailto:yose_safety@nps.gov) with any questions.

## Employee Resource Group Events

### Womxn's ERG "Girl Dinner" Potluck

**September 13, 6:00pm**

**Girl dinner (noun):** meal thrown together of small portions of snacks and/or whatever you have available, that ends up resembling a snack tray or charcuterie board but is a whole meal. *Ex: popcorn, cheddar cheese and apple slices OR crackers, cheese, olives, nuts, dried fruit and salami.* Join us at the Valley Library ("Girl's Club") picnic tables and bring your favorite "girl dinner" snack to enjoy with the group at this informal mixer!

### LGBTQ+ ERG Mixers

**September 20, 6:00pm - 8:00pm**  
@ EP Community Hall

**September 28, 6:30pm - 8:30pm**  
@ Carabiner

Join the LGBTQ+ Employee Resource Group for two late season mixers in El Portal and the Valley. Come enjoy casual snacks, music, and community! Employees, volunteers, park partner, and community members welcome!

*Employee Resource Groups (ERGs) are voluntary, membership-based, employee-led affinity groups that celebrate employees' identities and values. For more information about Employee Resource Groups in the park, see [yoscommunity.com/erg](http://yoscommunity.com/erg).*

# *NPS RDI Trainings*

The NPS Office of Relevancy, Diversity, and Inclusion (RDI) was created to “champion for an organizational culture that is increasingly inclusive and participatory, which values the diverse ideas, experience and background of every individual, and empowers an innovative, flexible and resilient NPS to engage the opportunities and challenges of the future”. They offer two recurring virtual trainings, both described below.

**For more information on these trainings, email [lark\\_weller@nps.gov](mailto:lark_weller@nps.gov), or watch for announcements on InsideNPS.**

## **Allies for Inclusion**

**October 3-5**

This training is for anyone who is interested in creating community and bringing people together at their site/office. It is a three-day virtual training that engages NPS employees in discussions on creating a more diverse, inclusive, and relevant organization. Yosemite is working to grow its group of trained Allies facilitators in order to host more dialogues through the DEI & Wellness Programs. Training times will be announced closer to the start dates.

## **Beyond Bias: An Introduction to Implicit Bias**

**October 24, 10:00am – 2:00pm**

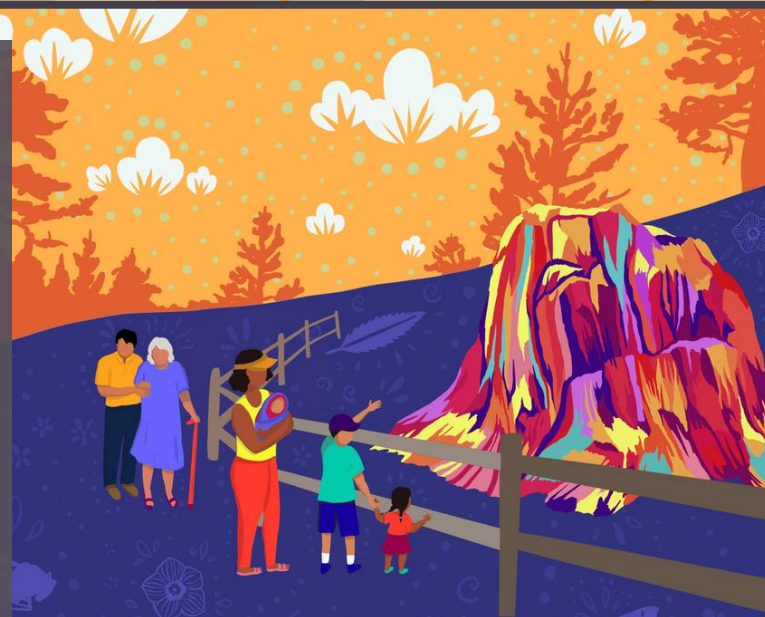
In this half-day virtual training, participants are introduced to the science of implicit bias, gain a deeper understanding of its impact in the workplace and in every-day life and have an opportunity to practice evidence-based strategies for bias reduction.

# *Hispanic Heritage Month*

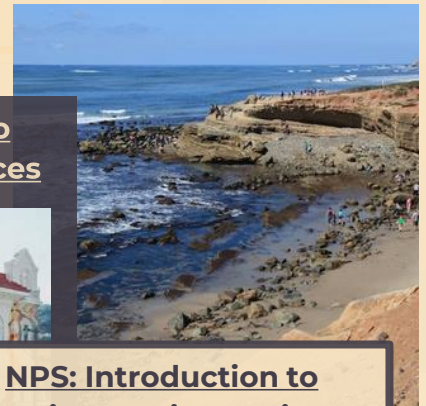
**September 15 – October 15**

Every year, Hispanic Heritage Month is a time to celebrate the cultures, histories, and contributions of the American Latino community. This year, we focus on the themes of prosperity, power, and progress, recognizing the significant strides of Hispanics in the economic, political, and social growth of the U.S. under the theme **“Latinos: Driving Prosperity, Power, and Progress in America.”** These three themes - prosperity, power, and progress - are all interconnected. Economic success leads to more power and influence, which, in turn, drives further progress for community. It's a cycle propelling us forward and an exciting time for the US.

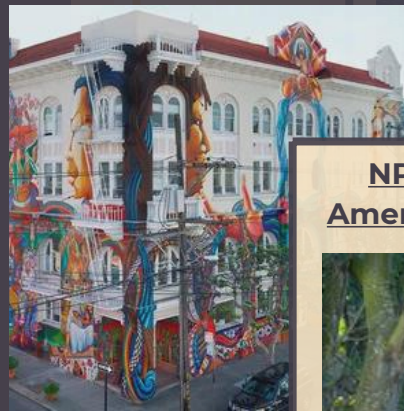
This year's NPS Hispanic Heritage Month Theme is “We Are All, We Are One/Todos Somos, Somos Uno”, to reinforce the diversity and unity within the Hispanic community. “During this month and throughout the year, we, and our partners, share history, heritage, and accomplishments of Hispanic and Latino Americans of past and present. Join the conversation on social media by sharing your own inspiration and learning more about Hispanic and Latino heritage by using #HispanicHeritageMonth and #FindYourPark / #EncuentraTuParque.”



**NPS: American Latino Heritage Featured Places**



**NPS: Places of Latino LGBTQ Gathering Spaces**



**NPS: Introduction to American Latino Heritage**



# *Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument*

**On July 27th, President Biden established the 425th National Park: The Emmet Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument, with site locations in Mississippi and Illinois. The following is adapted from the [National Monument Webpage](#).**

## ***“The Catalyst of the Modern Civil Rights Movement”***



*Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley, ca. 1954. NAACP Records, Library of Congress*

In August 1955, Emmett and his cousins drove to Bryant’s Grocery and Meat Market to buy snacks after a day spent picking cotton. Eyewitnesses with Emmett said while buying candy, he whistled at the cashier, Mrs. Bryant, and the boys quickly left. The subsequent, vicious response to this perceived breach of racial customs shook the country and sparked a movement for social justice.

When Carolyn’s husband Roy Bryant heard of Emmett’s apparent interaction with his wife, he and his half-brother

J.W. Milam sought to punish him. In the dark of night on August 28, the two men drove to Emmett’s uncle’s home, and demanded him at gunpoint. After taking Emmett, the two men beat and shot him, before throwing his body in the Tallahatchie River. Three days later, Emmett’s mutilated body was found floating in the river and retrieved near Graball Landing in Glendora. Bryant and Milam had already been arrested for the kidnapping (to which they admitted), and the discovery of the body meant the two men would now be charged with murder.

After learning of the horrific murder of her only child, Mrs. Till-Mobley demanded Emmett’s body be returned to Chicago. Her next request turned private grief into the grief of the nation. Knowing the powerful effect it would have, his mother insisted on an open-casket funeral for Emmett. Confronted with the image of Emmett’s battered body, the nation could no longer ignore the deadly impacts of hatred and racism. Heartbreak, disbelief, and rage galvanized observers to demand change. However, justice was still far from reach.

Two weeks after the funeral events, eyes were back on Mississippi. The murder trial for Roy Bryant and J.W. Milam took place at the Tallahatchie County Courthouse in Sumner. An all-White, all-male jury was selected. Two local Black men, Moses Wright and Willie Reed, offered groundbreaking testimony by taking the stand against White defendants. Mrs. Till-Mobley also testified. Despite what appeared to be overwhelming evidence of the defendants' guilt, the jury returned a not guilty decision after one hour of deliberation. The verdict caused international outrage. Bryant and Milam later openly confessed their guilt for a magazine story, but double jeopardy prevented them from being retried.

From tragic loss came resistance. Mrs. Till-Mobley and other family members continued to seek justice and fight for equality. Many activists, including Rosa Parks, later identified the Emmett Till injustice as a catalyst for their involvement in the civil rights movement.

- In 2008, the [Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act](#) was signed into law. It allows for the investigation and prosecution in cold cases related to civil rights murders that occurred before 1979.
- In 2022, Congress passed landmark legislation making lynching a federal crime. It is named "[The Emmett Till Antilynching Act](#)."

**Learn more:**

- [National Monument NPS Webpage](#)
- [Emmett Till Interpretive Center](#)
- [NPS: Emmett Till](#)
- [NPS: Mamie Till-Mobley](#)

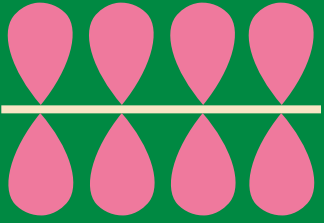


*Present-day interior view of the Tallahatchie County Courthouse courtroom where the trial of the men accused of lynching Emmett Till took place. NPS/Jay D. Johnson*



*Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ. Battiest Photography/National Trust for Historic Preservation*

# READ, WATCH, LISTEN

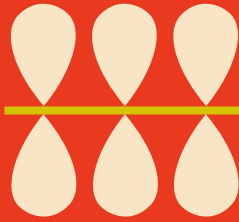
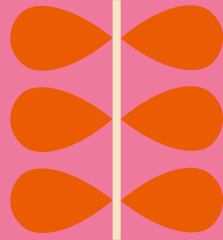


Hi, this is Sara. I've been consuming lots and lots of media! And I'm excited to share a book that I read, a movie that I watched, and a podcast that I listened to last month! Here this month's DEIA media recommendations paired with my short and sweet reviews:

## READ:

### White Fragility - Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism

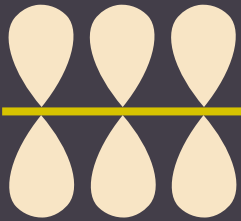
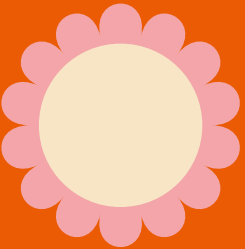
I am a super slow reader, but I found this book really easy to get through! The author of White Fragility is a white, female, antiracist educator, who explains the topic of white fragility using personal stories of leading diversity trainings. She focuses on the responsibility of white people in addressing racism in their personal and professional lives. I really enjoyed the sections where she examines her past mistakes and explains how white people can more gracefully accept their mistakes, apologize properly, and grow as antiracists. I learned a lot!



## WATCH:

### Crip Camp

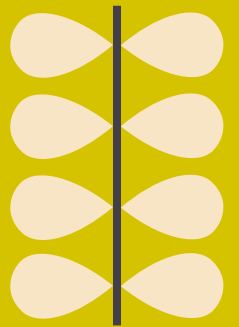
Okay fine, I've watched this documentary at least 5 times, and I won't stop! Crip Camp is one of my favorite movies ever and a few years ago, it served as my introduction to disability justice. The documentary follows the story of Camp Jened, a camp that served teens with disabilities and it features footage of campers and counselors, many of whom went on to lead the disability rights movement in the US (like Judy Heumann)! The director creates a narrative that highlights strong community and acceptance in a way that I have never seen it before. Let me know if you want to watch it together! I'll do it again!



## LISTEN:

### Outward - Slate's LGBTQ Podcast

It has taken me a long time to get into podcasts, but living in EP has forced me to cook lots of meals, which has given me lots of listening time -- I love love love to listen to this podcast while I cook! The hosts chat with guests about various LGBTQ+ topics that are relevant to the current sociopolitical climate, and they do so in a very casual and enjoyable way. Topics are discussed honestly and are easy to digest and understand after a long day of work. Last night, I cooked pasta and learned about the lesbian bar scene in the US and corporate Pride!



**Have you been watching, reading, or listening to DEIA content? We would love to share it in the newsletter!**

**[Click here to fill out the DEIA media submission form!](#)**

