

**Talking Points for
National Public Lands Day
&
Children-In-Nature Initiative
Get Outdoors, It's Yours!
(17 September 2008)**

National Public Lands Day:

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the number one federal provider of outdoor recreation, managing more than 12 million acres of land and water for natural resources and public recreation benefits.
- The Corps has been involved with National Public Lands Day since its inception in 1994. The Corps has consistently been one of the largest supporters of sites and volunteers.
- In 2007, more than 23,000 local volunteers at 113 Corps project sites participated in National Public Lands Day.
- This year, volunteers at Corps sites will take part in tree planting, erosion control, bank stabilization, building trails, restoring recreation areas, trash pickup, removing invasive species, removing non-native plants, improvements to wildlife habitats, harvesting prairie plant seeds and rehabilitating playgrounds.
- The Corps of Engineers' Director of Civil Works, Steve Stockton will participate in the National Public Lands Day signature event at Prince William Forest Park in Triangle, Virginia.
- This year's National Public Lands Day will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The CCC is credited with planting more than three billion trees in the 1930s and played a leading role in restoring America's deteriorating forests.

"Get Outdoors, It's Yours!" National Campaign

- Get Outdoors, It's Yours! is a new national campaign that is focused on raising awareness of the opportunities for America's youth to reengage with nature and to encourage children and their families to spend more time participating in outdoor education, recreation and stewardship activities.
- The Get Outdoors, It's Yours! campaign will be launched nationwide on National Public Lands Day, September 27th.

- This national kick-off involves a new Web Site – www.getoutdoorsitsyours.gov, which will link to existing web pages at the various federal agencies; the airing of a video Public Service Announcement in more than 10,000 movie theaters across the country; issuing of national and local press releases; and the support at local National Public Lands Day sites to publicize the campaign.
- The Corps of Engineers joined seven other federal agencies in signing a pledge of cooperation on August 25th agreeing to support the national campaign.
- For the past 30 years, the Corps of Engineers' park rangers and other natural resources professionals have been educating and encouraging America youth's through many programs to get outdoors and explore the many recreational opportunities that await them.
- The Get Outdoors, It's Yours! campaign will help strengthen existing education, conservation and stewardship programs and lead to a greater public understanding of the value and importance of outdoor recreation and the many opportunities provided by the eight federal land management agencies.
- The Corps of Engineers is committed to providing quality outdoor public recreation experiences. The Corps 2,476 recreation sites at 423 projects offer a wide range of opportunities for all ages.
- Whether a person likes to walk, jog, bike, hunt, fish, swim, boat, or camp, a Corps of Engineers' site is not far away. More than 70 percent of the U.S. population lives within 50 miles of a Corps of Engineers lake.