

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **PROJECT PROMISE KICKS OFF FALL SEMESTER OF ANNUAL FIELD TRIP PROGRAM**

St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands (*October 10, 2019*) – On Monday, officials from Project Promise kicked off their annual Ticket to Ride (TTR) program. The Project Promise program allows fifth graders in the public-school system a chance to visit the Buck Island Reef National Monument and is sponsored through a grant from the National Park Foundation (NPF). The National Park Foundation, the official nonprofit partner of the National Park Service (NPS), is expanding the impact of its programs by providing efficient transportation support for thousands of students to visit U.S. national parks, and Project Promise has again received a grant from NPF to conduct its 2019-2020 program.

“We are excited to once again partner with the National Park Service and Big Beard’s Adventure Tours to offer this program to our island’s youth,” said Resa O’Reilly, president. “Thanks to our collaborative efforts and funding from the National Park Foundation, many of the students participating in this year’s program will be visiting Buck Island for the first time”, concluded O’Reilly.

The program kicked off this week at Lew Muckle Elementary School, and students learned about the ecological significance of Buck Island, one of the most pristine barrier coral reef systems in the Caribbean. The TTR program occurs over several days and begins with an in-school visit to provide students with information on the reef. Students will then take a field trip to Buck Island on the second day and conclude on the final day with a post-park visit and activity at the students’ schools.

Project Promise also manages the *Open Outdoors for Kids* program through its partnership with NPS, which allows fourth graders the opportunity to visit and learn about the Salt River Bay National Historic Site and Ecological Preserve.

### **ABOUT PROJECT PROMISE**

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 and its programs, please contact Resa O’Reilly at (340) 244-3242 or visit the website at [www.projectpromisevi.com](http://www.projectpromisevi.com).

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

Celebrating 50 years, 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 ENGAGE the next generation of park stewards. In 2016, commemorating the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary, the Foundation launched The Centennial Campaign for America’s National Parks, a comprehensive fundraising campaign to strengthen and enhance the future of these national treasures for the next hundred years. Find out more and become a part of the national park community at [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org).