



GREENBEAT

THE NPS • GROUNDWORK USA GREEN TEAM • PARTNERSHIP NEWS

SUMMER 2009
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GREEN TEAMS

The National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program (RTCA) and Groundwork USA have teamed up to engage teens from diverse backgrounds with their local National Parks as part of the Groundwork Green Team Program.

For more information visit:
www.groundworkusa.net



NOT YOUR AVERAGE SUMMER JOB

School's out, and for students (ages 14-18) across the country who are involved in Groundwork USA's Green Team Program, this will be no ordinary summer.

These students will undertake multiple projects that aim to improve the environment of their own communities, while learning about and exploring their local National Parks. Working with a Green Team is not merely a summer activity: it provides many teens with their first paid work experience,

allowing them to participate in job training as well as environmental service learning. The small group size allows the Green Teams to focus on the quality of the work they produce and the education they receive. Green Teams cultivate leadership and citizenship, both on the trails of National Parks and on the streets of their own home towns.

"SOME OF [THE PARTICIPANTS] THINK 'THE ENVIRONMENT' IS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE OR VERMONT, BUT WE SHOW THEM THAT IT'S ALL AROUND THEM, IT'S HERE, WHERE THEY LIVE, IN LAWRENCE."

ROSE GONZALES, PROGRAM MANAGER,
GROUNDWORK LAWRENCE



LEADERSHIP IN ACTION

This summer will hold a wide range of projects and activities for the Groundwork Green Teams. Projects begin in their communities, preparing them for their work in National Parks. They will learn about their community and environment, plan and complete projects and engage their peers and other community members in their work.

Summer 2009 activities include:

- Improving parks and streetscapes
- Building trails
- Removing invasive species
- Cleaning old home sites
- Career development workshops
- Cleanups of alleyways and vacant lots
- Community gardening and farmer's markets
- Financial literacy workshops
- Increasing availability of fresh food in low income areas
- Mural painting
- Tree stewardship

SERVICE

MORE THAN A WALK IN THE PARK

One of the key components of the Green Team program is introducing team members to their local National Parks. While at the parks, students participate in service and recreational activities, on trips that last from a day to a week in length. Many of these urban teens have never been hiking or camping before, and these trips can form the beginnings of life-long commitments to National Park stewardship.

On these trips, team members meet and talk with Park Rangers about the history and significance of the park, as well what is involved in being a National Park Service employee. These conversations plant the seeds for students that can lead to careers with the Park Service. Teams help parks with projects like trail maintenance, removing invasive species, gardening and rebuilding historic stone walls. And they get to have fun in a completely new environment.

GREEN TEAMS 2009

CALIFORNIA

GW SAN DIEGO, CHOLLAS CREEK
8 TEAM MEMBERS · 1 TEAM LEADER

COLORADO

GW DENVER
10 TEAM MEMBERS · 1 TEAM LEADER

CONNECTICUT

GW BRIDGEPORT
10 TEAM MEMBERS · 1 TEAM LEADER

INDIANA

GW GARY
15 TEAM MEMBERS · 2 TEAM LEADERS

LOUISIANA

GW NEW ORLEANS
8 TEAM MEMBERS · 3 TEAM LEADERS

MASSACHUSETTS

GW LAWRENCE
10 TEAM MEMBERS · 1 TEAM LEADER
GW SOMERVILLE
20 TEAM MEMBERS · 3 TEAM LEADERS

MINNESOTA

GW MINNEAPOLIS
8 TEAM MEMBERS · 1 TEAM LEADER

NEW JERSEY

GW ELIZABETH
20 TEAM MEMBERS · 2 TEAM LEADERS

NEW YORK

GW HUDSON VALLEY
15 TEAM MEMBERS · 1 TEAM LEADER

RHODE ISLAND

GW PROVIDENCE
21 TEAM MEMBERS · 3 TEAM LEADERS

WASHINGTON, DC

GW ANACOSTIA RIVER
10 TEAM MEMBERS · 2 TEAM LEADERS

WISCONSIN

GW MILWAUKEE
4 TEAM MEMBERS · 2 TEAM LEADERS

PARTICIPATING NATIONAL PARKS

EASTERN U.S.

- MARSH BILLINGS-ROCKEFELLER NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, VT
- BOSTON HARBOR ISLANDS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, MA
- LOWELL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, MA
- MINUTEMAN NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, MA
- ROGER WILLIAMS NATIONAL MEMORIAL, RI
- WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, CT
- APPALACHIAN NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL, NY AND VT
- DELAWARE WATER GAP NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, PA
- NATIONAL CAPITAL PARKS, DC
 - FORT MAHAN
 - FORT CHAPLIN
 - FORT DUPONT
 - KENILWORTH AQUATIC GARDENS

MID U.S.

- ST. CROIX NATIONAL SCENIC RIVERWAY, MN
- MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA, MN
- ICE AGE NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL, WI
- INDIANA DUNES NATIONAL LAKESHORE, IN
- JEAN LAFITTE NATIONAL PARK AND PRESERVE, LA
- NEW ORLEANS JAZZ NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, LA

WESTERN U.S.

- GREAT SAND DUNES NATIONAL MONUMENT AND PRESERVE, CO
- SANTA FE NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL, CO
- CABRILLO NATIONAL MONUMENT, CA
- SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA, CA
- CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK, CA

Each Green Team is planning to provide service at 2-3 National Parks. These sites span the breadth of what the National Park Service has to offer—wilderness, urban and historic settings, recreation and natural wonders.



"[BEING ON A GREEN TEAM] IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE KIDS TO LEARN RESPECT FOR THEMSELVES AS MEMBERS OF A COMMUNITY, AND LEARNING WHAT THEY CAN DO TO CHANGE THINGS, THAT THEY CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE."

SHERI LUPOLI, SUMMER YOUTH COORDINATOR, GROUNDWORK PROVIDENCE