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For Immediate Release

## Public Will Pick Top Pooch to be 'B.A.R.K. Superintendent' of Gateway Arch National Park

*The B.A.R.K. Ranger Photo Contest hosted by Gateway Arch Park Foundation, sponsored by Purina, is accepting submissions now, and the public will vote for the winner on the Foundation's Facebook page.*

**ST. LOUIS, MO (March 27, 2023)**— It's your dog's time to shine! Gateway Arch Park Foundation is on the hunt for the next top dog to become Gateway Arch National Park's official B.A.R.K. Superintendent. The 2023 B.A.R.K. Ranger Photo Contest, sponsored by Purina, is the perfect opportunity for you to show off your furry friend and be named the ultimate urban national park pup!

The winning dog will throw out the honorary "First Fetch" at the St. Louis Cardinals' game on Saturday, May 6. Along with receiving a prize pack filled with Arch and Purina goodies, the winner also will be invited to preside over B.A.R.K. Ranger events throughout the year, and, of course, hold their title B.A.R.K. Superintendent for Gateway Arch National Park.

**But what is a B.A.R.K. Ranger, you ask?** The National Park Service's B.A.R.K. Ranger program invites family pets to serve as ambassadors for responsible and safe pet handling at Gateway Arch National Park and other national parks across the country. B.A.R.K. stands for "Bag your pet's waste," "Always leash your pet," "Respect wildlife," and "Know where you can go." Owners can bring their pets to Gateway Arch National Park to be B.A.R.K. Rangers throughout the year, and Gateway Arch Park Foundation and Purina plan to announce future events to support canine activities throughout 2023.

"Our mission is to make Gateway Arch National Park and its surrounding areas welcoming for everyone — including their pets," said Ryan McClure, Executive Director of Gateway Arch Park Foundation. "With 91 acres and five miles of trails, we invite St. Louisans to celebrate their pup friendships at the world's greatest monument in our hometown national park!"

"At Purina, we believe that pets and people are better together," said Kim Beardslee, Director of Community Affairs at Nestlé Purina PetCare Company. "What better place to bring people and pets together than the most iconic landmark in St. Louis?"

To enter, simply submit a photo of your furry friend posing in front of the Gateway Arch or Old Courthouse to [photocontest@archpark.org](mailto:photocontest@archpark.org) through April 21. Voting will take place [on the Foundation's Facebook page](#) between April 14 and 21. Learn more about the contest at [archpark.org/bark](http://archpark.org/bark).

After the top dog is announced, celebrate the new B.A.R.K. Superintendent at an induction ceremony at noon on Sunday, April 30, also known as B.A.R.K. Ranger Day at Gateway Arch National Park. Following the ceremony, at 12:30 p.m., furry friends and their humans are invited to enjoy a stroll around the grounds led by a park ranger and the newly inducted B.A.R.K. Superintendent. Sign your pet up to be a B.A.R.K. Ranger and get some special swag, too!

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### **About Gateway Arch Park Foundation**

[Gateway Arch Park Foundation](http://archpark.org) is the official philanthropic partner and conservancy for Gateway Arch National Park. Its mission is to ensure the Gateway Arch, its grounds, neighboring public spaces, and attractions are a vital, welcoming, well-supported resource to the community and nation for generations to come. It seeks to fulfill its mission by providing for ongoing conservation, preservation and education at the park, in addition to hosting, facilitating and promoting community programs that bring the park and its surrounding areas in Downtown St. Louis to life. The Foundation is part of an alliance that helps meet this mission, which includes the National Park Service, Bi-State Development, Great Rivers Greenway, Jefferson National Parks Association, and the City of St. Louis. For more information, visit <http://archpark.org>.

### **About Purina**

Nestlé Purina PetCare creates richer lives for pets and the people who love them. Founded in 1894, Purina has helped dogs and cats live longer, healthier lives by offering scientifically based nutritional innovations. Purina manufactures some of the world's most trusted and popular pet care products, including Purina ONE, Pro Plan, Fancy Feast and Tidy Cats. Our more than 8,700 U.S. associates take pride in our trusted pet food, treat and litter brands that feed 51 million dogs and 65 million cats every year. More than 500 Purina scientists, veterinarians, and pet care experts ensure our commitment to unsurpassed quality and nutrition.

Purina promotes responsible pet care through our scientific research, our products and our support for pet-related organizations. Over the past five years, Purina has contributed more than \$150 million towards organizations that bring, and keep, people and pets together, as well as those that help our communities and environment thrive. Purina is part of Nestlé, a global leader in Nutrition, Health and Wellness. For more information, visit [purina.com](http://purina.com) or subscribe here to get the latest Purina news.