

**For Immediate Release****For More Information, Contact:**

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## **Project Promise Receives National Park Foundation Open Outdoors for Kids Grant to Implement its SALT RIVER BAY PROGRAM**

**ST. CROIX, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS (MARCH 23, 2022)** Project Promise has received an [Open Outdoors for Kids](#) grant from the National Park Foundation (NPF). This grant will enable all local public school fourth grade students the opportunity to visit and learn about the incredible history of the Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve. All elements of the original program will be offered and presented in a hybrid format. This year schools will have the opportunity to participate in-person, virtually or a combination of both.

The three-point program, designed by Project Promise Executive Director and Founder Resa O'Reilly, includes an introduction to the park conducted by a park ranger, a ranger led park tour, and then a post-experience visit conducted by a park ranger, to review and reinforce what was learned. "We are so excited to be offering our Open Outdoors for Kids Program in person this year! In an effort to accommodate everyone's level of comfort, we've decided to offer several options of our Open Outdoors for Kids Program," Resa shares.

Since 2011, NPF has engaged more than one million students in educational programs connecting them with national parks across the country. "National parks are America's largest classrooms," **said National Park Foundation President and CEO Will Shafroth.** "With parks, learning is fun, memorable, and hands-on. Parks open kids' eyes to the wonder and complexities of nature and history, and the National Park Foundation is committed to connecting as many kids as possible to parks through our Open Outdoors for Kids program."

The NPF Open Outdoors for Kids program is made possible by private philanthropy, including support from Youth Engagement and Education premier partner Union Pacific Railroad, and supporting partner GoGo squeeZ. Additional support is provided by Apple, Sierra, Columbia Sportswear, Parks Project, The Batchelor Foundation, Inc., Humana, and many individual donors.

### **ABOUT PROJECT PROMISE**

For more information about the Salt River Bay Program, please contact Resa O'Reilly at (340) 244-3242. Project Promise is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk youth on St. Croix by providing empowerment initiatives, cultural programs, and family services. To learn more about Project Promise, please visit the website at [www.projectpromisevi.com](http://www.projectpromisevi.com).

### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION**



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The National Park Foundation works to protect wildlife and park lands, preserve history and culture, educate and engage youth, and connect people everywhere to the wonder of parks. We do it in collaboration with the National Park Service, the park partner community, and with the generous support of donors, without whom our work would not be possible. Learn more at [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org).

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