



Kids to Parks Day 2018 Event Planning & Hosting Guide

www.kidstoparks.org

The goal of Kids to Parks Day is to connect kids of all ages to parks: to enjoy the outdoors, learn from these wonderful outdoor classrooms, and instill the importance of stewardship. Kids to Parks Day engages parks across the country including local, state and national parks, and public lands and waters. When you create a Kids to Parks Day event you join a corps of creative people who, like you, are working to connect communities with nature and promote health and wellness. Together we are cultivating the next generation of park stewards!

Step 1: Come up with an idea for an event.

Any event or program that takes place at a park or public land, is open to the public, and is family friendly can be registered for Kids to Parks Day. These can include hikes, junior ranger programs, fishing derbies, nature scavenger hunts, park cleanups, and everything in between.

Step 2: Plan your event with your local park and recreation department. Also consider state or national parks and/or public lands or waters.

Contact the park and recreation department at the park or public land where you wish to host your event. Tell them your idea and see if your type of event needs a permit or other special permissions. Talk to them about what [Kids to Parks Day](#) is and see if they are interested in helping to plan or promote your event.

Step 3: [Register your event on KidstoParks.org](#).

We will have an interactive map where people can search for events going on near them. If you let us know about your plans, we can use our platform to help promote your event! [Your event will be listed here](#).

Step 4: Register to be counted as a Kids to Parks Day participant on KidstoParks.org.

Register to be counted as a Kids to Parks Day participant on our website. Last year we had over 1-million people across the country participate! When you register your event on the KTP Day site, we will be helping you promote your event. Please include as much information as you can so that we can support your efforts. We will be broadcasting through our communications networks -- including social media and other media outlets -- the excitement of Kids to Parks Day!

Step 5: Invite Buddy Bison to your event!

Our mascot costume, [Big Buddy Bison](#), is available to rent from National Park Trust. Buddy Bison is National Park Trust's woolly mascot who encourages kids to "Get outdoors, the parks are yours!" Please contact [Emily Edgar](#) for more information. Don't wait too long, we have a limited number of Big Buddy Bison and he is reserved on a first-come, first served basis.

You can also give away our small Buddy Bison at your event. He is a stuffed bison on a carabiner who inspires kids to discover, explore, and preserve our public lands by taking him to parks and posting pictures to find out "Where's Buddy Bison Been?"

Step 6: [Promote Your Event](#)

We have sample social media posts, posters, images, blog posts, and press releases on our website to help you spread the word about your Kids to Parks Day event. Contact your local media stations and let them know about Kids to Parks Day and your event. Contact your Mayor or local elected officials and find out if they have proclaimed the day.

Our website is packed with additional tools, resources, and other information to help plan and execute a successful Kids to Parks Day event. Whether this is your first KTP Day or your 8th, we hope this brief guide will help you get the most out of your time and resources.

Have questions? Please reach out to kidstoparksday@parktrust.org. Happy planning!

