



HANDS ON THE LAND

A National Network of Field Classrooms Connecting Students, Teachers, and Parents to Their Public Lands and Waterways

FEATURED SITE

Children's Forest Association is one of five programs managed by the San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA). The community and youth based programs that the Children's Forest provides are primarily funded by grants, corporate, and private contributions.

The mission of Children's Forest is to create a place where youth can participate in stewardship, research, and education projects to develop skills in communication, leadership, and problem solving. San Bernardino Children's Forest provides young people and families with opportunities to participate in projects that integrate social, economic, educational, and environmental dimensions in order to prepare them to be future stewards and decision makers for the earth's shared resources.

In 2001, Children's Forest opened the Visitor Information Center, located at the base of the National Children's Forest Land. This unique nature center is the only one in the country operated by youth volunteers. Here, youth naturalists are available to answer any questions you may have about the San Bernardino National Forest, whether it be about local flora and fauna or where to drive your off-highway vehicle!

At the Visitor Center, you can also complete nature crafts for children, join staff and volunteers for a guided nature hike or snowshoe tour, or help complete a service project. The Visitor Information Center also houses the Adventure Outpost, a small store where you can find field guides, maps, books, and nature-themed gifts.



Children's Forest Association

Education Opportunities

The Children's Forest provides many opportunities for education. Their school programs provide the surrounding community with outdoor hands-on education options. School programs are offered through the San Bernardino

National Forest Association, at both the Children's Forest and the Big Bear Discovery Center. Meeting California state standards, all programs fulfill the mission of teaching youth about the forest, ecological principles, and stewardship.



The school programs range from fire education to ecosystem complexity. These programs are ideal for both local schools and those from surrounding cities.

More information:

<http://www.sbnfa.com/chplace.php>

MONARCHLIVE PROGRAM RECEIVES BEACON AWARD

In early June, MonarchLIVE will receive a Beacon Award by the American Recreation Coalition. The Beacon Awards recognize and encourage the innovative use of technology to enhance the public's recreational experiences. Nominated by the Forest Service, the MonarchLIVE program meets national science standards and promotes conservation action through education and awareness. Specifically, the program focuses on the monarch butterfly and seeks to increase the understanding of its biology, life cycle, and ecology while highlighting the interdependence of the United States, Mexico, and Canada in the health of monarchs. This distance learning adventure also helps schools and classrooms develop butterfly gardens and schoolyard habitats to involve more citizens in hands-on science.



More information: <http://monarch.pwnet.org>

NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

All Hands on the Lands sites are invited to participate in National Public Lands Day (NPLD), where thousands of volunteers will care for our parks and public lands on September 26, 2009. More than 130,000 volunteers are expected to get their hands dirty for our public lands at over 2,000 sites in all 50 states. Participating sites include majestic national treasures like Grand Canyon and Yosemite, state and regional forests, refuges and parks, and smaller neighborhood parks and schoolyards.

This year NPLD volunteers will focus on protecting our nation's water resources—the lakes, streams, rivers, estuaries, and other wetlands that traverse public lands and provide essential nourishment to human and wildlife populations. Check out our online water and public lands resource library for information, activities, and opportunities related to watersheds, water conservation, and more.

NPLD's 2009 materials, including a promotional poster and rack card, have been designed and will be sent to site managers in multiple shipments beginning in June. Many federal agency sites will also receive Fee Free Coupons to hand out to participating volunteers. Make sure to register early to order these materials for your event this Sept. 26! Register at <http://www.publiclandsday.org>.

Hands on the Land's Moodle Training is still available for members. Use Moodle to connect with students, teachers, and volunteers. Post lesson plans and build interactive courses. Visit HOL's E-Learning and take the training today. The enrollment key is easy to remember: handsontheland.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Granite State ANCA (Association of Nature Center Administrators) Summit
 Holderness NH
 August 26-29, 2009

The ANCA Summit XV will be held at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in Holderness, New Hampshire this year. This summit is considered the best professional development opportunity for nature and environmental learning center directors and senior staff. This year will be no exception. Whether you are a brand new director or a seasoned veteran the Summit will provide new information, mentoring, training, and professional networking. As is traditional with the ANCA Summit, the gathering will be held at a nature center in a setting that will “feel like home” and provide a relaxed atmosphere. The Lakes Region of New Hampshire is beautiful, and our location on Squam Lake will be ideal as we share, learn, and strengthen our network of environmental and nature center leaders. For more information, visit: http://www.nhnature.org/pdf/anca_brochure.pdf.

The Power of Partnerships: Creative Leadership in Environmental Education
 Portland, Oregon
 October 7 - 10, 2009

NAAEE and our host Affiliate—the Environmental Education Association of Oregon—are planning a unique event amid the state's natural beauty. The conference will be held at the Oregon Convention Center (OCC), conveniently located in the heart of Portland and a leader in sustainable meeting and event facilities. This year marks NAAEE's 38th Annual Conference—and change is in the air. You'll find new organizations, young presenters with innovative perspectives, and fresh ways to share your own ideas.



2009 NAI National Workshop
 Hartford, CT
 November 17-21, 2009

The 2009 NAI National Workshop will provide a wealth of information and rejuvenation. The professional development and networking opportunities at every NAI workshop include inspiring and informative keynote speakers, concurrent sessions in 13 different tracks, special events, and offsite sessions that allow you to learn about a unique corner of the country. NAI 2009 will offer the chance to explore the Appalachian Trail, photograph a quaint covered bridge, visit the home of Mark Twain, or stroll one of the maritime villages nearby. The workshop slogan, “Navigating Change, Revolutionizing Interpretation” is an apt one, as our world, our audiences, and our economy change at an ever-quicken pace. Join interpreters from around the world to share your experience, interests, and ideas.