



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hudson Highlands Girl Scouts to Host Invasive Species Removal Event at Nelsonville Preserve to Celebrate Earth Day

*Local Troops Partnering with Village and
Conservation Organizations for April 27th Event*

The Hudson Highlands Girl Scouts will host an invasive species removal day at the **Nelsonville Preserve** on **Saturday, April 27th, from 10am to 2pm** as their annual Earth Day community service event. The Girl Scouts are partnering with the **Village of Nelsonville**, the **Nelsonville Trails Committee**, the **Hudson Highlands Land Trust** (HHLT), the **New York-New Jersey Trail Conference's "Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management"** (PRISM) and the **Open Space Institute** (OSI).

The public is encouraged to participate, and learn the importance of good land stewardship and invasive species management at this Village treasure.

Nelsonville Mayor **Chris Caccamise** and Trustee **Michael Bowman** expressed their support, saying "This is a great opportunity to bring the community together in the Nelsonville Woods, on a project that is both educational and important to the long term health of the forest. Plus it's fun to meet our neighbors!"

The Nelsonville Preserve was donated to the Village in 2000 by OSI, which retained a conservation easement on the property. It sits on 112 acres in the center of Nelsonville and is adjacent to Hudson Highlands State Park. The Preserve, viewed by many residents as a "community backyard," has a long history of public recreational use and serves as an outdoor classroom for the Haldane School. OSI has been working with the Village Board of Trustees on developing an updated management plan for the Preserve, including a focus on invasive species management.

Community volunteers are invited to join the Girl Scouts for any or all of the following activities taking place from 10am to 2pm:

- 10am – 12pm: Event kick-off and volunteer training. Attendees will learn about native and non-native plants, which ones are harmful to the environment, and how to manage them. This will be followed by hands-on invasive species removal. Volunteers will also learn how to use mobile apps that can plug into state-wide citizen science projects.
- 12 – 12:30pm: Lunch, with pizza generously supplied by Cold Spring Pizza, or bring your own lunch. Additional snacks and drinks will be provided.
- 12:30 – 2pm: Afternoon session for continuing and new volunteers on invasive species removal.

Michael Young, PRISM's Terrestrial Invasive Species Project Manager, will guide the invasive species removal efforts, alongside HHLT's and OSI's land conservation teams.

A check-in station at the Nelsonville trailhead on North Pearl Street will be set up throughout the event, and volunteers are welcome to join at any time. Participants are encouraged to walk to the event, but if you need to drive, please consider carpooling. Parking is available on Secor and North Pearl Streets. Please do not park in the Masons Lot.

The event is open to adults and children of all ages. Supplies including gloves, shovels and trash bags will be provided. Anyone interested in attending should download the free iNaturalist mobile app ahead of the event to learn more about the native species at the Preserve and later upload their findings to contribute to citizen science.

ABOUT Nelsonville Trails Committee: The Nelsonville Trails committee was formed by the Village of Nelsonville after the donation of the Preserve to the Village, as a group of volunteers dedicated to stewardship and trail maintenance in the Preserve.

ABOUT LH-PRISM: The mission of the Lower Hudson Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management is to protect the rich biodiversity and ecosystems of the Lower Hudson region through partnerships and collaborations that focus on controlling the introduction, spread, and harmful impact of invasive species. Funded by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Invasive Species Coordination Unit through the Environmental Protection Fund, the Lower Hudson PRISM has been hosted by the New York - New Jersey Trail Conference since 2013. www.lhprism.org

ABOUT HHLT: The Hudson Highlands Land Trust is a non-profit conservation organization with a mission to protect and preserve the natural resources, rural character and scenic beauty of the Hudson Highlands. www.hhlt.org

ABOUT OSI: The Open Space Institute protects scenic, natural and historic landscapes to provide public enjoyment, conserve habitat and working lands, and sustain communities. Founded in 1974 to protect significant landscapes in New York State, OSI has been a partner in the protection of nearly 2.2 million acres in North America. A leader in environmental conservation, OSI leverages our knowledge and attracts resources for strategic investments to make innovative land conservation happen.

www.openspaceinstitute.org

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