

Midewin Volunteer Days and Events September-November 2013

FREE Public Tours and Presentations- Click for details	Volunteer Days for Restoration Volunteer Days for Educators	Volunteer Training Workshops	<b style="color: blue;">Special Events	 Children are always welcome, but these activities are more appropriate
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Date	Time	Meeting Location	Activity
29 August Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
30 August Friday	9:00am – 1:00pm	River Road Seedbeds	Mighty Acorns Youth Program Training for Fall. New volunteers welcome!! Volunteer environmental educators lead activities for local elementary school students such as catching, identifying and releasing insects; a seed dispersal relay; and harvesting seed that they will plant in their winter session. Schedule is TBA
5 September Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
12 September Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
19 September Thursday	9:00am – 2:30 pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
21 September Saturday	10-10:45am (Part 1) 11-Noon (Part 2)	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Midewin Behind the Scenes PART 1: Join us for a short walk around the Welcome Center at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Be introduced to the plants of Midewin; learn how we produce seed to restore the prairie and discover the different habitats for wildlife that Midewin offers. Find out about the recreational opportunities available. PART 2 is an option to caravan to other areas on site to learn more about how we manage seed production and restoration.
21 September Saturday	10:00am – Noon	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Midewin by Auto: Learn about Midewin's past, present, and future from the comfort of your vehicle. Visit restored wetlands and prairie; observe grassland birds which have returned to these areas, while learning about our restoration efforts. Enter one of the remaining bunkers for a glimpse into the past.
21 September Saturday	1:00pm – 3:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	150th Anniversary: BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA & THE 100TH ILLINOIS REGIMENT The 100th Illinois Regiment was made up almost entirely of men from Will County, including a number from the farms that today are part of Midewin. Learn what part they played in the September 19 and 20, 1863 Battle of Chickamauga, Georgia. This battle was the costliest in the Western Theater of the American Civil War, with more casualties than Antietam, almost one year to the day earlier.
26 September Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Trail Maintenance: Midewin's trail stewards need some helping hands along our community trails. Join the stewards on the last Thursday of every month.
28 September Saturday	Starting at 5:00pm	Iron Bridge Trailhead	<b style="color: blue;">NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY: Join together with 150 other people to help harvest seed, enhance public trails, protect historical sites from invasives or make sure the water is healthy. Pick a project and do not hesitate to RSVP, projects are known to fill up fast!! Volunteer activities followed by a complimentary lunch and raffle prizes.
3 October Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
5 October Saturday	10:00am – Noon	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Geology of Midewin: A one-mile thick glacial ice sheet moved over northern Illinois 15,000 years ago leaving its mark on Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie. Prehistoric environments also existed long before the glacial period and included tropical swamplands and subtropical oceans. Join us for a guided trip to view the rocks, hills and plains in the Midewin area that bear evidence for these vastly different environments.
10 October Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
12 October Saturday	10:30am – 12:30pm	South Arsenal & Chicago Road	Midewin by Horseback: Join equestrian volunteers for an interpretive ride through portions of Midewin not yet open to the public. Learn about the history and how the land is being managed today. PLEASE NOTE: horse and rider will have to cross bridges, and share the trail system with cattle. Participants must bring their own horses.

12 October Saturday	12:00pm – 3:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Ghosts of the Ammunitions Plant Tour: In 1940, the U.S. Government acquired over 36,000 acres of land to build and ammunition plant. Why here? How was it built and how did it operate? Learn about the deadly explosion during World War II which shook Joliet and surrounding areas. Tour the inside of one of the few remaining warehouses and an ammunition storage bunker.
17 October Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
19 October Saturday 	Starting at 5:00pm	Iron Bridge Trailhead	TRICK-OR-TREAT, BUNKER STYLE Join us for our 4th Annual Halloween event. Discover Midewin's past, present and future as we meet and greet old and new friends while being guided by lanterns along trails and in bunkers. Drinks and treats will be provided around a campfire. Whether you are in costume or not, you won't want to miss one of our most popular events, so please register early. Must call for extra details.
24 October Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
26 October Saturday	5:00pm – 7:00pm	Midewin SO (Welcome Center)	Cemetery at Twilight: Our annual cemetery tour at twilight is also very popular. Watch the shadows play across the headstones while we learn about the occupants of various graves—how did they live, did they die a tragic death? Maybe we'll hear the coyotes howling as the sun begins to set. Perfect as our last tour of the year and for the Halloween season!
31 October Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Trail Maintenance: Midewin's trail stewards need some helping hands along our community trails. Join the stewards on the last Thursday of every month.
7 November Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
14 November Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
21 November Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	**General Restoration Volunteer Day. Rain or Shine.
28 November Thursday	9:00am – 2:30pm	Midewin SO (Horticulture Bldg)	Trail Maintenance: Midewin's trail stewards need some helping hands along our community trails. Join the stewards on the last Thursday of every month.

To R\$VP for Volunteer Days and Trainings: Please contact Allison Cisneros, Volunteer Coordinator, by phone at 815-423-2149, email amcisneros@fs.fed.us or use your [Volgistics account](#).

To R\$VP for Tours: Advance registration is required to **guarantee** your spot by calling our main number 815/423-6370 or email Midewin_RSVP@fs.fed.us.

**** General Restoration Volunteer Days-** The activities for these days will be based on need and weather conditions. Activities may include seed cleaning, brush cutting, herbicide treatment, invasive plant pulling, seed broadcasting, and greenhouse planting. Please be prepared for outdoor or indoor work, as we may do more than one activity on a Volunteer Day.

For Volunteer Days: Midewin will provide tools, safety gear, and water. Please bring your own lunch. Dress in layers with sturdy field boots. Volunteer Days and Events do fill up. Knowing how many volunteers or visitors will attend, allows our staff to better organize the event and we can inform you of Changes or Cancellations.

