

KIDS TO PARKS DAY NATIONAL SCHOOL CONTEST



**NATIONAL
PARK TRUST**
TREASURE FOREVER.

Dear Students, Parents, Teachers and Administrators,

Kids to Parks Day is May 17, 2014! National Park Trust (NPT) invites students across the country to participate in the 4th annual Kids to Parks Day, a nationwide grassroots movement to celebrate America's parks and public lands.

In honor of this day, NPT is once again hosting the **Kids to Park Day (KTP) National School Contest** to help educators engage their students with their local parks. This national contest is open to all schools in the United States (grades preK through 12). Students can submit proposals to fund a KTP event at a park or public lands/waterways in their community. NPT will award park scholarships up to \$1,000 to winning entries. Scholarships must be used by the winners to implement their KTP event during the month of May 2014. **Deadline for entries is Friday, February 28th. Winners will be announced Monday, March 17th, 2014.**

To enter:

- Students must select a park near their school.
- Students must research the park to find out what outdoor recreation activities and educational opportunities are available.
- Students must complete the two-page entry form attached.

Details:

- One entry form can be submitted per class/grade; more than one entry form can be submitted per school
- We want to hear from the students; so help them develop their ideas, but allow them to complete the proposal in their own words
 - If the students are unable to complete the proposal for any reason, please contact Billy Schrack, NPT Education Director (william@parktrust.org; 301-279-7275, ext 17)
- Be creative: video entries and artwork are encouraged!
- Priority will be given to schools demonstrating need; cover letters from teachers are encouraged to provide demonstrated need for resources.

Contest winners will receive:

- Funding for one park experience including school bus transportation, park related fees, educational materials, healthy snacks, or supplies.
- Official award certificate and KTP stickers for students.
- Classroom Buddy Bison, our pint-size wooly mascot, to take on your park adventure.
- A story about your students may be featured on our website, in our e-newsletter, or in our educational materials.

Winning submissions must agree to:

- Send at least 5 to 10 digital photos from your park trip with your students **and** Buddy Bison. **Photos must be received by June 6th.**
 - Please note: Any photos received may be used in NPT's publications or materials, including our website, e-newsletters, slideshows, etc. for educational purposes only. If provided, we may use first names of students.
- 2 or more paragraphs summary or reflection, preferably from a student, about their park experience (One summary per class is required, but more are welcomed; **received by June 6th**). If students are unable to complete this task, then a summary must be provided by a teacher or parent. All written materials received may be used by NPT in our publications or on our website.

The entry form and all materials should be sent or emailed to:

Billy Schrack
Education Director
National Park Trust

301-279-7275 Ext. 17
william@parktrust.org
401 E. Jefferson Street
Suite 203
Rockville, MD 20850

or faxed to 301-279-7211

Your contest entry must incorporate **all 3 of these categories:**

- 1) Education: Preference will be given to proposals that have an emphasis on STEM
What can you learn about the park's (address one or more in your proposal):
 - science
 - ecosystem
 - wildlife: plants and/or animals
 - lakes, rivers or other bodies of water
 - geology
 - history
 - environmental challenges
 - other
- 2) Stewardship: How can you preserve the park?
You can take action by (address one or more in your proposal):
 - plant trees, shrubs or flowers
 - lay mulch
 - clean-up the park
 - raise funds to donate to a local park (e.g. bake sale): Pennies for Parks event
 - write letters to elected officials to advocate for park preservation
 - help with trail construction
 - other
- 3) Healthy Living: How are you going to promote a healthy lifestyle while visiting the park?
For example will you:
 - hike
 - play on the playground
 - run a relay race
 - boat or canoe
 - bike
 - other

Kids to Parks Day National School Contest 2014

Contest Deadline: February 28, 2014

Preference will be given to entries prepared by students in their own words. Winners will be announced on March 17th. Students are encouraged to be creative. Videos, pictures and drawings are encouraged to supplement the proposal. **The entry form may be typed or handwritten with legible writing.** All materials received will be used for educational purposes and are the property of National Park Trust.

Submitted by:	School Information
Number of Students Participating and Grade:	Name of School:
Classroom Teacher:	Best Contact # and Time of Day: (Cell Phone Optional)
Park Name:	School Address:
Teacher's Email:	

What do you plan on learning while at the park?

How are you going to promote a healthy life style while visiting the park?

How can you leave the park a better place? How can you be a steward for the park?

Why do you think your class should be selected as the Kids to Park™ Day School Contest Winner?

Teachers: Please feel free to provide a cover letter demonstrating the need for a park scholarship for your students.

Budget for Park Visit

Students/Teachers- please complete the brief budget for your park trip

Item	Cost/Explanation
Bus/transportation -contact your bus company for pricing	
Park Experience/other fees -canoe rentals, entrance fee, guided tour, or other park fees	
Stewardship Project -plants, mulch, cleaning supplies, trash bags, vinyl gloves or other supplies	
Refreshments -cases of water	
Healthy Snacks healthy snacks for the class? fruit, granola bars, etc	
Other	
	Total: