

*Equipping young people
to be vigorous citizens*

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MCC Mobilizes Volunteers for Nat'l Public Lands Day

MCC was out in force last Saturday helping volunteers get involved with [National Public Lands Day](#). MCC hosted projects in Billings, Bozeman, Helena, Great Falls, Kalispell, and Missoula. The nation's largest hands-on volunteer effort with over 100,000 volunteers across the country, the National Public Lands Day event:

- Educates Americans about critical environmental and natural resources issues and the need for shared stewardship of these valued, irreplaceable lands;
- Builds partnerships between the public sector and local communities;
- Improves public lands for outdoor recreation, with volunteers assisting land managers in hands-on work.



Future MCC'er, Melle Sletterink, enjoys a well-deserved hot dog after clearing trails at Lone Pine State Park.



Lone Pine State Park

With ages ranging from 3 to 65, volunteers at [Lone Pine State Park](#) represented all facets of the Kalispell community: students of [Flathead High School](#), Peer Court referred teens, [Campus Corps](#) members from the [community college](#), and local families. Together, they removed a quarter mile of fencing, piled slash, and improved a newly-created trail. These hard-working volunteers were treated to a BBQ hosted by the Park with NPLD posters and door prizes donated by [Rocky Mountain Outfitters](#), [Starbucks](#), [Smith's](#), and [MCC](#).

Rain and Snow Can't Stop Eager Kirk Hill Volunteers

[Kirk Hill](#) is a popular hiking and birding site outside of Bozeman. But fording the steep and slippery bridge at the base of the hill is not for the faint of heart. Not any more! Former MCC'ers, current members, and volunteers wielding chainsaws, pulaskis and shovels braved pouring rain, and then snow, to level the bridge onto new sills and cut in a new access trail. Soaked and covered in mud by noon, the group retreated to Colombo's Pizza for lunch and prizes and more laughs.



Undaunted Volunteers at Lewis and Clark Center

Lewis and Clark braved the heat and cactus on the Plains to pass the Great Falls of the Missouri in 1805. 202 years later, our volunteers confronted rain and mud to clear trash from two acres newly acquired by the [Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center](#). Half the property (and the loaned dumpster!) was un-reachable by foot or vehicle due to extreme muddy conditions, but there was plenty of work on more accessible areas. Volunteers also planted native grass seed to restore habitat along this nationally significant historic site.