

In Touch With Take Pride



US Department of the Interior

October 2007

VolunTouring Across America

Well, we've arrived safe and sound back in Washington, D.C. after a very long and successful VolunTOUR of the West Coast!

We kicked off our tour pitching in at a National Public Lands Day event in Golden Gate National Park Recreation Area. We then journeyed north in our official VolunTour Toyota Prius for several other events, taking us all the way up the Pacific coast to Washington state. The west coast is a beautiful part of the country and I will always treasure the time I spent out there meeting such dedicated citizens and stewards of our land.

We could not have done this without the support from the event organizers and volunteers. It was an honor meeting each and every one of you. I was so inspired visiting with volunteers young and old; from Freemont Middle School students to retired military chaplains, your spirit of giving back represents what makes America so great.

So while this does mark the end of our first VolunTour Across America, it won't be our last! We look forward to working with and visiting as many of you as we can in the future. Send us a line if you'd like to partner with us or get involved in future trips. We've also got [more stories and pics from the VolunTour](#), you can find them [HERE on our BLOG....](#)



Heather and Lisa posing
in front of the Golden Gate Bridge

Heather Roebke



Volunteers in San Francisco for NPLD

Pi Beta Phi Students Restore Local River

Over 67 students from Pi Beta Phi School in Tennessee recently spent an afternoon volunteering at three different sites on the Little River (Great Smoky Mountains National Park).

They worked to remove the rock dams that visitors to the park have built over time. The constructed river dams and channels in the river disturb local fishes breeding habits, along with critical habitats for aquatic invertebrates and stream dwelling salamanders.

Local park visitors had built the dams and water channels to create space for tubing down the river, not knowing the effect it would have on the river as a whole.



Great work guys! It looks like they were able to have a good time as well. Check out the before and after photos below, you can really see a difference.

One of the best parts about the whole day was that no one busted any fingers or toes! Believe me, that's no small feat.



Before
(Notice the "tubing" channel)



After
(As nature intended)

International Coastal Cleanup Day



As part of [International Coastal Cleanup Day](#) on September 15, volunteers across the country joined together to clean up coastlines across the country. Take Pride attended one such event, in Kentucky, for the 20th Annual Trashmasters Classic Cleanup of Barren River Lake.

Now Glasgow, Kentucky may be a small town, but one thing's for sure...it's got a big heart! Over 600 people came out to help cleanup the lake. That's right, 600, and these guys pulled all kinds of trash out of the lake....see the picture below.

Sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Barren River Lake State Resort Park, this cleanup was an inspiring example of how several groups can come together to make a BIG difference. Boy Scouts, local businesses, young and old worked side by side to collect tons of trash and make their community cleaner and stronger.

Check out some of the press coverage from the event:

[Trashmasters Classic Keeps Lake Clean](#)

[Hundreds head to lake for Trashmasters Classic](#)



NPLD cleanup at New Melones Lake

As most of you probably know, [National Public Lands Day](#) was this past month, with over a thousand successful events taking place across the country.

One such Take Pride event took place at New Melones Lake, California. Over forty volunteers showed up, doing a variety of tasks. Volunteers cleared weeds from the trails, spruced up barbecue pits, collected debris from the shoreline, and planted flowers on Heron Point.

As these volunteers know, it's hard work cleaning up some of these areas, but the results make it more than worth it. These Californians really show what National Public Lands Day is all about.

A big thanks to everyone who showed up, as well as to the Columbia College Culinary School, who provided lunches for all the volunteers. I don't know that it gets any better than having a culinary school make your lunch!



Welcome

New Take Pride Schools

Rees Elementary School
Spanish Fork, Utah

The Phoenix School
Roseburg, Oregon

&

Princess Anne High School
Virginia Beach, Virginia

Glendale High School
Glendale, Oregon



BRAT Cleanup of Vermont's Black River

A few weeks ago the Black River Action Team (BRAT) joined together with other local volunteer groups for a day of cleaning up the Black River. All in all there were over forty four volunteers, including Girl Scout Troop 822, Taking Pride on a SWELTERING late summer day.

Volunteers pulled over a dozen shopping carts from the river, car tires, wire fencing, hubcaps, junk metal, chairs, two bikes, a soccer ball, over twenty giant bags of trash, a car door, children's toys, and get this.....a ten pound bag of chicken. I think that may take the cake for the strangest thing I've heard of in awhile!

From the stories I heard about this event, it sounds like all the BRATS had a grand time, and are already planning their next big cleanup.

I have no idea how some of those things ended up in the river, but groups all over the country, like Vermont's BRATS, do an incredible job of taking pride in their communities and fishing them out. You guys should be proud.



*There's always
at least one tire!*



And apparently a car door...

West Geauga Middle School

Students from West Geauga Middle School have been involved in all kinds of things this past month. In the picture to the right you can see them planting trees around their schools campus, during one of their Take Pride School events.

It turns out, West Geauga Middle also has political aspirations, as they are heavily involved in getting the spotted salamander designated as Ohio's state amphibian. Their school recently had a school wide assembly with their state senator, where they all learned about wetlands, biodiversity, and how they can help maintain the environment.

I'm impressed. Let's hear it for the West Geauga Wolverines!



More NPLD Pics



Aaron and Justin from Take Pride in America, at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens Event (Washington, D.C.)



A young Take Pride volunteer at the Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens event

Yuma, Arizona Colorado River Sweep



That's all for this month!

Please keep sending us articles and photos at TakePride@ios.doi.gov for future newsletter editions or for publication on our website.