



NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY Get Involved Guide *Tips for Making the Most Out of National Public Lands Day*

The last Saturday of every September is dedicated as **National Public Lands Day (NPLD)**. NPLD provides Girl Scouts an opportunity to improve America's public lands. Girl Scouts from around the country can:

- **Discover** – a strong sense of self, positive values and understanding of their important role in caring for wildlife, the environment and our Earth's natural resources.
- **Connect** – with one another while they care about nature, the outdoors and their local and global communities.
- **Take Action** – to identify community and environmental needs, positively impact the environment and educate and inspire others to act as stewards of our Earth.

There are two ways to participate in NPLD:

1. Organize your own project and work site.
2. Join an existing NPLD work site found on www.publiclandsday.org
 - Contact the worksite manager to make sure that there are projects appropriate to the age of your Girls Scouts
 - Girl Scout councils, leaders and/or advisors should register with NPLD at http://www.publiclandsday.org/pre_reg.htm

How to organize your own project and work site for NPLD:

1. **Select a project and site – Federal or state lands are great! Even schoolyards work!**

Try to develop a sustainable “**action**” rather than “**service**” project where Girls Scouts can make a long term contribution to improving public lands.

What is “service” vs. “action?”

Service makes the world better for people and the environment "right now" Service may involve cleaning up a campsite or performing trail restoration. Service is a vital way to help care for the Earth.

Action is moving beyond immediate service to understand the root causes of a problem. Implementing a recycling program at a park or educating visitors to the park about ways to minimize their impact on the trails are examples of action projects.

Girl Scouts use both **service** and **action** to live by the Girl Scout Law and "make the world a better place."

2. **Register.** Leaders and advisors should register their troop or group with NPLD at http://www.publiclandsday.org/pre_reg.htm
3. **Seek community participation.**
 - Determine whether the local community can provide tools, materials or food.
4. **Plan the volunteer project and workday.**
 - Decide on the number of hours Girls Scouts will work (morning, afternoon, all day).
 - For help with organizing your event, download *A Manual for Site Managers* at www.publiclandsday.org/pdf/NPLD_manual.pdf .

5. **Promote NPLD in the community and in schools.**

- NPLD provides posters and brochures.

6. **Get ready for NPLD.**

Girl Scouts should use an NPLD project to learn about the natural and cultural resources of America's treasured public lands.

- Create an environmental education component. Educational resources can be found at http://www.publiclandsday.org/library/index/ed_resources.htm
- Outline tasks and number of volunteers needed for each task.
- Get your cameras ready to take great photos. Enter them into the NPLD Girl Scout photo contest!

7. **Have a successful NPLD with Girl Scouts doing real work and learning more about public lands.**

8. **Incorporate NPLD into Girl Scout leadership journeys, Girl Scout Bronze, Silver or Gold Award projects or other Girl Scout awards.**

- Develop a project for NPLD that can extend the experience of a Girl Scout leadership journey. Visit <http://www.girlscouts.org/program/journeys/> to learn more about this program.
- Incorporate NPLD as part of a Girl Scout Bronze, Silver or Gold Award project.
- Girl Scouts can work towards the *Get with the Land* Patch by participating in or hosting a NPLD event held in collaboration with a federal or state agency. For more information on the patch criteria and the order form, visit www.girlscouts.org and search for "Get with the Land".
- Complete other Girl Scout environmental, outdoor or STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) awards during NPLD. Download a list of awards at www.girlscouts.org/program/program_opportunities/environment/.



Questions or Comments? Please contact:

National Public Lands Day

npld@neefusa.org

(202) 261-6479

www.publiclandsday.org

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