



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



National Environmental Education Foundation
Knowledge to live by
National Public Lands Day
A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Get Involved Guide: Boy Scouts of America ***Tips for Making the Most Out of National Public Lands Day***

The last Saturday of every September is **National Public Lands Day (NPLD)**. NPLD provides Boy Scouts an opportunity to improve America's public lands and give something back to their community.

Boy Scouts from around the country who participate can take care of their national, state and local parks, forests, beaches and other public lands by...

- Planting trees, shrubs and other native vegetation;
- Picking up trash;
- Removing invasive plants;
- Collecting seeds;
- Repairing stream banks or shorelines;
- Improving wildlife habitat by installing bird or bat boxes;
- Maintaining hiking trails and campground areas; and
- Educating and inspiring others to care for our natural environment.

There are two ways to participate in NPLD:

1. Organize your own work site.
2. Join an existing NPLD work site. Go to www.publiclandsday.org to find a site near you. Contact the site manager to make sure that there are age-appropriate projects for your troop.

How to organize your own work site

1. Select a site for a volunteer workday

- Find a local public land site such as a national, state, county or city park, a forest preserve, public beach, schoolyard, walking trail or bike path. You might want to choose a local park or public space where you have noticed neglect.
- Contact the public land manager or other person in charge of that space (i.e. the principal of a school, or a volunteer manager for the park) to determine what work activities your troop might perform on NPLD to help improve or enhance that site.

- Choose projects where Boy Scouts can make a significant contribution to improving public lands and may learn about the natural environment in the process.

2. Register

In order to officially participate, leaders and advisors should register their troop or pack with NPLD at www.publiclandsday.org.

3. Plan the volunteer workday

- Decide on the number of hours Boy Scouts will work (morning, afternoon, all day).
- Work with the public land manager to divide up work projects and duties.
- Be prepared! Create a checklist of all the things you will need. Consider bringing snacks, water bottles, sun block, sunglasses, wide-brimmed hats, hiking boots or other sturdy shoes, work gloves and of course, a camera!
- For help with organizing your event, download *A Manual for Site Managers* at www.publiclandsday.org/pdf/NPLD_manual.pdf.

4. Get prepared and seek community participation

- Get ready! Are tools, materials, equipment or preliminary work needed? Determine where you can get food and necessary materials. If appropriate, ask for donations from the community.
- Try to increase your impact by recruiting more volunteers. Promotional posters, brochures and items of appreciation for Boy Scouts are provided by the National Environmental Education Foundation. You can request materials when registering.

5. Learn about public lands

- Boy Scouts will learn to value the natural and cultural resources of America's public lands on this volunteer workday. During the event, find an opportunity to educate Boy Scouts about the environment. Search our *Educational Resources* page at www.publiclandsday.org for activities and educational curricula around the themes of water, trees and invasive plants.

6. Have a successful NPLD with Boy Scouts doing real work and learning more about public lands.

Send your registration form to:

National Public Lands Day
 National Environmental Education Foundation
 4301 Connecticut Ave, NW, Suite 160, Washington, DC 20008
 Ph: 202-261-6479, Fax: 202-261-6464, e-mail: npld@neefusa.org
www.publiclandsday.org



The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) provides knowledge to trusted professionals who, with their credibility, amplify messages to national audiences to solve everyday environmental problems. Together, we generate lasting positive change. NEEF partners with professionals in health, education, media, business and public land management to promote daily actions for helping people protect and enjoy the environment. Through our primary programs - Classroom Earth, National Public Lands Day, National Environmental Education Week, Business and Environment, Earth Gauge[®] and Health & Environment - we offer Americans knowledge to live by. To learn more, call (202) 833-2933 or visit www.neefusa.org.