



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Big Thicket National Preserve

6044 FM 420

Kountze, TX 77625

Dear Volunteer,

Thank you for participating in a volunteer service project at Big Thicket National Preserve! Enclosed you will find the forms and information for you or your group to participate in the planting project on Monday, January 21, 2019 starting at 9:30 am. We anticipate work continue until mid-afternoon, so please plan to stay after lunch.

We are excited to have you as volunteers on our Longleaf Pine Restoration project as a Volunteer-In-Park (VIP). Your support of Big Thicket National Preserve and the National Park Service (NPS) demonstrates an inspiring commitment to preserving the natural beauty of SETX. Your collective contributions meet the spirit of the NPS goal to “connect with and create the next generation of National Park Service visitors, supporters, and advocates.”

This project is a great example of a growing community and a committed to ensuring that everyone has a rewarding and educational experience in the preserve. In order to assure maximum safety and accountability, volunteers are required to complete some form(s) BEFORE you do any planting. **ALL** participants **MUST BE** accounted for on a Volunteer Agreement form before participating.

Completing the forms in advance and bringing them with you will make registration run more smoothly. **TURN ALL FORMS IN** to the registration table upon arrival. The volunteer agreement forms are included in this packet. Complete them using the following guidance:

1: ALL PARTICIPANTS (Individuals 18 yrs and older) - Complete a Volunteer Service Agreement (OF-301a).

- a) Complete blocks 1-12, 15-19, of the OF-301a.
- b) Sign & date in blocks 34 (page 2)
- b) The OF-301a is included as a separate attachment with this packet.

2: Parents MUST Sign Volunteer Service Agreement (OF 301a) for minors.

- a) ALL volunteers under the age of 18 **MUST HAVE** a completed Volunteer Service Agreement form signed by a parent or guardian.
- b) Complete blocks 1-12, 15-19, of the OF-301a.
- c) Complete blocks 26-32 of OF-301a.

3: If you are a FAMILY or ORGANIZED GROUP:

- a) Complete the Volunteer Service Agreement (OF 301a) for 1 person (“Mom” or “Dad”)
- b) LIST all other family/ organization members on OF 301b

4: Turn in ALL forms to Big Thicket National Preserve staff upon arrival at the Planting Site.

(Over)

Some things to keep in mind:

1. **What to Wear/Bring.** For all projects, we ask that the volunteers wear long pants, long sleeve shirts, and closed-toed shoes or boots. We also ask that groups come prepared for a day of work by bringing plenty of water, food, a hat and appropriate clothing.

2. **Parents/Chaperons.** Our Project Supervisor will be in charge of the project itself, but parents, group leaders and chaperons need to stay with and work alongside their children & group, and are responsible for discipline. Thanks!

4. **Equipment.** The park staff will provide leadership, tools and equipment for the projects as well as any safety equipment necessary. A short orientation and safety briefing is given prior to your group starting work.

5. **Cancellations.** Cancellations due to weather or other factors will be made 24-hours in advance whenever possible. Notification will be made via telephone, Facebook, website, and visitor center desk.

We're glad you have chosen to volunteer at Big Thicket National Preserve! Our resurging Volunteers-In-Parks program plays a vital role in the preservation and protection of this park, greatly enhancing what park staff can accomplish. You and your group will make a big difference!

Thank you in advance for your contribution. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Jason A. Ginder
Chief of Interpretation & Education
Big Thicket National Preserve
6102 FM 420 Rd.
Kountze, TX 77625
Phone: 409-951-6700

Attachments:

Volunteer Service Agreement (OF-301a)
Volunteer Group Sign-Up Form (OF-301b)

Welcome to the Longleaf Pine Restoration Project

We hope you are excited about your upcoming field trip to Big Thicket National Preserve. On this trip you will work side-by-side with park rangers and foresters to help restore a healthy longleaf pine forest. We will be planting pine seedlings in a special area of the preserve.

Please come dressed in clothing that can get dirty.

We will be outside all day!

What to wear!

- Boots or old sneakers
- Long pants/shirts (*no shorts or skirts*)
- A jacket
- A hat & gloves - if it's cold

What you need to participate!

- An "OF301a" form with blocks 1-12, 15-19, and signature. (Blocks #26 through #32 must be completed in addition to blocks 1-12, and 15-19 by participants under the age of 18 with a parent/guardian signature.)
- Give this completed and signed form to your ranger at the Registration tent on-site.



We Appreciate Your Support!

Website: www.nps.gov/bith

Facebook: @bigthicketnps

Instagram: #bigthicketnps

Parking & Driving Directions

MLK Jr. Day of Service Site (Turkey Creek Unit)

This year's planting event is very close to the Preserve Visitor Center (6102 FM 420 Rd., Kountze, Texas). Follow the large brown highway signed to the Big Thicket National Preserve Visitor Center and FM 420.

Step-by-Step Directions

From Beaumont & Other Points South

Travel NORTH on 287/69 (Go Approx. 7 miles North of Kountze, Tx)
Turn RIGHT onto FM 420 (Continue Approx. 0.1 miles)
The parking and planting location will be on the north side of the road, just past the entrance to the preserve visitor center. Look for Planting Site Signs.
Turn LEFT into forested parking area (Dirt surface)
A park ranger will assist you in parking

From Woodville & Other Points North

Travel SOUTH on 287/69 (Go Approx. 10 miles South of Warren, Tx)
Turn LEFT onto FM 420 (Continue Approx. 0.1 miles)
The parking and planting location will be on the north side of the road, just past the entrance to the preserve visitor center. Look for Planting Site Signs.
Turn LEFT into forested parking area (Dirt surface)
A park ranger will assist you in parking

Parking

There is limited parking available on-site. We highly encourage everyone to carpool.

Warning: Road surfaces close to the planting site are uneven in places and mostly dirt. They MAY be soft, muddy, or slippery in wet conditions. Plan for self-recovery. The National Park Service cannot provide equipment to help remove a stuck vehicle. Rangers will have contact information for the nearest tow company.

Buses & Small Cars: Look for a ranger to help guide you into special parking zones.