



# SUCCESS STORIES

REPORTING EXAMPLES OF OUR PROGRESS IN CARING FOR THE LAND AND SERVING PEOPLE



## Youth Group Lends Services to Wayne NF and Community

*Eighty-seven church youth spend three days on the Wayne assisting with projects to benefit their community at the Vesuvius Recreation Area.*



Volunteer youth paint buildings at the Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area.

On July 26 and 27, 2007 a group of 87 energetic teens and young adults (age 14-18) from all around the Tri-state area came to the Wayne National Forest to fulfill their goals for the 2007 Youth Conference Service Project. These young representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS) accomplished over 1000 volunteer hours of service to our community in a whirlwind of activity during their 3-day campout on the Forest. The group camped at the Two Points Group Campground accompanied by adult volunteers who

supervised the activities and prepared food for the participants.

The Forest provided a variety of activities for these service-minded folks to participate in: putting a coat of paint on 6 buildings in the Vesuvius Recreation Area, installing split rail fencing, brushing and clearing trails, removal of hazard trees in Oak Hill Campground, removing invasive species on approximately 5 acres of trails, and planting 2 plant butterfly gardens with 60 plants of 12 different native species.

Cindy Henderson, Ironton Engineering Tech, planned and coordinated the event for the Forest. "This was an incredible group of kids, they worked really hard the entire time they were here," she said. "Even the severe thunderstorms that rolled through while they were working did not dampen the lively spirit of these youngsters." Each evening the group endured high winds and hail but still reported they had a great time. It wasn't all work and no play however; on Friday afternoon before they left, the youth went canoeing on Lake Vesuvius, hiking, and enjoying the Vesuvius Recreation

Area.

Chad Kirschbaum coordinated three of the projects the LDS youth helped with: invasive plant removal and planting a butterfly and native plant garden. The youth worked with Master Gardener Cecilia Scarberry to establish the garden at the District Office and complete the plantings, learning about native plants and pollination in the process. They also planted a native species garden at the entrance to the Rock House Trail. The youth became familiar with the problems associated with invasive species as they rolled up their sleeves and eradicated these invaders from 2 sections of the backpack trail and the Archery Trail Hollow.

Gloria Chrismer, Ironton District Ranger expressed the appreciation of all district employees for the dedication and hard work of these volunteers, "The amount of work these kids accomplished in the past 2 days has been tremendous. We were delighted to have such a fine group on the Forest." She added, "Our employees thought they were terrific group to work with and commended them on the impressive job they did to improve the looks and safety of the largest recreation area in our community."

Although the youth conference is held annually, Chrismer explained the conference includes a service project only every fourth year. "We hope they want to return in four years and we'll be happy to sponsor another work program at Lake Vesuvius!"

Henderson notes she couldn't have coordinated the event without the help of every person on the Ironton District. She commended Tom Eaches and John Brown for their help with planning and organizing the recreation projects. The recreation projects completed included: hazard tree removal at Oak Hill Campground and removal of down trees across the Archery Trail and Two Points Trail. They also brushed and cleared the Horse Trail reroute around the new archery trail area and closed the old trail accesses on each end. Another great project for the group was the installing split rail fencing at the Horse Trail Reroute and the Furnace Shelter Walking Trail.

Along with district personnel there were also seasonal employees and three volunteers (1 Master Gardener, 1 school teacher, and 1 high school student) who played a major role. These completed the ensemble of leadership to direct and assist the army of volunteers. The Summitt Prison Crew is also credited for doing some of the preparatory work in preparation for the volunteers.

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