The Next Generation

Youth, Families and Forest Stewardship

National Forest Homeowners
Sacramento, CA
April 28, 2018
Volunteer & Service Staff

- Volunteers & Service
- Conservation Education & Community Engagement
- Interpretive Service
Volunteer Program

Why should you volunteer?
- Connect people to the outdoors
- Improve National Forests
- Learn about natural and cultural resources

Who can volunteer?
- Anyone can volunteer (minors need parental consent)
- Organizations, Friend(s) groups, businesses, etc.

How to get started?
- Determine your Area of Interest
- Fill out Volunteer Application form and
- Submit to the Forest
Service Program

What is a service program?

- Crew Based or Intern Based
- Engages participants in national or local service
- Provide work experience, training and professional development
- Helps improve National Forests through a contribution to mission
- Helps with workforce development

Who can participate?

- Young people ages 18 – 25
- Veterans ages 18 to 35
- High School Students ages 15 to 18 (with parental consent)
Education & Engagement for all Ages

- Provides appreciation of natural resources
- Learn how to conserve natural and cultural resources
- Provides understanding of complex Ecological Problems

How to get started?

- Determine your Area of Interest
- Visit [https://www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation](https://www.fs.usda.gov/conservationeducation)
- Contact local forest
- Partner with Groups, Counties, Educators

Types of Programs?

- Every Kid in a Park (EKIP)
- Woodsy’s ABC’s
- Discover the Forest
- Project Learning Tree
- Junior Forest Ranger
- More Kids in The Woods
What is Interpretation?

- Connects people & places
- Creates emotional and intellectual connections
- Develops a sense of place
- Instills respect and appreciation for public lands
- Helps foster stewardship and protection through time
- Provides understanding of remarkable places
- Conveys messages & stories

Forest Service Interpretation?

- Develop Interpretive Tour
- Agents of Discovery
- Visitor Centers
- Children's Forests
USDA Forest Service Value Shifts

- Creating Citizen Stewards
- FS Relevancy to Rural & Urban Communities
- Shared Stewardship Responsibility Between Agency and Citizens
- Create new Partnerships
- Think in the Long-Term
USDA Forest Service Goals

Chief Top 5 Priorities (2015-2020)

1. Uplifting and empowering our employees through a respectful, safe working environment.

2. Being good neighbors and providing excellent customer service.

3. **Promoting shared stewardship by increasing partners and volunteerism.**

4. Improving the condition of forest and grasslands.

5. Enhancing recreation opportunities improving access and sustaining infrastructure.
Shared Stewardship

- Partnership
- Knowledge & Skill Transfer
- Ecological restoration
- Fire, Fuels, Forest Management
USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region
Volunteer and Service Program

Family Vacation

SCENIC ROUTE
CHECKING EMAILS
READING KINDLE
WATCHING VIDEOS
TEXTING
PRONING OFFICE

Dave Granlund
www.davegranlund.com
Societal Trends
"Children today being taught to be risk-adverse... Now Children on the streets, playing, are an endangered species”

- **Nature-deficit disorder** (Louv 2008)
  - We are experiencing psychological, physical and cognitive costs from the lack of exposure to nature
  - Decrease in outdoor activity from Children 6 to 18
    - Sharpest decrease youngsters 6 to 12
Consider the decision by the publisher of the Oxford Junior Dictionary to replace dozens of nature-related words.

- like “beaver” and “dandelion” with “blog” and “MP3 player.”
- Conservationist Robert Bateman observed,
  - “If you can’t name things, how can you love them?
  - If you don’t love them, then you’re not going to care a hoot about protecting them or voting for issues that would protect them.”
Children connected with nature are:

- **Healthier:**
  - Their heart health is better because they move more, sit less and play longer.
  - They have better eye health. Kids who spend at least 10 hours/week outside reduce their risk of nearsightedness (myopia).
  - They sleep better because sunlight helps regulate sleep patterns.

- **Happier:**
  - Improved mood means less depression, anxiety and other mental health issues.
  - Improved social development comes from better communication skills that can lead to better relationships with others.
  - Better connections with people, animals and nature help children build a sense of who they are and where they fit in the world.

- **Empathetic:**
  - Lack of face-to-face time (as a result of too much screen time) may contribute to a lack of empathy, self-centredness and narcissism that have been noted in modern societies (Twenge, 2014).

- **Spiritual:**
  - People who spend time outdoors feel more connected to nature, the planet and others. Having children and youth who care about the planet is essential for the survival of our planet and species.

- **Ready for learning:**
  - The sights, smells and sounds of nature (‘pink noise’) are restorative for human nervous systems and result in better focus, concentration and creativity. Studies show that nature time reduces symptoms of ADHD (Kuo, 2004).
Children Who Play Outside

- Are Healthier
- Do Better in School
- Improves independence and learn teamwork
- Have Better Social Skills
- Have a Better Self-image
- Reduced Resting Heart Rate
- Lower Blood Pressure
- Decreased Diabetes
- Decreased Body Fat, Lower Obesity
- Increased Bone Mass
- 90% of adult walkers started between age 5 and 18
“Perhaps the rebuilding of the body and spirit is the greatest service derivable from our forests, for what worth are material things if we lose the character and quality of people that are the soul of America.” --Arthur Carhart, Forest Service Landscape Architect, 1919
Working Together
Volunteerism

- Adopt-a-...
  - Trail
  - Trailhead
  - Day-use Site
  - River Access
Connecting Kids to Nature
Possibilities

- Pollinators
- Wildflowers
- Junior Ranger
- Discover the Forest
- Recycle with Woodsy
- Team Smokey
Discover The Forest

#DiscoverTheForest or #ForestFriday

- Competitions to explore and then post your discovery when you get home
- Encourage photography
- Encourage Learning Names of Plants, Flowers, bugs
- Learn Animal Tracks, Animal Sounds
- Learn how to use a compass
Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights

To Encourage California’s Children to Participate in Outdoor Recreation Activities and Discover Their Heritage
California Children’s Outdoor Bill of Rights

By Age 14 - Every Kid’s Life List

- Discover California’s Past
- Splash in the Water
- Play in a Safe Place
- Camp Under the Stars
- Explore Nature
- Learn To Swim
- Play on a Team
- Follow a Trail
- Catch a Fish
- Celebrate Their Heritage
Every Kid in a Park (EKIP)

Program Purpose

- Focus on removing barriers for youth (specifically 4\textsuperscript{th} graders) from underserved communities to get to their parks, forests, public lands, and waters.
- After 12 years every child will have had an opportunity to visit their Public Lands & waters for free.
- Engages families
- May also generate future stewards
Recycle with Woodsy

I’m Woodsy Owl. I hope you will join me to learn how to “Lend a Hand — Care for the Land!”

• Do you know what that means? It means that if we all work together, the Earth will have clean air and water and will be a healthy place to live for trees and plants, fish, animals and birds like me! Oh, and it also means it will be clean for you, too! So, let’s get started!

Here Are My 4 R’s

Cut Down
Reduce
Reuse
Recycle
Rot
Junior Ranger Program

Junior Snow Ranger
4th & 5th graders
Learn to embrace the winter environment

Explore National Forests
Ages 7 through 13
Uses Science
Contact your local Forest Staff, Volunteer Coordinator

or

Kathy Mick, kmick@fs.fed.us, 707-562-8859
Viviana Ruiz, vruiz@fs.fed.us, 707-562-8873
Jeremy Camara, acamara@fs.fed.us, 707-562-8760
A future where all America’s children, no matter where they live, have the opportunity to learn, and love, our Nation’s forests and grasslands. Today’s youth will be tomorrow’s conservation stewards and leaders.
Here is Your country.
Cherish these Wonders, Cherish the Natural Resources
Cherish the History and Romance as a Sacred Heritage,
For Your Children and Your Children’s Children…
Theodore Roosevelt