



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Death Valley National  
Park

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## Death Valley National Park News Release

Release Date: **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
Contact: Terry Baldino, Public Information Officer  
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### **New Superintendent Soon to Arrive At Death Valley National Park**

New Death Valley National Park Superintendent Sarah L. Craighead, a 30-year veteran of the National Park Service (NPS), begins her new appointment March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Craighead is transferring from Saguaro National Park in Arizona. NPS Regional Director Jonathan B. Jarvis announced Craighead's selection back in January shortly after former superintendent JT Reynolds retired on January 3<sup>rd</sup>. "I am impressed with Sarah's depth of experience," Jarvis said. "She has strong park operational and community partnership experience – all excellent credentials for the issues facing Death Valley National Park."

"I look forward to working with the California and Nevada friends and strong park staff of Death Valley," Craighead said in accepting the appointment. "The natural, cultural and recreational issues of the park present an exciting opportunity."

Craighead also has served as superintendent at Washita Battlefield NHS and Chickasaw National Recreation Area in Oklahoma. She has held management positions at Mesa

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Verde National Park in Colorado, the National Capital Regional Office in D.C., and Manassas National Battlefield Park, in Virginia.

She has served as a park ranger at Grand Canyon (AZ), Carlsbad Caverns (NM), Mammoth Cave (KY) and Acadia (ME) National Parks, Ocmulgee National Monument (GA) and at Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia.

She has a BA from Transylvania University in Kentucky and has done graduate work at George Mason and Catholic Universities. Craighead is married to John F. "Rick" Shireman who works for the NPS Intermountain Regional Office.

Death Valley National Park straddles the Nevada and California State line and is the largest park in the lower 48 states with 3.3 million acres. The diverse natural resources of the park include the lowest point in North America and extend to the 11,000+ foot Telescope Peak. Native Americans have resided in the valleys for centuries. The park also tells the stories of mining and pioneer history of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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Editor's Note: Sarah Craighead can be reached for interviews at 760-786-3243 beginning March 23rd.

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