



**For Immediate Release:**  
July 2, 2012

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## **Celebrate July 4th in Your National & Local Parks**

**Washington, D.C.** – For July 4<sup>th</sup>, millions of Americans are expected to celebrate the holiday at picnics, fairs, recreational activities and more on public lands throughout the nation.

Public lands, held in trust for the American people, are perfect places to celebrate the nation's birthday. From community parks and school yards to the National Mall and Mount Rushmore, public lands across the nation are planning celebrations.

"One of the great things we get to celebrate on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July is the vast array of opportunities presented by our public lands. Whether you are looking for a place to go for a run, hold a family barbeque or just relax, our public lands offer something for everyone this holiday," said Robb Hampton, Program Director, Public Lands Program of the National Environmental Education Foundation (NEEF).

Here are a few examples of some popular Fourth of July celebrations that take place on public lands:

- **[The National Mall in Washington, D.C.](#)** - There's no better place to celebrate the country's birthday than in the nation's capital. [A Capitol Fourth](#), the nationally televised concert, takes place on the west grounds of the Capitol building. Thousands will turn out to watch the fireworks among the national monuments, the Capitol and the White House.
- **[Mount Rushmore National Memorial in South Dakota](#)** - This two-day celebration even features "autograph" sessions with Presidents Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt, music from the United States Air Force Band, as well as fun educational programs.
- **[Drake Park in Bend, Oregon](#)** - This local park will have games, food, music and a Zumba family dance to help the community celebrate the holiday.
- **At the public schools or local parks in every community** - Public schools are built on public land, and many fairs, carnivals, parades, fireworks displays, farmers' markets and concerts will take place at schools during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday. Find details about events on the websites of local communities or parks.

After enjoying Independence Day on public lands, take advantage of the opportunities to say "thank you" and give back. One opportunity every year is [National Public Lands Day](#) (NPLD), which NEEF organizes and will be held this year on Saturday, Sept. 29. More than 2,000 sites around the country will hold NPLD events. NPLD is also a fee-free day, which means entrance fees are waived at many federally managed lands including national parks.

**Find local events and learn more about public lands at [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org).**

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