



Release Date: Friday, April 14, 2017

Contact:

MaryEllen Snyder, National Park Service: 724-329-8131

Brooke Neel, Friends of Flight 93: 814.893.6552

Volunteers Still Needed For ‘Plant a Tree at Flight 93’

Shanksville, PA: Volunteers are still needed for “Plant a Tree at Flight 93,” a unique annual initiative designed to create a living memorial landscape at Flight 93 National Memorial. This year’s “Plant a Tree” event will take place on Friday, May 19 and Saturday, May 20. Volunteers from the general public and local businesses will be on hand to plant more than 11,000 seedlings across 17 acres of the memorial grounds.

“This is one of our most important annual events at the Memorial, and it’s a tremendous opportunity for volunteers to make a lasting contribution to future generations of visitors,” said Henry Scully, Executive Director of the Friends of Flight 93. “It’s also a way for all of us to come together and honor the sacrifice of the 40 Heroes of Flight 93.”

Now in its sixth year, “Plant a Tree,” is a massive reforestation effort that will eventually result in 150,000 new trees at the site as part of the Memorial’s design. The program is a joint effort of the National Park Service (NPS), the National Park Foundation and Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial.

Local businesses and organizations are already committed to providing more than 150 volunteers on Friday and Saturday, but volunteers from the general public are still needed to assist with planting duties, Scully said. Approximately 50 additional volunteers are needed each day, with tree-planting taking place from 9 a.m. into the early afternoon. Those interested must pre-register online at <http://flight93friends.org/plant-a-tree-registration/> (first-come, first-serve) and be at least 14 years of age. This is a rain-or-shine event.

To date, volunteers have assisted with planting 101,358 tree seedlings over 145 acres at Flight 93 National Memorial. These trees will help to re-establish woodland wildlife habitats on the former surface coal mine land, and create an essential windbreak to the Memorial Groves that are part of the memorial landscape. Teams will work under the guidance of tree-planting experts again this year to take us one step closer to reaching the goal of 150,000 planted trees.

Many sponsors come together to make this initiative possible, including FedEx Ground, MetLife, S&T Bank, REI, Roy A. Hunt Foundation, and Simpson & McCrady. The UPS Foundation returns as a partner for the sixth year. The UPS Foundation has contributed over \$1.2 million to Flight 93 National Memorial over the past six years. Rosebud Mining Company also returns to provide in-kind services to break up heavily compacted soil and promote tree growth. Sponsorship opportunities are still available and should be directed to Scully at henry_scully@partner.nps.gov.

The memorial will still be open to the public during regular visiting hours during the event, with park grounds open sunrise to sunset, and the Visitor Center open starting at 9am. Additionally, the NPS will host a Children's Discovery Table in the Learning Center on both days for families to learn more about reforestation and the role trees play around the memorial.

ABOUT FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Flight 93 National Memorial is a National Park Service site that commemorates the passengers and crew members of Flight 93 who, on September 11, 2001, courageously gave their lives thereby thwarting a planned attack on our nation's capital. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 417 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. For more information on Flight 93 National Memorial visit www.nps.gov/flni.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK

The National Park Foundation is the official charity of America's national parks and nonprofit partner to the National Park Service. The National Park Foundation raises private funds to help PROTECT more than 84 million acres of national parks through critical conservation and preservation efforts, CONNECT all Americans with their incomparable natural landscapes, vibrant culture and rich history, and INSPIRE the next generation of park stewards. Find out more and become a part of the national park community at www.nationalparks.org.

ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL

Established in 2009, the Friends of Flight 93 National Memorial is the official nonprofit partner of Flight 93 National Memorial. The Friends' aim is to inform, honor and pay tribute to the heroes of Flight 93 by supporting the Memorial with volunteers and resources. The Friends' mission is to focus on awareness, education, volunteer support, preservation and stewardship. To learn more about the Friends, make a donation to support the memorial, or become a member visit www.Flight93Friends.org.