



# GreenBeat

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

**Here's what's happening**



## Green Teams

In 2008, Green Teams with 11 GW Trusts from across the country will participate in service days with their local National Parks.

### California

- GW San Diego, Chollas Creek  
15-25 youth/ 4 team leaders

### Colorado

- GW Denver  
8 youth/ 2 team leaders

### Connecticut

- GW Bridgeport  
18-20 youth/ 3 team leaders

### Indiana

- GW Gary  
10-15 youth/ 1 team leader

### Massachusetts

- GW Lawrence  
10 youth/ 2 team leaders
- GW Somerville  
12 youth/ 2 team leaders

### New Hampshire

- GW Concord  
8 youth/ 1 team leader

### New Jersey

- GW Elizabeth  
20 youth/ 5 team leaders

### New York

- GW Yonkers  
25-30 youth/ 2-3 team leaders

### Rhode Island

- GW Providence  
16-20 youth/ 2 team leaders

### Texas

- GW El Paso  
12-24 youth/ 3-4 team leaders
- GW Dallas  
9 youth/ 1 team leader

*This summer, youth employed by the Groundwork Green Teams across the country will participate in various educational, recreational, and service activities in their communities and at National Parks.*

## Green Team Facts

The Groundwork USA Green Team Program provides youth (ages 12-18) with the structure, knowledge, and tools to help revitalize their communities. Green Teams provide many youth with their first jobs and or volunteer experience while offering environmental service learning opportunities. The Green Team Program cultivates leadership, stewardship, and citizenship.

## Improving Their Community

The GW Trust Green Teams all have busy summers planned. In addition to exciting service day trips and recreational overnights in National Parks that combine fun and learning with stewardship, the youth will be working in their own communities. They will learn about their local environment, teach their peers and community members, and plan and complete projects to benefit their communities. In 2008, activities will 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 farmers markets
- Financial literacy workshops
- Increasing availability of fresh food in low income areas



## Service Days at The National Parks

In 2008, Green Teams from 11 Groundwork trusts will participate in service days at their local National Parks. A typical service day includes an introduction by a Park Ranger who will share the history of the park, why it is important and information about their job. A warm up and team building activity will get folks moving around and meeting new people in preparation for their service project. Lunch, recreation and a final talk with the Park Rangers round out the day. The teams may also participate in some of the Park's interpretive activities such as films, park tours/walks, museum and farm visits, and visitor center games. Service days with a Park Ranger introduce the youth to parks and promote good stewardship. They can spark interest and provide information about future career opportunities within the National Park Service.

## Getting to Know Youth From other Communities

At the beginning and end of the summer, Green Teams gather for a Kick-Off and Summit, respectively. These events serve as fun ways to meet other youth, learn more about Groundwork USA and their partnership with

## Goals of the NPS GW USA Youth Partnership

- Introduce youth to National Parks and Youth Conservation Corp programs in their areas
- Provide youth the opportunity to work, learn, and share with other Green Teams and NPS YCC programs through stewardship, environmental education, and recreational activities
- Connect the Green Teams of different regions
- Continue to build a long term relationship with the National Parks in each GW Trust area
- Provide employment, mentoring, and career development opportunities for youth in environmental fields and with the NPS

the National Park Service as well as share with each other their respective group's focuses and goals. During the summer, some of the Green Teams host joint service days in their own communities with other Green Teams and engage in service learning together. Many of the trips to National Parks are done with other NPS youth groups such as Youth Conservation Corps. These joint events are fun and creative ways to encourage the youth to share their experiences, learn from each other and explore the opportunities available to them through Groundwork USA and the National Park Service.



## Participating National Parks

- Channel Islands National Park, CA
- Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, CA
- Cabrillo National Monument, CA
- Rocky Mountain National Park, CO
- Florissant Fossil Beds National Monument, CO
- White Sands National Monument, NM
- Chisaw National Recreation Area, OK
- Guadalupe Mountains National Park, TX



- Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore, IN
- Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, MI

- Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historic Park, VT
- Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, NH
- Cape Cod National Seashore, MA
- Frederick Law Olmsted National Historical Site, MA
- Minute Man National Historical Park, MA
- Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, RI
- Roger Williams National Memorial, RI
- Weir Farm National Historic Site, CT
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt National Historic Site, NY
- Gateway National Recreation Area, NY
- Morriston National Historical Park, NJ
- Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, NJ & PA

In 2008, each Green Team is planning to complete service days at 2 – 3 National Parks. These sites represent the breadth of what the National Park Service has to offer – wilderness, urban, historic, recreation, and natural wonders. Service day activities will range from trail work, tree pruning and landscape maintenance to nature exploration, water quality monitoring and data collection to interpretive activities and performance for park visitors.