

Forest Discovery Day fun!

On Sunday 11 September, Forestry Commission sites across England will be opening their doors in celebration of the UN's International Year of Forests.

The Forest Discovery Day will be taking place at 28 of our sites, where you can enjoy a whole host of different events guaranteed for a great family day out.

Visitors can experience guided walks, nordic walking taster sessions, chainsaw carving demonstrations and mural painting. For the children there is den building & bushcraft, Chinese dragon performers, story telling and woodland crafts to name a few!

Have you ever wanted to take part in a Guinness Book of Records World Record Attempt? Then come and join us at Delamere Forest, Cheshire, where we will try to beat the existing world record for the largest tree hug. To get involved you will need to register for this event and can do so on the Forestry Commission website.

Go Ape! Tree Top Adventure is located in 15 of the Forestry Commission sites (plus many other locations across the UK!) and is offering visitors to the Forest Discovery Day a fantastic 50 per cent off at Go Ape, simply book online at www.goape.co.uk using promotional code FCGA99.

Pam Warhurst, Forestry Commission Chair, said;

"As an organisation built on the passion and experience of people who really care about what they do, we wanted to mark the International Year of Forests with a series of open days. We have a number of fantastic woodlands for people to visit and we'd like everyone to get involved and help us celebrate at their nearest site.

"The world record attempt for the largest tree hug is a fun way for people to get involved with the Forestry Commission and share their love for trees and the environment."

Tristram Mayhew, chief Gorilla at Go Ape! Tree Top Adventure, comments;

"We're happy to be part of such a worthwhile celebration of our beautiful British Forests, in association with the International Year of Forests. The acres of woodland that surrounds us are there to be enjoyed and this is precisely why Go Ape! Tree Top Adventure was created!"

The Forestry Commission is also giving visitors the opportunity to take part in a national draw to win one of 1,000 free parking vouchers for the day online at www.forestry.gov.uk/moreinfo.

To show just how much you love forests, we will also be asking visitors to hug their favourite tree and post pictures to our facebook page. Search Facebook for 'Forestry Commission Woods and Forests' and post your pictures from the day.

Notes to editors

1. Find out about the International Year of Forests and the Forestry Commission's national Forest Discovery Day events at www.forestry.gov.uk/englandiyf
2. People will need to register to take part in the world record attempt before the day. Please go to the Forestry Commission website - <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/INFD-8KMDF9>
3. The Forestry Commission facebook page can be found at www.facebook.com/forestry.commission.England
4. Forestry Commission sites taking part in the Forest Discovery Day are: Alice Holt, Bedgebury Pinetum, Bellever, Cannock Chase, Cardinham Woods, Chopwell Wood, Dalby Forest, Delamere, Fineshade Woods, Forest of Dean, Grizedale, Guisborough Forest, Haldon Forest Park, Hamsterley, High Lodge Thetford Forest, Jeskyns, Kielder, Moors Valley Country Park, New Forest, Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Rendlesham Forest, Salcey Forest, Sherwood Pines, Thetford, Wendover Woods, Westonbirt Arboretum, Whinlatter, Wooler Northumberland, Wyre Forest
5. The Forestry Commission is the government department responsible in England for protecting, expanding and promoting the sustainable management of woods and forests and increasing their value to society and the environment. Forestry makes a real contribution to sustainable development, providing social and environmental benefits arising from planting and managing attractive, as well as productive, woodlands. For more visit www.forestry.gov.uk
6. The Go Ape 50 per cent off offer is valid on 11 September 2011 only at one of the 14 Forestry Commission sites when booking online in advance and using the code FCGA99. Forestry Commission and Go Ape! Tree Top Adventure sites include; Alice Holt (near Farnham) Bedgebury (near Tunbridge Wells) Cannock (near Rugeley) Dalby (near Pickering), Delamere (near Chester), Forest of Dean (near Gloucester), Grizedale (near Hawkshead), Haldon (near Exeter), Moors Valley Country Park (near Bournemouth), Queen Elizabeth Country Park (near Aberfoyle), Sherwood (near Nottingham), Thetford (near Brandon) Wendover (near Aylesbury), Whinlatter (near Keswick), Wyre Forest (near Kidderminster)

7. If you would like to arrange your complementary Go Ape press review, please contact Berkeley PR at Goape@Berkeleypr.co.uk

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