

# NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY

Saturday, September 25th, 2021



## What is National Public Lands Day?

National Public Lands Day is the largest single day of volunteering in the United States! It was started in 1994 by the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF) to encourage more people to get outside and improve public lands. **Public lands** are lands that are owned by the government--think national, state, and even local county parks. National Public Lands Day is a "Fee-Free Day", so all National Parks will be free to visit!



## How can you get involved?

This day is all about getting outside and **volunteering**, which means to help with or work on something for without getting paid. If you want to find a volunteer event near you, try [using this website](#). You can also check with local volunteer organizations and parks to see if they are hosting any events like clean-ups or tree plantings! Volunteering is essential to the **conservation** of public lands. Conservation means to protect resources for future use.

## Activities for National Public Lands Day

- Once you are at you national, state or local park, use the [Native Land website](#) to see what indigenous peoples used to or currently live in the area. **Indigenous** means native, so indigenous people were the ones who lived somewhere before non-native people moved in. Their history is important to many national and state parks. If you can, ask a park ranger about the indigenous history of the park!
- Complete the nature scavenger hunt on the next page! Taking the time to look carefully around the park is a good way to notice things you might miss otherwise.
- Create a "thank you" card for the parks! Draw a picture or scene from your favorite park, and write a message about why you're thankful for public lands. You can give this card to a park ranger or keep it as a reminder for yourself.



# PARK SCAVENGER HUNT

**Remember to follow all park rules, stay on trails, and do not touch, approach, or feed any wildlife!**

**A bee, beetle, or other bug. Can you safely get close enough to see if it has wings or to count its legs?**

**Two flowers that are different colors. Are there any with two colors on one flower?**

**A piece of litter to pick up and throw away. Litter shouldn't be in the parks, and can be bad for wildlife if they eat it.**

**Three different kinds of trees. Look at the leaves or bark to see if they're different!**

**A bird sitting in a tree or flying through the air. Are they making a noise or singing a song?**

**A trail sign! Where is the trail going? Who do you think builds and maintains the trails?**

**A park ranger! Ask them a questions about the park, the animals or plants you saw, or the history of the area.**

*Thanks for playing! Happy National Public Lands Day!*