



Hands Across Borders

September 13-18, 2016

Glacier Park Lodge
at Glacier National Park
Montana, USA



A special event to:

- 🌿 Commemorate the 100th anniversary of the U. S. National Park Service
- 🌿 Celebrate Rotary's contribution to environmental peacemaking
- 🌿 Advance transboundary conservation worldwide



Hands Across Borders is a week-long event to celebrate and advance transboundary conservation and international peace parks.

The event includes an intensive workshop for transboundary conservation practitioners, field trips in Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park, and the 84th Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park Assembly.

The week-long event culminates in the annual Hands Across the Border ceremony in the shadow of iconic Chief Mountain.

PURPOSE

In 1932, the U.S. Congress and Canadian Parliament designated Glacier National Park and its neighbor Waterton Lakes National Park as the first international peace park in the world. Since that time it has served as a symbol and catalyst for transboundary conservation around the world.

Today, more than ever, border regions are coming together to promote and support livable communities, vibrant economies, and healthy landscapes. This work helps to promote peace and cooperation, while also highlighting the past, current, and future roles of indigenous peoples as the First Stewards of these critical environments. Building on the recently published book by the International

Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) *Transboundary Conservation: A Systematic and Integrated Approach*, Hands Across Borders will bring together practitioners from both existing and aspiring transboundary conservation initiatives around the globe to exchange information, foster relationships, and build capacity to catalyze, enable, and sustain transboundary conservation efforts.

Participants will also have an opportunity to understand the role of local leaders in fostering transboundary conservation while celebrating Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park's place in history.

OUTCOMES

- Highlight Glacier National Park's unique contribution to the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service as the only International Peace Park in North America;
- Celebrate the role that Waterton-Glacier International Peace Park has played in inspiring international peace parks and transboundary conservation;
- Acknowledge the role of Rotary International and other local leaders to catalyzing, enabling, and supporting international peace parks and transboundary conservation initiatives;
- Emphasize the past, current, and future roles of indigenous peoples such as Tribes and First Nations as the First Stewards of border landscapes;
- Bring together representatives from transboundary conservation initiatives throughout the world—including several international peace parks—to exchange information, learn from each other, and build relationships; and
- Build the capacity of transboundary conservation practitioners through a pilot project based on *Transboundary Conservation: A Systematic and Integrated Approach*.



Waterton Lakes National Park Superintendent Ifan Thomas and Glacier National Park Superintendent Jeff Mow

