



FRIENDS of NEVADA WILDERNESS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

University Students Spend Spring Break in Service to Southern Nevada Public Lands

Contact Jose Witt at (702) 515-5417 or jose@nevadawilderness.org.

Photo, Video, Interview Opportunity

Las Vegas, NV— Friends of Nevada Wilderness is partnering with the National Park Service to provide students a unique Spring Break experience at the 6th annual Alternative Spring Break. This multi-day project will provide students a hands-on opportunity to learn land management techniques and the field of natural resources in a fun and rewarding atmosphere.

Beginning Sunday March 20th, students from the University of Nevada Las Vegas and Nevada State College, as well as the Diverse Outdoor Leadership Institute, will spend four days and nights camping and participating in outdoor service in Spirit Mountain and Bridge Canyon Wilderness areas along Lake Mojave within the Lake Mead National Recreation Area. No previous experience is required. In fact, many students who participated in past Alternative Spring Breaks had never camped before but, through the program, had gained field experience to inform professional and recreational interests. “I’ve attended Alternative Spring Break the last two years,” says Natashcha Kotte of UNLV, “I wouldn’t consider doing anything else for Spring Break, it’s a blast!”

2016 is the 100 year anniversary of the National Park Service and Alternative Spring Break will offer the opportunity to the youth of Southern Nevada to celebrate their public land heritage, improve critical desert habitat, and protect sensitive cultural and wilderness resources found only in this corner of America’s public lands. Students will work alongside National Park Service employees to learn more about Lake Mead National Recreation Area and effective management techniques.

When: March 20th – 24th, 2016

Where: Lake Mead National Recreation Area - specifically Spirit Mountain and Bridge Canyon Wilderness Areas

This trip is free; all meals, gear, and transportation to project sites are provided due to a generous grant from Barrick Gold Corporation. “Barrick is very proud to partner with Friends of Nevada Wilderness and the National Park Service to provide local university and college students with a hands-on conservation experience and an introduction to the magnificent public lands resources that exist in Southern Nevada,” says Tim Buchanan, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility, “Creating greater awareness in our future leaders of Southern Nevada about the importance, beauty and fragility of these lands is fundamental to ensuring their conservation for future generations of Nevadans to enjoy.”

Founded in 1984, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has helped protect over 3 million acres of Nevada's wild lands by leading efforts in the expansion or designation of all 70 wilderness areas in the state, including the designation of Mt. Charleston Wilderness. Over the past thirty-one years, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has also grown a nationally recognized and award-winning Wilderness Stewardship Volunteer Program, generating over \$1 million of in-kind services to benefit Nevada's public lands.

For more information about Friends of Nevada Wilderness and Alternative Spring Break, please visit http://www.nevadawilderness.org/calendar_of_events

“If there was a way for me to do this again in the future, I'd do it all over again. My muscles are aching, but I'm happy!”

- ALTERNATIVE SPRING
BREAK PARTICIPANT



Participant of the 4th Annual Alternative Spring Break working in the Desert National Wildlife Refuge.

Photo credit Minas Mkhitarian

###

View 2015 Alternative Spring Break photos on our Flickr page:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/113807194@N05/albums/72157651843160355>