

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY 2008

The 16th annual *National Trails Day* (NTD) will be celebrated on Saturday June 7, 2008. It's a day of exciting events celebrating trails and volunteers who maintain them. Trail organizations around the country will host events ranging from dedications of newly developed trails, to workshops and educational exhibits, equestrian and mountain bike rides, roller blading, family rides on rail trails, and hikes on back country trails in America's wildlands, from mountain ridges to shorelines.

The unifying idea behind *National Trails Day* is "Trails for all Americans" - a concept to establish a nationwide network of trails and Greenways that will bring trails to within 15 minutes of most homes or workplace of every American. *National Trails Day* events call attention to the diverse benefits to trails. *It's an opportunity to forge new partnerships among trail users, public land managers, businesses and their communities. It's also a way to encourage cooperative efforts among different trail users - hikers, bicyclists, equestrians - who can work together to make trails a public priority.*



The Connecticut Horse Council encourages all horse organizations to participate in *National Trails Day* by hosting an event that can be publicized in your local area to create public awareness of the equestrian community and our need for access to trails on public and private lands. The celebration of *National Trails Day* can be any event of your choosing; a trail ride, trail clearing work day, educational event, or demonstration on trail riding. **It's a great day to let the non-horse public know about your organization, and how it works to preserve and maintain trails in your community.** Hosting a multiple use trail event, can encourage others to participate and join in. Providing carriage or horse rides to the handicapped, can show the public how horses can bring the physically challenged to places where they normally would not be able to go.

However you decide to celebrate the day, know that partnerships are the key for *National Trails Day* and beyond.. **The idea is to build partnerships among trail users so that we can raise public awareness of trails; thereby broaden constituency for trails.**

Any person or organization that would like to participate in National Trails Day can call Diane Ciano, the Connecticut Horse Council Trails Chairperson at (203) 757-1904 or write to the American Hiking Society, P.O. Box 20160, Washington, D.C. 20041-2160. Connecticut's State Coordinator is the Connecticut Forest & Park Association (CFPA), 16 Meriden Road Route 66, Rockfall, CT 06481 (860) 346-2372.