



NEWS RELEASE

USDA • FOREST SERVICE • Mark Twain National Forest
401 Fairgrounds Rd. Rolla, Missouri 65401 (573) 364-4621 <http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain>.

Release: MT- 301	Contact: Nancy Feakes	Voice: (573) 341-472
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FREE CAMPING DAY SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18 ON MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST

Rolla, MO. -- Saturday, September 18, 2004, Mark Twain National Forest is offering one day without parking fees and one free night of camping at twelve campgrounds.

The free night of camping is for unreserved campsites in these twelve campgrounds: Greer Crossing (on the Eleven Point River in Oregon County), Cobb Ridge (in the Chadwick Motorcycle and ATV Area in Christian County), Big Bay (on Table Rock Lake in Stone County), Marble Creek (Madison County), Paddy Creek (adjacent to the Paddy Creek Wilderness in Texas County), Pinewoods Lake (Carter County), Berryman (Washington County), Lane Spring (Phelps County), Loggers Lake (Shannon County), Sutton Bluff (Reynolds County), Watercress (on the Current River in Carter County), and North Fork (Ozark County).

The day use parking is also free at the above sites on Saturday, September 18.

The free night of camping is being offered as a National Public Lands Day celebration. National Public Lands Day is the biggest one-day volunteer event for public lands. Offering free camping is a way to encourage people to enjoy the outdoors and to connect to the land, which improves the health and quality of both personal and community life.

"Volunteers are vital to the national forests" said Mark Twain National Forest Supervisor Ronnie Raum. "Each year, dozens of volunteers donate hundreds of hours of their time to help operate campgrounds, build and maintain trails, and provide other recreation opportunities on the Mark Twain National Forest. Though they often get free camping while completing their volunteer project, a fee free day is another way we can show our appreciation. We hope that many volunteers will take advantage of this time to bring friends and relatives to enjoy the fruits of their labors."

Our public lands need your help. There are trails and bridges to be built and maintained, facilities to be restored, trees to plant, recreation sites to clean up, and wildlife areas to improve. America's public lands are one-of-a-kind natural treasures. If you would like more information about volunteering on the Mark Twain National Forest, go to www.fs.fed.us/r9/marktwain or contact your local Mark Twain National Forest office.

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USDA Forest Service's Mark Twain National Forest is the state's largest public land management agency. The 1.5 million acre forest is managed to continue restoring Missouri's ecosystems and to maintain a healthy forest.

District Rangers are: **Ava**—Jenny Farenbaugh (417) 683-4428, **Doniphan**—Jerry Bird, (573) 996-2153, **Poplar Bluff**—Henry Hickerson, (573) 785-1475, **Potosi**—Katie Stuart, (573) 438-5427, **Houston**—John Bisbee, (417) 967-4194, **Salem**—Thomas Haines, (573) 729-6656