February 24, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friends of Nevada Wilderness Offers a “Wild” Alternative Spring Break for College Students

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Reno, NV. – Need a break from school, the city, and the daily grind? Have we got a spring break alternative for you!

Friends of Nevada Wilderness is inviting students to spend five days in the beautiful Nevada desert exploring, restoring, and learning about desert habitat, the abundance of life that depends on it, and the richness of its cultural resources. The event is free and open to any student enrolled in a Nevada college or university.

With generous grants from the Lincoln Dynamic Foundation and the Southern Nevada Conservancy, Friends is hosting its 9th annual Alternative Spring Break (ASB) that gives Nevada college students an opportunity to get off campus, out of town, and into the wild.

From March 15th through March 20th, students will camp out on the shore of upper Pahranagat Lake. Days will be spent exploring the Pahranagat and Desert National Wildlife Refuges and working with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on projects to restore critical wildlife habitat. Students will also learn about the cultural, recreational and conservation values of these special places. Evenings will be spent enjoying gourmet campfire food, making new friends, and gazing at a sky full of stars, far away from any city lights. Students will also have the opportunity to learn how to ride a horse or burro in the backcountry.

Las Vegas resident Peter Sbraccia says his ASB experience literally changed the course of his life. “I was back in school, not really knowing what I wanted to do with myself. I stopped by the Friends table at UNLV’s Involvement Fair and signed up for a volunteer event, something called Alternative Spring Break. I wasn’t sure what I was getting into, a week with people I had never met, in a place I had never heard of. I learned so much about habitat restoration, trail building, recreation planning, and many other aspects of conservation. I went on three more ASB trips, joined AmeriCorps to learn more trail crew skills, and today I’m proud to say that I am Friends of Nevada Wilderness' Southern Nevada Stewardship Coordinator.”

“The Alternative Spring Break trip was completely out of my comfort zone…and it was amazing,” added UNLV student Deanna Chea. “Everyone bonded over the week, and we felt like family by the end. Great meals, warm campfires, and unforgettable memories.”

Students need no previous outdoor experience. They need to bring only a sense of adventure and some sturdy clothes, a tent and sleeping bag if possible, and other personal items. Friends and the ASB sponsors will provide all necessary training, other camping gear, tools, and food. Transportation will be provided to and from the UNLV campus.
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To get more information and sign up for ASB, visit nevadawilderness.org.

The Desert National Wildlife Refuge is the largest refuge in the continental U.S. and is home to some of the most intact and valuable wildlife habitat in the country. The landscape in and around the Sheep Range is considered prime habitat for the desert tortoise and the Desert Bighorn Sheep, Nevada’s official state mammal.

Click here for more information about the refuge and how it is being threatened by a proposal military expansion. See our photo gallery here:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/113807194@N05/sets/72157672690390452

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About Friends of Nevada Wilderness
Founded in 1984, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has helped protect over 3.4 million acres of Nevada’s wild lands by leading efforts in the expansion or designation of all 70 Wilderness areas in the state. Over the past twenty years, the Wilderness Stewardship Volunteer Program has generated over $2 million of in-kind services to benefit Nevada’s public lands. For more information, visit http://www.nevadawilderness.org/.

The Desert National Wildlife Refuge – photo by Kurt Kuznicki