

## **National Forest Association**

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### **For Immediate Release**

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## **National Trails Day Honored Trails at National Children's Forest; June 4**

Running Springs. . . Over 75 volunteers rolled up their sleeves on National Trails Day, June 4, to honor and help restore the Interpretive Trail at National Children's Forest on the San Bernardino National Forest. In three short hours, community volunteers, urban youth from the City of San Bernardino, and National Forest Association (NFA) Corpsmembers and staff worked diligently to clear and prune brush and remove sand and gravel washed over the trail by heavy winter rains to restore the trail to handicap, stroller and all persons accessible. A job well done destined to benefit tens of thousands of summer hikers. National Children's Forest is a program of the NFA.

"We are so invigorated and pleased with the commitment of our volunteers, mostly youth, doing their part in getting our trails ready for families to move outdoors for healthy and fun physical activity this summer," said Sarah Miggins, an accomplished hiker in her own right. "Culminating the event at National Children's Forest reinforced its key role. . .youth taking pride and a leadership role in forest management."

National Trails Day was the launch of a summer-long restoration project planned for the National Children's Forest's two very popular hiking trails, the Interpretive and Exploration trails. Sponsored by the American Hiking Society; Greg Miller, president, was on hand to participate, thank the volunteers and present a \$5,000 grant award check to the National Forest Association for this restoration project. Accepting the check was Sarah Miggins, National Forest Association executive director, with the support of San Bernardino National Forest Supervisor, Jody Noiron.

"To all my new friends at the National Forest Association, my thanks for your kind hospitality and dedication to the protection and enjoyment of the San Bernardino National Forest for 'us kids' today and for future generations. I was inspired by the youth and community involvement and proud that American Hiking Society could play a part in your good work. See you soon!", rallied Greg Miller, president.

YMCA Camp Whittle in Fawnskin (North Shore of Big Bear Lake) donated bus service to transport San Bernardino urban youth and NFA Corpsmembers to the site alleviating the ever-present transportation challenge nonprofits continually face to meet their mission.

Through grants, donations and volunteer support, the NFA works in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service to execute and complement their restoration efforts on the San Bernardino National Forest.

Over 2,000 events were held nationally to honor this day set aside for our trails. Next year will mark the 20th anniversary of this national event.

Annually, thousands of outdoor enthusiasts and first time hikers enjoy the trails at National Children's Forest and other popular sites on the San Bernardino National Forest to get outdoors for good physical exercise, exploration and discovery. In support of the Presidential proclamation of June as "Great Outdoors Month 2011" and increased media attention from First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move Outside" campaign through national public lands agencies, educators and retailers, we are seeing an increase in families hitting the trails for outdoor fun and exercise.

National Children's Forest is open every Saturday and Sunday from 9am to 5pm through September 4, 2011, as a visitor center, portal and restoration hub to the SBNF. Community volunteers are needed every Sunday from Noon to 3pm to help with planned restoration activities; meet at the Visitor Center, groups of 10 or larger need to RSVP to Monica Curiel, program manager, at 909.382.2773. Visit [www.NationalForestAssociation.org](http://www.NationalForestAssociation.org) for an updated calendar of events.

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#### **About June: National Get Outdoors Month 2011:**

For generations, America's great outdoors have ignited our imaginations, bolstered our economy, and fueled our national spirit of adventure and independence. That is why during the month of June, we celebrate Great Outdoors Month and rededicate ourselves to experiencing and protecting our nation's unique landscapes and treasured sites.

President Obama's America's Great Outdoors (AGO) Initiative has launched a national dialogue about conservation in America. The AGO Initiative is based on the tenet that lasting conservation solutions should start with the American people – that nobody knows which places are most important to American communities better than the people who live, work and recreate in them. The Department of the Interior and other governmental agencies are hard at work talking with communities and implementing the recommendations of the AGO report.

#### **About the National Forest Association (NFA):**

The National Forest Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, is committed to three initiatives addressing conservation/restoration, environmental education and responsible recreation on Southern California public lands. Through partnerships and a strong volunteer backbone network, the NFA brings communities of people, partners and funding resources to important projects and programming focused on health, stewardship and sustainability. National Children's Forest is one of six programs of the NFA. Visit [www.nationalforestassociation.org](http://www.nationalforestassociation.org).