



**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Valley Forge National  
Historical Park

Office of the Superintendent

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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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 solidier 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.

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**EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™**

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## **Volunteers to Lend a Hand on National Public Lands Day/Valley Forge National Historical Park Page 2**

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

For details about other area attractions in the Valley Forge visit [www.valleyforge.org](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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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## National Public Lands Day Helping Hands for America's Lands Saturday, September 24, 2011

### EVENT DETAILS: VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

#### Opening Ceremonies

- 8:30 a.m. Volunteer walk – in registration and registered volunteer sign-in  
Coffee and Breakfast snacks available
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome to Day's Event  
Acting Superintendent Barbara Pollarine  
  
Natural Resource Manager Kristina Heister
- 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Display and Exhibits presented by Environmental and Conservation Organizations
- 9:30 a.m. Meet with Project Work Leaders
- 9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Work sessions at various locations throughout the park.

#### Other Activities in the Park

- 9:30a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Explore the Wonders of Nature** - Valley Forge National Park abounds in bird life, with 216 species. Come take a hike and learn about the wonders of nature. Meet Rob Evans with Valley Forge Audubon Society at the event tent located at the Visitor Center Lower Parking Area. Bring your binoculars!
- 9:30a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Growing Minds**- Fun hands-on activity for kids age 3 and up. Sponsored by Green Valley Nature Center.
- 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. **Soldiers Programs**- Learn about the American Revolutionary Encampment soldier's life. Located at Muhlenberg Brigade (Tour Stop 2)
- 11:00 a.m. -4:00 p.m. **Storytelling Benches** - Listen to amazing stories about the creation of a nation. Located at Visitor Center, Varnum's Quarter and Washington's Headquarters
- 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. **History of Valley Forge NHP Trolley Tour**- Departs from the Visitor Center. Duration 90 min
- 11:20 a.m. and 1:20p.m. **Ranger-led Walking Tour** -Join a ranger for a 40-minute guided walk on the meaning of Valley Forge and its impact on the American Revolution. Tour departs from the Visitor Center Theater.
- 12:00 p.m. – 2 p.m. **Young Friends of Valley Forge Park** – BBQ lunch  
Located at the Visitor Center Lower Parking Lot. Donations are appreciated.  
*(Menu includes burgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers along with salads and desserts including healthy options!!!)*



National Public Lands Day  
A National Environmental Education Foundation Program

RAIN OR SHINE

## 2011 National Public Lands Day - Volunteer Project List, Sat., Sept., 24th

Division	Project Title	Project Location	Project Description	Quantity of Volunteers	Safety Concerns for VIPs to Know	Group	Work Leader
Natural Resources	Crayfish Corps	Valley Creek	Help preserve and protect VFNHP's two native crayfish species by removing an aggressive, non-native crayfish from Valley Creek. Valley Creek is a Pennsylvania Exceptional Waterway and Class A Wild Trout Fishery.	15-30 volunteers	walking in the Stream - slip and fall / VAFO has limited number of waders that will be available but participants should bring closed toed shoes for wading the the Creek.	Conestoga HS Hockey Team, (+ 5) 249 Boy Scout Troop	Beth Alexander/ Elyse Sims /Cindy LaRue
Natural Resources	Tree shelter maintenance/ Wildflower planting	Airplane Field and Sterlings Barn	Complete mulching of 300 small trees, put on bird netting, straighten stakes holding shelters; If project is completed early then participants will plant a small number of pot-grown wildflowers	4 volunteers max	Participants will work with wheelbarrows and pitch forks. Gloves and close-toed shoes required.		Tina Statkevitz/Jess Richard

Natural Resources	Riparian Buffer Maintenance	Valley Creek	Help protect Valley Creek. Valley Creek is a Pennsylvania Exceptional Waterway and Class A Wild Trout Fishery. Remove invasive plants, cut vines and repair fencing.	Limit 30, ages 12 and up	Participants will work with sharp tools and help cut vines that may be under tension. Eye protection will be required. We will be outside in areas that may have poison ivy, stinging nettle and stinging insects. Hats, sunscreen, long pants and sleeves are advised	REI, Christopher Dock High School, Nature Conservancy	Kate Jensen / Jay Zipkin/Nathan McWilliams/Peter
Natural Resources	Vine Cutting and Trash Clean up	Northside - Newly acquired property	Help clean up the newest addition to Valley Forge NHP by removing garbage/dump piles and cutting vines that are strangling trees.	25	Participants will work with sharp tools and help cut vines that may be under tension. Eye protection will be required. We will be outside in areas that may have poison ivy and stinging insects. Hats, sunscreen, long pants and sleeves are advised	Cabrini College/Villanova University	Amy Ruhe/ Tina Statkevicz+1/ Jessica Richard

Law Enforcement	Catfish Island Clean-up	Catfish Island	Cleanup of Catfish Island and posting of signs. Catfish Island is a protected bird sanctuary within Valley Forge NHP and within the Schuylkill River system. Project would consist of being transported by boat to the island and assisting with posting closure signs and picking up large amounts trash, tires and flood debris.	Size of group—5 to 20. One leader is needed for each group of five	This is a water use activity and will include being transported by boat a short distance to reach the island. There are no bathroom facilities on the island. Some debris may have sharp and jagged edges. There is potential for poison ivy. Terrain is uneven and in some areas wet. --Boating safety briefing and Island overview of hazards to be given prior to leaving boat launch.  Individuals will need to wear proper foot wear that can tolerate getting wet and provide proper support for uneven terrain.	Delaware Valley College	John Waterman
Maintenance	Trail Maintenance	Chapel Trail Connector	Add wood chips to trail tread to protect it from erosion.	10-20 volunteers		Johnson Matthey Inc. and Saint Gabriel Hall (5)	Fred Euganeo/ Timothy Fogal
Maintenance	Trail Maintenance	JPM Trail (at Outer Line Dr and Baptist Trace Rd)	Cut back vegetation over growth and clean up debris along 80-feet of stone wall and litter clean-up	5 volunteers		Southeast PA Payroll Association	Jim Fritz

Maintenance	Remove Fencing from Pines	Glen Hardy Tree Screen	Remove Deer fencing from Pines and Litter Cleanup along Glen Hardy Tree screen starting near Ranger Station	10- 20 volunteers	walking , hard hats, hand clipperss gloves	St. Matthew's United Methodis Chruch	Cindy Neel
Maintenance	Trail Maintenance	Bottling Plant on Horse-shoe Trail	Clear drains of debris/leaves	5 volunteers	Will need to provide Phil with a gate key.	AMC	Phil Mulligan
Maintenance	Gutter Maintenance	Inner Line Drive	Remove debris, trash and weed from stone gutter along road.	up to 40 volunteers	Weeds will be treated along road. Road will need to be close on the day od the project.	Boyscouts, school groups,walk-ins	Russ Carr, Bill Vandell, Edie Vandell
Maintenance	Hut Relate Project	Maintenance Facility	Build Shingle Shaving Benches	4- 12volunteers		NOVA- Hut Brigade	Jeff Henry
Maintenance	Building Maintenance	Bake House	Clean exterior wood work, windows and paint deck.	5 max volunteers		King of Prussia Rotary Club	Russ Fulton
Maintenance	Building Maintenance	SMIC	Clean exterior widows and shutters . Clean-up garden beds surrounding the house. Add wood chip around the entrance sign.	10 -20 volunteers max		Verizon Telephone Pioneers	Debbie Baluta
Maintenance	Landscape Maintenance	Arch	Weed garden beds and mulch	15-25 volunteers		Lockheed Martin- NOVA	Fred Dell Angelo

Maintenance	Litter Clean-up	River Trail, Valley Creek Trail, County Line Road	Pick up litter off roads and trails	All volunteer working near road need safety vest.	Walk-in Volunteers	Unsupervised
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# National Public Lands Day Project Locations

Saturday, September 24th, 2011



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