



For Immediate Release
Contact: Barbara Pollarine
Valley Forge National Historical Park
610.783.1032

Volunteers to Get Hands Dirty During National Public Lands Day

*More than 300 expected to help spruce up
Valley Forge National Historical Park*

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. – More than 300 volunteers are expected to help spruce up Valley Forge National Historical Park on Saturday, Sept. 27, 2008 in celebration of National Public Lands Day.

The annual event, now in its 15th year, is the nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort to improve and enhance the nation's 600 million acres of public lands.

Beginning at 8:30 a.m. participants at the Park will remove invasive plants, weed, repair fencing, and remove rust crayfish from Valley Creek.

"We plan to have at least 12 projects for volunteers to choose from, as well as a guided nature hike, an Environmental Expo and a fun youth workshop," said Park Volunteer Program Manager Ernestine White. "Children, along with their parents, will create bird feeders as they learn about birds native to Pennsylvania."

Last year at the Park, more than 340 participants planted trees and plants along Outer Line Drive, removed trash, painted cannons near the Muhlenberg Brigade, and removed invasive plants. The group also whitewashed stable walls at Washington's Headquarters and assisted with a landscape restoration project that addressed soil compaction concerns.

"By volunteering at the Park on National Public Lands Day we hope that volunteers will discover the value and importance of this special place and will continue to stay connected to their National Parks," said Barbara Pollarine, Deputy Superintendent for Valley Forge National Historical Park.

"This special day sends a message to *all* the Park's visitors and users about what a wonderful - and precious - educational and recreational resource they have at their disposal in America's public lands," said Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau President Paul

Decker. “At Valley Forge, with its blend of historical significance, spectacular open space and such diverse recreational opportunity, that message is even more resonant.”

For more information on how to participate in National Public Lands Day activities at Valley Forge National Historical Park, contact Ernestine White at 610-783-1065 or ernestine_white@nps.gov. The Lipton® Tea Healthy Parks – Healthy Living program and REI are both sponsors of the Park’s National Public Lands Day events.

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 area and affordable “The Gas is On Us” Valley Forge area hotel packages, 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.

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.

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 1933-42 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 will give 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 the Lipton® Tea Healthy Parks – Healthy Living Program

The Lipton® Tea Healthy Parks – Healthy Living program, supported by Lipton® Tea, a brand of Unilever, Proud Partner of America’s National Parks is run in partnership with the National Park Foundation and the National Park Service hopes to engage people of all ages in daily outdoor recreation activities. The Healthy Parks – Healthy Living program encourages people living in and around the Valley Forge area to enjoy hiking, biking, horseback riding, walking and volunteering in one of the country’s greatest National Parks. To learn more visit www.unilevernationalparks.com

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