



Dear parents/teachers/educators,

Children nationwide will take part in a grassroots movement to celebrate America's parks *through play* on Saturday, May 19th, as they participate in National Park Trust's (NPT) second annual National Kids to Parks[™] Day (KTP).

This year NPT is launching the first annual Kids to Park Day Class Contest. This new national contest is open to schools across the country and in the U.S. territories. The theme of this year's contest is "*Explore outdoors, the parks are yours!*" which is the motto of our wooly mascot Buddy Bison. Students can submit proposals that exemplify this theme for a KTP event at a park in their community. NPT will award scholarships in the amount of \$250, \$500 or \$1000 to winning entries. Awards will be used by the winners to implement their KTP event during the week leading up to May 19th. **Deadline for entries is Thursday, March 1st. Winners will be announced Monday, March 19th.**

To enter:

- Students must select a park 30-60 minutes from their school
- The students must research the park to find out what outdoor recreation activities and educational opportunities are available
- Students must complete the two page entry form attached
- One entry form can be submitted per class
- More than one entry form can be submitted per school
- We want to hear from the students, so help them develop their ideas, but allow them to voice their thoughts in the proposal

Contest winners will receive:

- Funding for one park experience including school bus transportation, healthy snacks and other park related fees
- Award certificate and KTP stickers for students
- Buddy Bison pint-size wooly mascot to take on your park adventure

Winning submissions must agree to:

- Send at least 3-5 photos from your park trip with your students and Buddy Bison. Photos must be received by June 1st; we will feature your school in our national e-newsletter, *Buddy Bison's Buzz*.
 - Please note, any photos received will be used only in NPT's publications, including our website and e-newsletters, and in materials for educational purposes. We only use first names of students if provided.
- 1-2 paragraph summary or reflection, preferably from a student, about their park experience (one summary per class is required; but more are welcomed received by June 1st)

The entry form and all materials can be sent or emailed to:

Billy Schrack
Education Director
National Park Trust

301-279-7275 Ext. 17
william@parktrust.org
401 E. Jefferson Street
Suite 102
Rockville, MD 20850

Scholarships will be awarded based on three categories:

Explore outdoors

Healthy Living: How are you going to promote a healthy lifestyle while visiting the park?

For example will you:

- take a hike
- play on the playground
- run a race
- row a boat
- bike around the park trails
- other

Education: What can you learn while at the park?

What can you learn about the park's (pick one or more):

- history
- name or creation
- science
- ecosystems
- animals
- lakes, rivers or other bodies of water
- other

Parks are yours

Stewardship: How can you preserve the park?

You can take action by (pick one or more):

- planting trees
- laying mulch
- cleaning up the park
- raising funds to donate to a local park (e.g. Bake sale for Buddy Bison)
- participating in Pennies for Parks (see attached)
- writing letters to elected officials about preserving parks
- helping with trail construction
- other

Buddy Bison says, "Good luck to all the classes participating!"



Class Entry Form

For National Kids to Park Day Class Contest 2012

Contest Deadline: March 1st

We encourage the students to submit the entry form in their own words. Winners will be announced by March 19th. Good luck!

Submitted by:	School Information
Grade:	Name of School:
Classroom Teacher:	School Telephone Number:
Park Name:	School Address:
Number of Students Participating:	

1) How are you going to promote a healthy life style while visiting the park?

2) What do you plan on learning while at the park?

3) How can you leave the park a better place? How can you be a steward for the park?

4) Why do you think your class should be selected as the National Kids to Park™ Day Contest Winner?

Budget for Park Visit

Teachers- please complete the brief budget for your park trip

Item	Cost/Explanation
Bus/transportation -contact your bus company	
Healthy Snacks -what would it cost to have healthy snacks for the class?	
Refreshments -case of water or juice	
Park Experience/other fees -canoe rentals, entrance fee, guided tour, or other park fees	
Stewardship Project -cleaning equipment, trash bags, mulch, vinyl gloves or other supplies	
Miscellaneous	
For assistance with the budget contact: Billy Schrack william@parktrust.org Education Director 301-279-7275 ext. 17 National Park Trust	Total:

Students are encouraged to be creative when submitting the entry form. Videos, pictures and drawings are encouraged to supplement the proposal. **The entry form may be typed or handwritten with legible writing.**