

Celebrate 19th Annual Endangered Species Day



Background

The 19th annual Endangered Species Day will take place on May 17th, 2024. Government agencies, conservation organizations, schools, zoos and aquariums, wildlife refuges, and other groups throughout the country are encouraged to organize events to celebrate this historic day.

First approved by the U.S. Senate in 2006, the purpose of Endangered Species Day is to celebrate, learn about, and advocate for the conservation of threatened and endangered species. It is also an opportunity for organizations to showcase the good work they do on a regular basis and provide people with another opportunity to visit.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, and NOAA are among the government agencies that have previously participated in Endangered Species Day, along with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums, the National Wildlife Federation, Center for Biological Diversity, the Jane Goodall Institute, and many more organizations.

Examples of Previous Endangered Species Day Events

- National Park Service: Public presentations, tours, school visits and other activities have been held at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Glacier National Park, Grand Canyon, Rocky Mountain National Park, Olympic National Park, and other parks.
- United States Botanic Garden Festival: The Endangered Species Day festival at the Botanic Garden in Washington, D.C. included exhibitors from USFS, USFWS, NOAA and other organizations, along with tours and children's activities.
- Florida Department of Natural Resources: In partnership with the South Carolina Aquarium and Charleston County Parks and Recreation commission, the state DNR participated in a Turtle Release on Endangered Species Day.

Participation Options

There are many meaningful and impactful ways for agencies to participate in this important day of conservation! We list some ideas for events below.

1. Plan an activity at a park visitor center, campground, educational facility, special habitat or other appropriate location. This could look like an exhibit, a clean-up or other restoration project, or self-guided tours. It could also involve handing out stickers,

pamphlets, or other informational materials about a local threatened or endangered species at the park or facility entrance.

2. Plan an educational activity. This can involve an in-person or virtual talk at an area school by a biologist, ecologist, ranger, or other representatives during the week prior to Endangered Species Day to discuss the importance of endangered species and habitat conservation, local conservation programs and related topics. It could also include an online conservation course for children or adults the week of Endangered Species Day, or an outdoor education activity to learn about local species and habitat.
3. Join with a local nonprofit or other organization that has scheduled its own Endangered Species Day event as a partner.

While many events are held on Endangered Species Day itself, others are scheduled for the following weekend and throughout the month of May.

Resources

The Endangered Species Day website, www.endangeredspeciesday.org, has a variety of resources, including planning and promotional materials. We can also tailor existing materials for your specific use, as well as provide additional support.

There is also an event map at www.endangeredspeciesday.org that allows you to register your event so the public can find it. This increases visibility and attendance.

Please contact Tara Thornton, Endangered Species Day Director, at tthornton@endangered.org with any questions.