



MEDIA CONTACTS:

Arabia Mountain	National Park Foundation
National Heritage Area	
Mera Cardenas	Alanna Sobel
404-831-3944	202-354-6486
Mera@arabiaalliance.org	asobel@nationalparks.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arabia Mountain NHA Receives 2014 Active Trails Grant from the National Park Foundation – Declares June “Try the Trail”

Lithonia, GA (June 2014) – The Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area (AMNHA) is one of 37 national parks selected to receive a 2014 [Active Trails](#) grant from the [National Park Foundation](#), the official charity of America’s national parks. Now in its sixth year, the Active Trails program supports healthy living by getting people out and active in national parks through projects that help restore, protect, and/or create land and water trails across the country. These projects include hands-on learning, hiking, kayaking, snowshoeing, volunteering, and more.

“Through the Active Trails program, people across the country are connecting with their national parks, discovering more ways to lead active and healthy lives, and giving back to the places they love,” said Neil Mulholland, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation. “These grants are critical to helping with ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance the 17,000 miles of land and water trails across the National Park System.”

The AMNHA is proud to celebrate the completion of over 30 miles of dedicated hike-bike trails with an Active Trails grant. “We have declared June “Try the Trail” month along the **Arabia Mountain PATH** system,” said AMNHA Executive Director Mera Cardenas. “This is a wonderful time of year to explore the trail. Even if you have been here before, there are new sections just completed and discovery awaits around every twist and turn.”

In addition to a community celebration on **June 14**, “Try the Trail” has led to the development of several new programs in the AMNHA including: expansion of [geocaching](#) – a high-tech scavenger hunt – a new tour map found at this [link \(http://arabiaalliance.org/uncategorized/self-guided-bike-tour/\)](http://arabiaalliance.org/uncategorized/self-guided-bike-tour/) and free exploration opportunities such as organized bike rides, free bike rentals and geocaching classes. A full listing of “Try the Trail” events can be found [here \(http://arabiaalliance.org/news/trythetrail/\)](http://arabiaalliance.org/news/trythetrail/).

The 30+ mile Arabia Mountain PATH was constructed over the past 12 years by the [PATH Foundation](#) with a variety of public and private partners including: Georgia State Parks, the City of Lithonia, DeKalb County, Rockdale County, the Georgia Department of Transportation and the Monastery of the Holy Spirit.

Since 2008, the National Park Foundation has granted nearly \$2.4 million through its Active Trails program. To date, Active Trails has engaged more than 5,900 volunteers and 327 project partners who combined have contributed more than 30,000 hours to help promote, refurbish or build national park trails that were ultimately enjoyed by 331,000 visitors.

“The National Park Foundation’s Active Trails program provides vital funding that supports our national parks as centers of healthy outdoor activity for families and communities across the nation,” said National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis. “The land and water trails maintained by the National Park Service invite visitors to explore natural and cultural beauty, and these grants will expand these great opportunities to even more visitors.”

The National Park Foundation wishes to thank [The Coca-Cola Company](#), [The Coca-Cola Foundation](#), [Disney](#), the Scrooby Foundation, and [Subaru](#) for their generous support of the Active Trails program.

The 2014 Active Trails grantees include:

Appalachian National Scenic Trail	Kings Mountain National Military Park
Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area	Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
Assateague Island National Seashore	Lassen Volcanic National Park
Baltimore National Heritage Area	Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park
Bighorn Canyon National Recreation Area	National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office
Booker T. Washington National Monument	Nez Perce National Historical Park
Boston Harbor Islands National Recreation Area	Olympic National Park
Buffalo National River	Oregon National Historic Trail and California National Historic Trail
Cache la Poudre River National Heritage Area	Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Park
Cane River Creole National Historical Park	River Raisin National Battlefield Park
Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site	Rock Creek Park
Chickasaw National Recreation Area	Saint Croix National Scenic Riverway
Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park	Salt River Bay National Historic Park and Ecological Preserve
Essex National Heritage Area	Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area
Flagstaff Area National Monuments	Sequoia & Kings Canyon National Parks
Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument	Timpanogos Cave National Monument
Fort Stanwix National Monument	Wheeling National Heritage Area
Gateway National Recreation Area	
Grand Teton National Park	
Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site	

A listing of these parks and their Active Trails project descriptions can be found on the [National Park Foundation website](#).

For more information on the National Park Foundation and how you can support and protect America’s national parks, please visit www.nationalparks.org. For more information on the National Park Service, please visit www.nps.gov.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 401 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at: www.nps.gov.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION

The National Park Foundation is the official charity of America's national parks and nonprofit partner to the National Park Service. Chartered by Congress in 1967, the National Park Foundation raises private funds to help PROTECT more than 84 million acres of national parks through critical conservation and preservation efforts, CONNECT all Americans with their incomparable natural landscapes, vibrant culture and rich history, and INSPIRE the next generation of park stewards. Find out more and become a part of the national park community at www.nationalparks.org.

ABOUT THE ARABIA MOUNTAIN NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

The Arabia Mountain Heritage Area Alliance is a locally-run nonprofit dedicated to protecting, connecting and sharing the unique history, rich culture and engaging landscapes of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area for the benefit and enjoyment of all generations. The Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area is an affiliate of the National Park Service. www.arabiaalliance.org Find us on [Facebook!](#)

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