

May 2007

A Look Ahead...

May 19-20, 2007
[Good Sam Club Clean Up](#)

June 2, 2007
[National Trails Day](#)

June 2 – 10, 2007
[National River Cleanup Week](#)

June 23, 2007
[Great American Backyard Campout](#)

June 29 – July 5, 2007
[National Clean Beaches Week](#)

Greetings from the Executive Director

Dear Readers,

Spring is here! The coming months will bring many chances to get outside and volunteer! Be sure to visit www.takepride.gov to see what opportunities there are in your area to help out.

Last month we celebrated National Volunteer Week, and I continue to be inspired by the countless volunteers who give so much of themselves to the improvement our public lands. In particular, I recently attended the Independence Park Volunteer Awards Luncheon in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and would like to extend my thanks for their gracious hospitality. The Independence Park volunteers are true patriots! I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them and learning about their service to this historic treasure.

Sincerely,



Heather Roebke

In the News

In honor of National Volunteer Week, Interior Secretary Kempthorne presented local C & O Canal volunteer Dave Johnson (second from right) the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Mr. Johnson has served over 5,500 hours with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Association Volunteer Group. The C&O Canal Association is a citizens' group dedicated to the conservation of the natural and cultural environment of the C&O Canal and the Potomac River Basin.

Take Pride Staff was on hand for the presentation along with C & O Canal National Park Superintendent Kevin Brandt and Volunteer Coordinator David Tune. Congratulations Dave Johnson on this well-deserved award!



Take Pride School Spotlight

Students from Clifton High School, a Take Pride School, pitched in to spruce up the grounds of their school by planting bulbs in their Peace Gardens. They also helped clean up the surrounding area around their school.

Thanks to the students of the Clifton High Conservation Club, their school is a brighter and cleaner place to be. Congratulations to Clifton High School in Clifton, New Jersey for a job well done!



New Take Pride Schools

Christopher Columbus Middle School,
Clifton, NJ

Hope Page Elementary School, Page, ND

Grafton Middle School, Yorktown, VA

Newburg United School, Newburg, ND

Manuel Public School, Manuel, ND

North Central School, Rogers, ND

Montpelier Public School, Montpelier, ND

Sign Up to be a Take Pride School!

The Take Pride School program involves elementary, middle and high schools in creating a new generation of volunteers to act as stewards over our public resources.

Take Pride Schools accomplish 2 volunteer projects every school year. Projects may be done by the school, a classroom or a club. Projects must be on public lands (public schools included!), promote Take Pride's message, and benefit public use of public land. To learn more, go to:

<http://www.takepride.gov/programs/schools.cfm>

In the News

Interior Deputy Secretary Lynn Scarlett recently traveled to Puerto Rico. During her trip, she personally presented a Take Pride in America® Appreciation certificate to the Fixed Regiment of Puerto Rico. The volunteer re-enactment group portrays the first Puerto Rican regiment that protected the fort during the 1790s. The 28 members participate in marches, drills, weapons and uniform maintenance and strive to educate the public about the life and times of soldiers, militia and their families who lived in and around the fort during the 18th century. The group has collectively volunteered more than 1,850 hours. Manuel L. Iravedra, the group's leader, accepted the certificate on behalf of the group.





Volunteer Spotlight

Valley Springs Cub Scout Pack 352, along with family members, participated in a Take Pride event in April to clean up the shore line at New Melones Lake in California. The group braved the wind and rain to pick up litter and collected from two picnic and day use sites nearby. Participants included 25 Cub Scouts and their brothers and sisters. They were also met by the Bureau of Reclamation's Mid Pacific Regional Coordinator for Take Pride in America, Loredana Potter.

Well done, Cub Scout Pack 352!



Picture of the Month



Interior Secretary Kempthorne visits with Chad Pregracke of Living Lands and Waters on the Potomac River. They were joined by DOI employees at the Capital River Relief river cleanup during National Volunteer Week.

Thank you!

Thanks to our contributors for this edition of "In Touch With Take Pride." Please keep sending us articles and photos at TakePride@ios.doi.gov for future newsletter editions or for publication on our website.



New Hours of Service Awards Available!

In an effort to recognize public lands volunteers at every level, the Take Pride in America office has joined with [USA Freedom Corps](https://www.usafreedomcorps.gov/) to expand its current awards program. As a way to say "thank you" for their hard work, volunteers who have reached the hours of service levels specified below can now be nominated by their supervisor or site volunteer coordinator for an Hours of Service Award. For more information, please contact Lisa Young in the Take Pride office at (202) 208-5848 or via email at Lisa_Young@ios.doi.gov.

Hours of Service Awards

The Presidential Volunteer Service Bronze Award
100-249 volunteer hours

The Presidential Volunteer Service Silver Award
250-499 volunteer hours

The Presidential Volunteer Service Gold Award
500-999 volunteer hours

The Take Pride Bronze Award
1,000 volunteer hours

The Take Pride Silver Award
2,000 volunteer hours

The Take Pride Gold Award
2,500 volunteer hours

The Secretarial Volunteer Service Award
3,000 volunteer hours

The Presidential Volunteer Service Award
4,000 volunteer hours