

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



## OnCampus ecoAmbassadors

OnCampus ecoAmbassadors are college students who implement projects from EPA's partnership programs to help carry out the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment. The program is open to ANY college student, regardless of program, age, or background. All interested students are encouraged to participate.

### Did you know?

- Public lands make up approximately one-third of the United States—nearly 600 million acres.
- The United States has more than 1 million acres of urban parkland.
- During NPLD in 2010, 170,000 volunteers worked at more than 2,080 sites in every state, the District of Columbia, and in many U.S. territories.

### Learn More

National Public Lands Day is a unique public and private partnership that allows the community to connect with their local public lands.

- NPLD began in 1994 with 3 sites and 700 volunteers. Now, eight federal land management agencies and many state and local lands participate in this annual day of service.
- NPLD occurs annually on a Saturday in late September.

### How to Volunteer

Any individual or group can participate by coordinating an event at a local public land or volunteering at an existing site. To find a volunteer opportunity near you, please visit [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org).



# National Public Lands Day Event

Coordinated by the National Environmental Education Foundation, National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance America's public lands. In 2011, NPLD will take place on Saturday, September 24. The event will focus on:

- Educating volunteers about critical environmental issues on public lands
- Building partnerships between the public sector and the local community
- Improving public lands for outdoor recreation
- Encouraging individuals and families to be active outdoors

### Goals of a National Public Lands Day Event

- Foster a sense of stewardship for public lands by encouraging students to volunteer to assist land managers in hands-on work on September 24
- Develop partnerships between students, the public sector, and members of the local community
- Enhance and restore student interest in America's public lands
- Increase awareness about the health benefits of outdoor recreation

### If You're Interested In:

- Planning events to generate interest in public lands and outdoor recreation
- Working with a public lands manager at the federal, state, or local level
- Taking an active role to restore critical environmental, natural, and cultural resources
- Volunteering and giving back to the local community

**... then a National Public Lands Day Event is for you!**

See page 2 for a step-by-step checklist for a National Public Lands Day Event .



### Students Taking Action

New Mexico State University museum conservation students enhanced a Buffalo Soldier Monument at Fort Bliss in Texas. Students developed a conservation plan and performed work to repair prematurely corroding sections of the monument.

Students at Brigham Young University-Idaho cleaned up an area within St. Anthony Sand Dunes in Idaho. More than 500 students worked alongside members of the local community and collected over 4,000 pounds of litter and debris.

A National Public Lands Day Event is ideal for students pursuing degrees in environmental science, natural resource management, and public policy.

## Checklist for a National Public Lands Day Event

Follow the steps below to plan a NPLD event on your campus.

### 1. Find a public land.

Visit [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org) to find a public land near your campus, such as a national, state, county or city park, forest preserve, public beach, playground, or publically accessible sport field. If you cannot find a public land near you, consider registering a new site (see step 3).

### 2. Connect with a public land manager.

Contact the park manager or other person in charge of the public land (for example, a city park superintendent, a park volunteer coordinator, or campus personnel) and ask about opportunities to volunteer. Work with that person to determine what improvement projects are needed. Feel free to mention projects your group is interested in supporting on NPLD.

### 3. Register.

In order to officially participate in NPLD, a description of your site must be listed on [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org). The public land manager or campus administrator can register the event at [www.publiclandsday.org/register-site](http://www.publiclandsday.org/register-site). Representatives of registered sites can request free promotional materials.

### 4. Plan the day and encourage participation.

Coordinate with the park manager to plan the volunteer workday. Decide on the time of day and number of hours needed for the project. Divide up volunteer tasks and create a checklist of everything you will need and determine whether you will provide food and drinks. Ask the site manager if tools, materials, or preliminary work is needed. Consider asking a community hardware store to donate supplies or a local restaurant to provide food and drinks.

Publicize your event and recruit volunteers using NPLD promotional posters and brochures. Advertise on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter. Student government, environmental or volunteer clubs on campus are good places to contact for help promoting your event. Check out the tips for successful events on the right.

### 5. Consider adding a recreational or educational activity to NPLD.

Look into hiking, biking, swimming, or other activities to do after the project or incorporate an activity into the event, such as removing debris during a hike. You could also consider working with the public land manager to identify a naturalist or other environmental expert (i.e., a professor) to provide information during NPLD.

### 6. Host the NPLD event and take pictures.

Host the NPLD event for fellow students, faculty, and other participants. Remember to bring a camera and take photos of your group during the event and share them on the OnCampus Facebook page. Consider submitting the photos into the NPLD photo contest! View photo contest details at [www.publiclandsday.org/resources/contest](http://www.publiclandsday.org/resources/contest).

### 7. Fill out your completion form.

Record the information that you are required to report to EPA on the event completion form, including your name, date of the event, name of your college, a description of the event or events, the number of interactions (include any interesting comments), and additional comments.

## Resources

### NPLD Website

[www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org)

### Planning Resources for Your Event

For more assistance organizing your event, download A Manual for Site Managers at: [www.publiclandsday.org/resources/site-manager-resources](http://www.publiclandsday.org/resources/site-manager-resources)

### Find NPLD Partners

If you are looking for someone to contact about volunteer opportunities, check out NPLD's list of partners by state at: [www.publiclandsday.org/partners/friends-groups-and-local-nonprofits](http://www.publiclandsday.org/partners/friends-groups-and-local-nonprofits)

### Tips for Successful Events

1. Find a suitable space.
2. Put up posters to advertise the event.
3. Create a Facebook event.
4. Ask friends to spread the word.
5. Plan to have snacks available – find out if you can get donations.
6. Arrange for music at the event.
7. Arrive early to set up the space, including snacks and music.
8. Use sign-up sheets to record attendance.
9. Create a written summary of the event.

### Contact Info

#### NPLD Contact

(202) 261-6479

[npld@neefusa.org](mailto:npld@neefusa.org)

#### EPA OnCampus Team

[EPAOnCampus@epa.gov](mailto:EPAOnCampus@epa.gov)

### EPA OnCampus Websites

Visit the EPA website at

[www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/oncampus](http://www.epa.gov/ecoambassadors/oncampus)



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