

## **Natural Leaders Network Get Outside Day! 2010 Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Q- What is NLN Get Outside Day! 2010?**

A- Get Outside Day! is a day when natural leaders, community members, friends, and families across the nation and beyond join together to encourage all youth to connect with nature. It is a day to get outside! and raise awareness about the need for nature in the lives of all people.

### **Q- What is the Natural Leaders Network?**

A- The Natural Leaders Network is a growing group of teen-agers, college students and other young people whose personal connection to nature comes from their experiences in their own neighborhoods, woods, fields, arroyos, mountains and oceans. We encourage young leaders to take decisive action against nature-deficit disorder. At the core of this network is the youth voice. The ideas and spirit of this network are being developed by youth in constant growth and we are moving fast!

### **Q- Who should I contact if I have questions?**

A- If you have any questions about the NLN Get Outside Day! specifically or the Natural Leaders Network in general, please contact Juan Martinez, Natural Leaders Network Coordinator, [juan@childrenandnature.org](mailto:juan@childrenandnature.org)

### **Q- Who founded and sponsors the Natural Leaders Network?**

A- The Children & Nature Network (C&NN) launched the Natural Leaders Network in 2009 and founders included C&NN and Sierra Club. The North Face is a corporate sponsor of the Natural Leaders Network. These three organizations form the major support system for the Natural Leaders Network.

C&NN was created to encourage and support the people and organizations working nationally and internationally to reconnect children with nature. Sierra Club has been working to protect communities, wild places, and the planet itself since 1982, and today is the oldest, largest, and most influential grassroots environmental organization in the United States. Through the Building Bridges to the Outdoors project, the Sierra Club is working to ensure that all youth, but especially those from underserved and minority communities, have the opportunity to experience nature and the outdoors. The North Face delivers an extensive line of performance apparel, equipment, and footwear. Sustainability and conservation form the core of The North Face pledge to advance the well-being of the planet and its citizens — especially those who enjoy exploring our world.

**Q- I want to host a NLN Get Outside Day! 2010 event in my community. Where do I start?**

A- First identify your audience, who would you like to work with? Would you like this to be an event that all community members may attend or would you like to have an event for young people? What age group? After you know who your audience will be, select an outdoor event that is age/interest appropriate. It may not be a great idea to have preschool aged children picking up garbage and high school students may or may not be interested in a Super Bug Safari!

**Q- Okay, I know who I want to attend, how do I get them there?**

A- If you do not work or volunteer in a capacity that gives you access to your audience then you may want to consider forming a partnership with someone or an organization that has access to that audience. For example, if you are hoping to engage local high school students in a beach clean up, consider contacting the chair of the science department at the high school or the person in charge of the high school Recycling, Community Action, or Outing Club.

**Q- Does the event have to be on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, NLN Get Outside Day! 2010?**

A- No, coordinate with your partners to choose the day and time of day that will make your event the most successful. We would like for your event to be timed the week before or after Get Outside Day! so that it can be included in reporting and outreach.

**Q- Should I advertise the event? How do I let people know what happens?**

A- If you are hoping to have community members attend the event consider calling radio stations, news papers, community organizations, Friends of (insert the name of park where the event will be), etc. well ahead of time and ask them to give community members a heads up about what you are doing. Consider putting flyers in the local library, your church, local restaurants and businesses (with permission) to increase attendance. Invite local papers and news stations to cover the event, but also write a press release about the event and send photos to local papers. Some newspapers and TV stations host a community calendar that you may be able to have your Get Outside Day! event featured on. Remember, it never hurts to ask!

**Q- I don't have any ideas for an event or project. Do you have any suggestions?**

A- Think about your own interests and what excites you about nature and playing outdoors. Here is a short list of suggestions to get your wheels turning!

- Kickball
- Nature Scavenger Hunt
- Beach Clean-up
- Stream Clean-up
- Geocaching Adventure
- Plant Trees and/or Stream Buffer
- Nature Walk with a Naturalist
- Volunteer with a City Park, State Park, or City Forest
- Recycling Event
- Help at a Community Garden
- Bug Safari
- Scavenger Hunt
- Photo Safari or Competition

**Q- Do you have any suggestions about organizations that I might partner with to plan or host the NLN Get Outside Day! 2010 event?**

A- It's best to think about the connections that you already have. Groups and individuals that know and work with you are much more likely to participate. Here are some ideas to get you started brainstorming.

- Local Schools
- Boys and Girls Club
- YMCA After School Program
- Community Garden
- Boy Scout/Girl Scout Troop
- City Forest or Park
- State Park
- Land Trust
- Lake Association
- North Face Store
- Outdoor Retailers
- Local Government Offices
- Local Businesses
- Grocery Store- Snacks, Beverages
- Local Landscaper- Plants, Supplies
- Land Trust- May Lend Tools
- City Parks and Recreation Department- May Lend Tools
- Cooperate Sponsors
- Walmart/Target- May Donate Gift Card to Raffle or Help Purchase Supplies

