National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Valley Forge National
Historical Park

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Volunteers to Lend a Hand on National Public Lands Day

Volunteers invited to roll up their sleeves to help spruce up
Valley Forge National Historical Park

VALLEY FORGE, PA – Volunteers are invited to roll up their sleeves and get dirty help to spruce up Valley Forge National Historical Park on Saturday, September 24, 2011 in celebration of National Public Lands Day.

The annual event, now in its 18th year, is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the nation's 600 million acres of public lands. Activities at Valley Forge begin at 8:30 a.m. with walk-in registration and volunteer sign-in. Participants are asked to come prepared in appropriate attire, shoes, and to bring gloves. All activities will start from the Visitor Center lower parking area. Volunteers will have the opportunity to make a real difference in the park by joining park staff to remove invasive plants and crayfish, conduct trails maintenance, and much more.

"We plan to have many projects for volunteers to choose from, as well as a guided nature hike led by the Audubon Society, an educational activity for children 3 years old and up, and an Environmental Expo. We hope that volunteers who participate in these important activities on National Public Lands Day will discover the value and importance of this special place and will continue to stay connected to the park throughout the year by additional volunteering, joining the Friends of Valley Forge Park, shopping at the Encampment Store located in the park's Visitor Center, or just enjoying the park recreational resources" said Barbara Pollarine, Acting Superintendent.

She added that "We're happy to be partnering again with REI for the 6th year in a row for this important public event, and appreciate their commitment and dedication to preserving our environment." REI will be providing tee-shirts to the first 200 volunteers on event day, so get here early!

In 2010 at Valley Forge, more than 300 participants planted native trees and plants, maintained trails and replica solider huts, removed trash, stabilized streambanks along Valley Creek, removed invasive plants, and much more.

Following the event's festivities there will be a BBQ Lunch located in the Visitor Center lower parking lot hosted by the Young Friends of Valley Forge Park. Donations for the BBQ Lunch are suggested.

For more information on how to participate in National Public Lands Day activities at Valley Forge National Historical Park, contact Ernestine White at (610) 783-5384 or ernestine_white@nps.gov.

To see a list of all National Public Lands Day sites, activities, contacts, and downloadable photos from past events, visit the media center section of www.publiclandsday.org.

For details about other area attractions in the Valley Forge visit www.valleyforge.org.

About Valley Forge National Historical Park Valley Forge National Historical Park educates present and future generations of Americans about one of the most defining events in our nation's history by preserving the natural and cultural resources that commemorate the encampment of the Continental Army at Valley Forge in 1777-78. To learn more visit www.nps.gov/vafo.

National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with three federal agencies and 700 volunteers. Last year nearly 100,000 volunteers worked in 1,100 locations and in every state. Now, nine federal agencies and many state and local lands participate in this annual day of caring for shared lands. National Public Lands Day keeps the promise of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the "tree army" that worked from 1933-1942 to preserve and protect America's natural heritage. www.publiclandsday.org

About REI
Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI) is an outdoor retail co-op dedicated to inspiring, educating, and outfitting its 2.8 million active members and the community for a lifetime of outdoor adventure. Founded in 1938 by a group of Pacific Northwest mountaineers seeking quality equipment, REI operates retail stores nationwide, two online stores – REI.com and REI-OUTLET.com – and an adventure travel company. As an active supporter of the communities in which it does business, REI is committed to promoting environmental stewardship and increasing access to outdoor recreation through education, volunteerism, gear donations, and financial contributions. REI is helping build a lasting legacy of trails, rivers, and wild lands for generations to come, supporting programs to help people of all ages and experiences participate. In 2005, REI gave over $2.5 million back to the communities in which it does business through grants and outreach programs. To learn more about REI, www.rei.com

About Valley Convention and Visitors Bureau
The Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ltd. is a nonprofit, membership-based sales and marketing organization that aggressively promotes the Valley Forge area and Montgomery County as a convention site and leisure visitor destination by encouraging patronage of its 500-plus member hotels, restaurants, attractions, and services. The Bureau's web site, www.valleyforge.org, serves visitors, residents, meeting planners, and tour operators.

About the Friends of Valley Forge Park
The Friends of Valley Forge Park is dedicated to the preservation of the American spirit that was such a vital part of that winter encampment, to the conservation of the landscape that contained that encampment, and to the promotion of today's Valley Forge National Historical Park. To learn more about the Friends of Valley Forge Park, http://friendsofvalleyforge.org/

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