



## Featured Site: Acadia National Park

Acadia National Park, located on the rugged coast of Maine, was established as a national park in 1919 as the first national park east of the Mississippi River and the only park in New England. Today it is one of the top 10 visited national parks. The mission of Acadia National Park is to protect and conserve its outstanding scenic, natural and cultural resources for present and future generations. These resources include a glaciated coastal and island landscape, biological diversity, clean air and water, and a rich human history. Exceptional opportunities for recreation, education, and scientific research abound.

To help fulfill its mission, Acadia has developed educational programming that is aligned to the state and national content standards. The park's education staff is eager to assist students in getting to know this dynamic, diverse national park. Seasonal internships are available in the education department for those seeking a hands-on experience connecting children with their natural and cultural heritage.

*A group of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students  
"follow the ranger" on a fieldtrip to  
Acadia National Park.*



*A park intern introduces middle school students to Acadia's geologic story.*

Acadia serves as one of the regional research learning centers for the National Park Service. The Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC) campus is situated on a former Navy base. All ages of learners benefit from the one day to week-long seminars and workshops led by park staff, university faculty, state professionals and non-profit organizations. An exciting field-based residential program for middle school students named Schoodic Educational Adventure (SEA) takes place every fall. SEA's integrated curriculum covers a wide variety of resource focused studies.

Visit [www.nps.gov/acad/eeweb/enved.htm](http://www.nps.gov/acad/eeweb/enved.htm) to find helpful teacher resources including background information and classroom activities related to Acadia's on-site school program themes: Junior Rangers and the National Park Service, 1800s homestead life, coastal habitats, geology, wildlife, and maritime history. Traveling classroom trunks featuring Native American and French Acadian history are available for loan, while Acadia's artist-in-residence program allows visiting artists to work in the local schools and present public programs in the park.

Please contact [Cynthia Ocel@nps.gov](mailto:Cynthia_Ocel@nps.gov), Education Coordinator, for additional information.

## Member News

### National Children's Forest

is 3,400 acres of Forest Service land in the San Bernardino National Forest that has been dedicated as a site for youth to have a legitimate voice in public land management. Located within a hour drive of the greater Los Angeles area, Children's Forest is a popular recreation destination.

The Children's Forest Association, a non-profit partner of the USDA Forest Service, provides formal environmental education programs for schools and the public. The Children's Forest Association also offers youth between the ages of 11 and 17 the opportunity to take a leadership role in public land management and educational outreach through the Children's Forest Youth Leadership Program.

Volunteers in this program conduct slideshows and living history skits for campers at numerous Forest Service campgrounds related to natural history and forest stewardship. The Great Seeds Native Plant Restoration Team runs a greenhouse and nursery facility where children propagate and care for plants, shrubs, and trees that will be used for restoration projects related to illegal off-highway vehicle use, fire restoration, and restoration of high-impact recreational areas.



*The Great Seeds Restoration Team after a day of transplanting Jeffrey pines for restoration projects.*

The youth leaders in this program also staff the only Forest Service Visitor Information Center staffed by youth in the country. These youth hosts provide valuable customer service and educational opportunities to forest visitors. Throughout everything that the Youth Leaders do with Children's Forest, there is a strong educational and leadership component.

For more information on the Youth Leadership Program or the formal environmental education programs offered by the Children's Forest Association, please contact Jason Meyer at [jasonmeyer@fs.fed.us](mailto:jasonmeyer@fs.fed.us).

*The ocean is wild, it reminds me of a child.*

*The forest is so bold, because it's so very old.*

*Purple are the mountains, the trees spring up like fountains.*

*Let's keep this land preserved, and give nature what it deserves.*

*By: Amanda, 8<sup>th</sup> grade*

*Acadia National Park*

## Web Corner

### Posting a Bulletin

Bulletins are a great way to share information to the entire HOL community. Follow these easy steps:

1. On the Hands on the Land home page, under Highlights click on 'Bulletin'.
2. Scroll to the bottom of the page (after reviewing all of the great articles!) and click on 'contribute'.
3. Fill in the boxes with the appropriate information and click 'submit'.

Be sure to check the bulletins regularly to learn about anything new going on at Hands on the Land sites.

## Upcoming Events

### National Public Lands Day September 30, 2006

National Public Lands Day – the nation’s largest volunteer event to benefit America’s public lands -- offers great service learning opportunities for Hands on the Land sites. The 13th annual NPLD will be Saturday, September 30, 2006 and it is expected that more than 100,000 will work and learn at nearly 1000 locations across the country. Last year many of the HOL sites participated. Sites might use NPLD as a kick-off for their program this fall.



*Children at Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota use potted plants to help beautify lands for NPLD 2005.*

Volunteers at the Campbell Creek Science Center in Alaska worked on trails, installed a bench at a viewpoint on a trail, landscaped the area around the Science Center, planted two World War II airstrip taxiways and performed other recreation maintenance projects. At Diamond Fork Youth Forest in Utah students held workdays throughout the school year with NPLD being an opportunity for students to show parents their accomplishments.

In the San Bernardino National Forest volunteers planted native shrubs on disturbed sites of the mountaintop district. They also collected seeds, mulched and watered areas. Environmental education was a major component of the day in the Umpqua Basin, Oregon, where volunteers removed invasive plants, painted buildings, seeded and mulched a waterline, and built a split rail cedar fence. The focus was on repairing trails leading to an air quality monitoring station in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

For information on how to get involved see [www.npld.com](http://www.npld.com) or contact Robb Hampton 202-261-6462. email: [hampton@neetf.org](mailto:hampton@neetf.org).

## Outreach

In early April, Partners in Resource Education (PRE) hosted several workshops and a booth at the National Science Teachers Association convention in Anaheim, California. Hands on the Land site representatives attended workshops and helped to staff the PRE booth. Everyone in attendance helped to spread the word about the HOL network. In the last month alone HOL has received seven new applications from potential sites! The network is growing rapidly. Thanks for spreading the word!



*Patti Pride of NEEF staffs the PRE booth at the National NSTA convention in Anaheim, CA.*