The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island are a major tourist destination attracting 4.3 million visitors last year from all across the United States and from around the globe... Volunteering is an American tradition that has made immeasurable contributions to our National Parks over the years and we are thankful to Tourism Cares for having such a positive impact on Liberty and Ellis Islands.

- John Piltzecker, superintendent of Ellis Island and Statue of Liberty National Monument

Tourism Cares volunteers make such an incredible impact! On a perfect November day, more than 300 volunteers came together for the final event in a year-long series of programs to help our national parks during the centennial year.

Eighty different travel companies were represented and volunteers traveled from 23 different states and 2 provinces. Together, we helped to make a serious dent on the to-do lists at Ellis Island, Statue of Liberty and Liberty State Park.

Volunteers mulched more than 60,000 cubic feet protecting nearly 300 trees and other plant life AND planted 1,000 bulbs at Liberty State Park and Statue of Liberty.

To help prepare for any future flooding, volunteers also helped to compile approximately 200 sandbags on Ellis Island - seriously back-breaking work!

Constantly in need of a fresh coat, volunteers painted 648 feet of chain link fence and 78 posts, using more than 10 gallons of paint to get the job done.

300 volunteers donated 1,800 hours at a value of $48,000 to State and National Park Staff

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“I do not believe that any man can adequately appreciate the world of to-day unless he has some knowledge of -- a little more than a slight knowledge, some feeling for and of -- the history of the world of the past.”

-Theodore Roosevelt, 26th President of the United States of America