



NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Get Involved Guide

“Tips for Making the Most Out of National Public Lands Day”

One Saturday every September is dedicated as **National Public Lands Day (NPLD)**. NPLD provides an opportunity for Girl Scouts to improve America’s public lands. Girl Scouts from around the country who participate can:

- **Discover** – a strong sense of self, positive values and understanding of their important role in caring for the environment and our Earth’s natural resources.
- **Connect** – with 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 worksite.
2. Join an existing NPLD worksite found on www.publiclandsday.org or call (202) 261-6478 to find a worksite in a nearby location.
 - Contact the worksite manager to make sure that there are projects appropriate to the age of your Girl Scouts.
 - **Attention:** Girl Scout leaders and advisors should register with NPLD at www.publiclandsday.org/about/partners/girl_scouts.htm and send the form to our national office (see contact information on the reverse side).

How to organize your own worksite for NPLD:

1. **Select a site for a volunteer workday – Federal or state lands are great! Even schoolyards work!**
 - Choose projects where Girls Scouts can make a contribution to improving public lands.

Some examples include-- installing bird boxes, painting picnic tables, weeding plant nurseries, planting trees and flowers, repairing stream banks, cleaning up trash, collecting native seeds, and removing invasive species.
 - Get ready! Are tools, materials, equipment, or preliminary work needed? How can you get supplies?

2. **Register.** Leaders and advisors should register their troop or group with NPLD at www.publiclandsday.org/about/partners/girl_scouts.htm and send the form to our national office (see contact information on reverse side).

3. **Seek community participation.**

- Determine whether the local community can provide tools, materials and food.
- If appropriate, ask for donations from the community.

4. **Plan the volunteer 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.**

- Posters, brochures, and items of appreciation for Girl Scouts are provided by the National Environmental Education Foundation.

6. **Get ready for NPLD.**

Girl Scouts should learn about the natural and cultural resources of America's public lands on this volunteer workday; use the day as an opportunity to teach them about these treasured lands.

- Decide whether to provide lunch and make arrangements.
- Create an environmental education component.
- Outline tasks and number of volunteers needed for each task.
- Get your cameras ready to take great photos.

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

8. **Earn the Get with the Land Patch and other Girl Scout awards.**

- Girl Scouts can earn ***Get with the Land*** Patch by participating in or hosting a NPLD event held in collaboration with a federal or state agency or on their lands. For more information on the patch criteria and the order form visit www.girlscouts.org, search for "Get with the Land" or call (800) 223-0624.
- Complete other 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/.



Please send your registration form to:
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