



# HANDS ON THE LAND

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

## HOL Publicity Kit



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## Press Release Language for Hands on the Land

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### Possible Headlines

**[Name of Program/School] has their Hands on the Land**

or

**New Hands on the Land program begins in**

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### Key Points—“Boilerplate”

*[Name of School(s) and Federal Agency/Public Lands or Waterways Site]* are working together on a nationwide environmental education program called Hands on the Land (HOL).

HOL is a network of field classrooms designed to enhance kindergarten through high school student learning in “America’s Largest Classroom.” The program is sponsored by “Partners in Resource Education” (PRE), a collaboration of eight federal agencies that manage or work with the nation’s public lands and waterways (including *[name of your agency]*) and a nonprofit educational foundation.

The program was established in 1999 and currently over 120 sites participate with this nationwide network. Education specialists in these places work closely with local educators to develop programs that meet state education standards, expand understanding of basic environmental processes, and help students develop skills for investigating, evaluating, and making decisions about the environment. In the process, school subjects are brought to life as students and teachers engage in hands-on activities in natural and cultural settings. Through the HOL website, [www.handsontheland.org](http://www.handsontheland.org) students can learn about other sites and participate in environmental monitoring or other interactive projects.

### Local Information

Provide a brief description of local program goals and history; names of key people and their roles. Solicit quotes from local participants, if possible.

### Contact Information

For more information on \_\_\_\_\_ and Hands on the Land, please contact *[local contact]* or go to **www.handsontheland.org**.

## **Suggested Talking Points for Hands on the Land Program**

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*Hands on the Land* is an interagency network of field classrooms connecting K – 12 students, teachers, families, and volunteers to their public lands and waterways.

HOL sites have hands-on education programs in natural and cultural settings that have been developed in partnership with local schools. The programs are designed to support established school curriculum and local standards of learning as well as agency resource management objectives.

HOL is a program of Partners in Resource Education (PRE), a partnership of eight Federal agencies and a non-profit foundation dedicated to enhancing learning on public lands.

The PRE agencies are: Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, NOAA Marine Sanctuaries Program, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Department of Education. The National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) coordinates this interagency effort.

The key-networking tool for HOL is its interactive website:

[www.handsontheland.org](http://www.handsontheland.org)

Established in 1999, over 120 locations are now involved with this program.

### **Here are the benefits:**

#### I. For public lands and waterways providers:

- Exchange best practices of hands-on and field-based EE programming that may include: inquiry or place-based learning, integration with national or core learning standards including STEM, service-learning or career pathway opportunities, and EE evaluative tools;
- Showcase programs and disseminate the resource conservation message to a broad audience; and
- Strengthen ties to communities and enhance volunteer efforts.

#### II. For teachers and students:

- Access to a broad array of teaching resources;
- Participation in hands-on experiences and service-learning opportunities on public lands and waterways
- Interaction with public land resource professionals; and
- Development of exchange programs, including data sharing, with other sites and schools through the website (i.e. environmental monitoring databases).

#### III. For communities:

- Share experiences with other communities that have similar resources and interests;
- Involve families in learning with their children; and
- Develop more informed and active stakeholders in their public lands.



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You may also download the logos and banner files at  
<http://www.handsontheland.org/publicity-kit>

CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP



HANDS  
ON THE  
LAND

A National Network of Field Classrooms Connecting Students,  
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*This certifies that*

**[Enter Site Name]**

is an official member site of  
the Hands on the Land Program  
effective this **xx** day of **[month]**, **2012**