



NWF Celebrates United We Serve's Energy and Environment Issue Week in Nation's Capital

NWF/Interior Department Service Events Recognize President Obama's Summer of Service Initiative

WASHINGTON (August 5)—In support of President Obama's [United We Serve](#) initiative, National Wildlife Federation cosponsored today three volunteer service activities with the Department of Interior in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

National Wildlife Federation, partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service engaged youth and adult volunteers in environmental service projects, answering Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's call for every adult to mentor a child outdoors this summer. The events are a part of the United We Serve [Energy and Environment issue week](#) that runs August 3 through 9.

In June, National Wildlife Federation [joined](#) the Department of the Interior in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park to kickoff the Summer of Service, the national effort launched by President Obama to engage more Americans in serving their communities. Secretary Salazar issued a call to action for every adult to mentor a child outdoors this summer. Secretary Salazar [spoke](#) with volunteers who removed invasive species in Virginia's Shenandoah National Park.

"Children today spend half as much time outdoors as their parents and this has significant implications for our children's health, the economy and the future of American conservation," Secretary Salazar said. "This summer, as part of President Obama's new United We Serve campaign, I encourage all Americans to serve by mentoring a child in the great outdoors and introducing them to our nation's treasured landscapes."

"The disconnect between children and nature is growing," said Kevin Coyle, Vice President for Education and Training at National Wildlife Federation. "But the good news is volunteer work is a pathway to building a community, helping others, and can serve as your [Green Hour](#). Both unstructured playtime and outdoor youth mentoring programs will keep America's children healthy, creative, and engaged throughout the upcoming school year."

NWF cosponsored today's three environmental service projects. The National Park Service held an invasive plant species removal event at [Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve](#) in Alexandria, Virginia. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also held an invasive plant species removal service project at Laurel, Maryland's [Patuxent Research Refuge](#). Service

site three was in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management where volunteers repaired a walking trail at Virginia's [Meadowood Special Recreation Area](#).

NWF's [Be Out There](#)[™] campaign was designed to get families across the United States to open the door and get outside. A daily dose of the outdoors improves children's physical, mental and emotional well being. The benefits of outdoor play are real: healthier kids with a life-long appreciation of wildlife and nature. Visit www.nwf.org/BeOutThere for more information.

To learn where to Be Out There, visit NatureFind at www.nwf.org/NatureFind. This online tool maps outdoor activities and places ranging from nature trails, campsites, aviaries and zoos to wildlife preserves and local, state and national parks.

United We Serve is President Obama's call to service challenging all Americans to engage in sustained, meaningful community service. United We Serve runs from June 22 through a new National Day of Service on September 11 and is led by the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#).

Additional Resources:

YouTube: Be Out There Has A National Park Run-In With Secretary Salazar—
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HHn6mjBzBzg&feature=channel_page.

Find out more about environmental service opportunities at www.serve.gov.

[National Wildlife Federation](#) is America's largest conservation organization inspiring Americans to protect wildlife for our children's future. www.nwf.org.

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