



**SIERRA  
CLUB**  
FOUNDED 1892



2016 National Park Service Centennial Gold Coin

# John Muir

## Father of Our National Park System

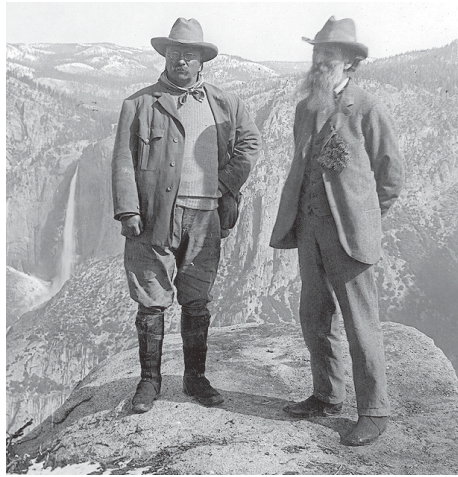
John Muir was one of America's most famous naturalists. He has often been called the "Father of Our National Parks." He was also an inventor, a rancher, a writer, and explorer.

Muir was born in Scotland in 1838 and came to the U.S. at the age of 11. As a boy in Wisconsin, he roamed the woods whenever he could find time. As an adult, Muir would explore much of the country on foot.

In 1867, Muir walked one thousand miles from Indianapolis to the Gulf of Mexico. In 1868, he walked across the San Joaquin Valley and into the Sierra Nevada mountains for the first time.

Over the years, Muir would travel to Alaska, Australia, South America, Africa, and Europe.

In 1890, largely because of John Muir's efforts, an act of Congress created Yosemite National Park. Muir was also personally involved in the creation of Sequoia, Mount



President Theodore Roosevelt with John Muir at Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park

Rainier, Petrified Forest and Grand Canyon National Parks.

His writings convinced many people of the need to protect wilderness. He also led trips into the wilderness to show why it was worth protecting. In 1903, he took a famous trip with President Teddy Roosevelt.

Muir founded the Sierra Club in 1892 to protect the wild places and the mountains that he had grown to love.

## Yosemite Conservation Heritage Center

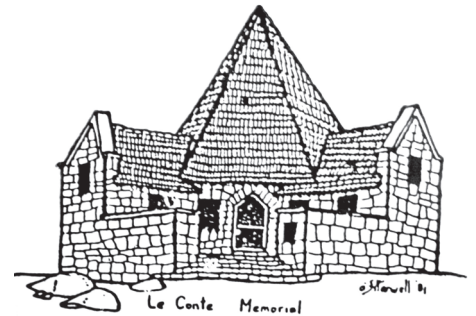
(formerly LeConte Memorial Lodge)

**The Sierra Club Home in Yosemite  
National Park.**

John Muir's early experiences in Yosemite Valley gave rise to the Sierra Club. This National Historic Landmark in Yosemite Valley is a monument to the Sierra Club's deep roots in that valley and reminds visitors of the Club's rich history that predates the National Park System.

Built in 1904, this Sierra Club education program continues to inspire a deep abiding conservation ethic and a love for wilderness adventure and preservation. The building served as the first park visitor center, and still provides information about Yosemite, National Parks, and the Sierra Club.

<http://vault.sierraclub.org/leconte>



### John Muir Exhibit Website

The Sierra Club hosts the John Muir Exhibit website, which is the most comprehensive resource about John Muir on the Internet.

[www.johnmuir.info](http://www.johnmuir.info)

### The National Parks: America's Best Idea

Watch clips of Ken Burns documentary on the history of our national parks and use additional online resources on the PBS website.

[www.pbs.org/nationalparks](http://www.pbs.org/nationalparks)

## National Park Resources

### Sierra Club and the National Parks

Learn about the Sierra Club's work to protect our national parks through our interactive map. Get tips for visiting the parks and more!

[www.sierraclub.org/parks](http://www.sierraclub.org/parks)

### National Park Service

Find detailed information on each national park, learn about upcoming events and more.

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)