

## Girl Scout Programming at Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge

Thank you for your continued support of and interest in Neal Smith NWR. We are excited to offer a number of badge programs and other events for Girl Scouts throughout 2016!

Below are our programs and dates, followed by some special events you may be interested in. **To register for a badge program OR the Linking Girls to the Land Event**, access the Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa website and search their "Event List" at <http://www.girlscoutsiowa.org/en/events/event-list.html>.

Badge programs are free of charge, and supplies will be provided unless otherwise noted. We will be outside for some portions, so scouts should dress for the weather. Bring a water bottle, sunscreen and/or insect repellent, as needed. You may also bring a lunch and eat at the Prairie Learning Center before or after your program. Note that, for badge programs, we welcome up to 25 scouts from as many troops as can participate at each program.

For any other refuge events, please contact **Brianna Patrick at 515-994-3400 or email [brianna\\_patrick@fws.gov](mailto:brianna_patrick@fws.gov)**. Please include the number of scouts who will attend & your contact information (email and phone, please).

**Daisies Clover Petal:** "Use Resources Wisely" - Sunday, April 17, 1:00-3:00pm

**Brownies Legacy Naturalist:** "Bugs" - Sunday, May 1, 1:00-3:00pm

~~**Juniors Legacy Naturalist:** "Flowers" - Sunday, May 15, 1:00-3:00pm~~ **FULL**

**Cadettes Legacy Naturalist:** "Trees" - Sunday, April 24, 1:00-3:00pm

**\*\*Linking Girls to the Land\*\* - Saturday, April 10, 12pm-3pm** at Neal Smith NWR.

Linking Girls is a Girl Scouts only special event for Daisies, Brownies and Juniors! Scouts are invited to hike through our tallgrass prairie, create nature crafts, explore careers in natural resources, see bison and elk, and help the Refuge plant native flowers and grasses. Pre-registration is required through Girls Scouts of Greater Iowa and is available through March 31<sup>st</sup>. Space fills quickly, limit 75 scouts.



## **Special Events and Service Projects**

We also have some special events throughout the next school year, which you and your scouts may want to participate in. Most of them include a service component, so it's a great way to earn service hours, too!

**1. Earth Day - Saturday, April 23, 9am-12pm** at Neal Smith NWR.

We need volunteers to help us restore our oak savannas by collecting and piling branches, logs, and non-native trees, so our native oaks and hickories can grow bigger and stronger. A FREE lunch will be provided by the Friends of Neal Smith NWR.

**2. Monarch Madness - Saturday, September 10, 9am-11pm**, at Neal Smith NWR. We need volunteers to help us catch, tag, and release monarch butterflies. The data collected for this event will be submitted to Monarch Watch, so scientists can learn more about monarchs' fascinating migration. Registration is limited to the first 100 participants and we fill up quickly!

**3. National Public Lands Day - Saturday, September 24, 9am-12pm**, at Neal Smith National Public Lands Day (NPLD) is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer effort for public lands. Last year, over 175,000 volunteers celebrated across the country. Join us for a chance to volunteer & collect seed to create more native tallgrass prairie at Neal Smith.

**4. Ding Darling Day - Saturday, October 8, 9am-12pm.**

In honor of Iowan J.N. "Ding" Darling, a pioneer conservationist, the refuge is hosting stewardship opportunities for you and your group. We need volunteers to help restore the prairie ecosystem by collecting seeds. A FREE lunch will be provided at noon by the Friends of Neal Smith NWR.

We would really love for scouts to help volunteer on these days! It is wonderful to have so much help from scouts and we appreciate it so much. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information about these events or activities. If you are interested in completing volunteer projects for your troop outside of these dates, please contact Cheryl Groom at [Cheryl\\_groom@fws.gov](mailto:Cheryl_groom@fws.gov).

Thanks for all your time and effort to get your scouts exploring outdoors!