



helping to preserve *Red Rock Country*

Welcome to Sedona Friends of the Forest, an organization dedicated to preserving one of America's most beautiful natural treasures. We work in close partnership with the Red Rock Ranger District of the Coconino National Forest.

Our primary goal is to help the Forest Service implement tasks curtailed by a lack of funding or manpower.

We support the Forest Service with expertise and thousands of volunteer hours per year across a range of activities.

Typically, Friends members contribute more than 30,000 hours of service each year.

We also provide financial assistance through donations, but this isn't a key mission and we steer clear of fundraising or political activity.

The monetary support we give the District is used for trail maintenance, access gates,

interpretive signs and other education materials.

STEWARDSHIP, LEARNING, FUN

As a nonpolitical, nonprofit service group, membership is open to all who desire to protect the National Forest lands that surround Sedona.



At top, Andy Beeler describes how ancient people created a solar calendar through light and shadow on petroglyphs at V-Bar-V Heritage Site. **Above**, Bob Beltz leads a hike through the high desert terrain of Woods Canyon during wildflower season.

We cordially invite you to discover how Friends of the Forest can enrich your life through service in a red rock wonderland often called the most beautiful place on Earth.

Get to know the District trail system, Verde Valley waterways and area points of interest.

Learn about archaeology, botany, geology, wildlife and more. Your mentors may be either fellow Friends members or Forest Service personnel.

Since its founding in 1994, Sedona Friends of the Forest has kept true to these original goals:

- **Help the Forest Service maintain trails and cultural resources.**
- **Reduce environmental damage caused by human impact.**
- **Assist in educating and improving environmental communications with the community.**
- **Enhance the forest experience for visitors and residents.**

A WEALTH OF OPPORTUNITIES

As you'll see on the next few pages, there's no shortage of activities and projects that can use your help. Plus, we have scores of administrative needs that can tap into your valuable life skills. Take part in projects like publicity, documentary photography, writing, finances or web services.



Trail Maintenance and Construction crews tackle tough physical chores to keep trails safe and to preserve the natural environment. Here, a field team grapples with massive boulders to improve a trail by creating a series of rock steps.



Above left, a Graffiti Removal team scours a sandstone alcove at Devil's Bridge that was marred by thoughtless visitors. **At right**, skilled sawyers labor with two-man saws, sledge hammers and wedges to clear a diseased Ponderosa pine that was felled on a trail by the forces of Nature.

Air Quality Monitoring

Journey with one or two other team members on a rough, unpaved road to a remote monitoring station in the Fossil Creek Wilderness Area. The station operates continuously with multiple filters collecting air samples every three days. The Air Quality team makes the drive once every week to record readings and bundle the exposed filters for shipment to a California lab.



Top, Kevin Harding leads a morning hike for birding enthusiasts at Bubbling Ponds near Page Springs Fish Hatchery. **Above**, Air Quality Monitoring team members Peg Kern (left) and Jennifer Young take readings during a filter change at Ike's Backbone Monitoring Station near Fossil Creek.

Cultural Resources

Become a docent at Palatki or V-Bar-V historical sites and tell the story of how ancient cultures thrived here for thousands of years. You'll also play a key role in helping to preserve these sites. Here's your opportunity to immerse yourself in the prehistory and early pioneer history of the Verde Valley.

Graffiti Removal

The work entails painstaking hand labor to remove scratched, painted and other graffiti throughout the forest. Field groups can be large or small, as required by the Forest Service.

Over the years, we have developed innovative new techniques for removing graffiti. Keep in mind that for long-term conservation, it's important to eradicate graffiti as soon as it's discovered to help limit future spread.

Interpretive Projects

Share your special skills or areas of interest to support the District's public education programs. Deliver talks about geology, archaeology, history, wildlife, photography, native plants, wildflowers or birds.

You may also present exhibits, conduct demonstrations, or help with special nature activities for children and adults.

Trail Maintenance and Construction

Trail maintenance is a physically demanding activity, but one that offers you a chance to work outdoors and really get up close and personal with Red Rock Country.

Trails preservation is a sizable task. Nearly 300 miles of hiking, biking and equestrian trails zigzag through Sedona's expanse of famed rock sculptures.

Trail Patrol

Sedona is a hiking mecca. Head outdoors to provide boots on the ground monitoring of the vast trail system in the Red Rock District. As a trail “Good Will Ambassador,” you’ll explore the Sedona countryside and answer questions from hikers and mountain bikers to make their forest experience more enjoyable. We’ll give you plenty of guidance on how to best engage and educate trail users in regard to “Leave No Trace” concepts.

Visitor Information Services

Thousands of visitors pour through the Ranger Station Visitor Center each year. Our “frontliners” greet visitors, offer a warm welcome, answer questions, provide maps and discuss the abundant recreational options in the area. Volunteers work side-by-side with Forest Service staff.

SEASONAL ACTIVITIES

River Ranger Support

The task here is to drive Forest Service personnel and supplies to and from the Verde River put-in and take-out sites at Childs and Horseshoe Lake. River season begins in October and runs through April.

Water Sampling

This activity runs from the end of May to the beginning of September. Sampling entails recording air and water temperatures and collecting a small water sample for analysis.

Periodic jobs include **Skilled Construction** to help minimize a constant maintenance backlog; **Peregrine Falcon or Bat Monitoring**; public events as part of the **Smokey Bear Team** or a number of other rewarding projects.

PLEASE JOIN US

Friends members are on the front lines in a campaign to preserve the picture-perfect beauty of Red Rock Country. You can help whether you live in Sedona full-time or part-time, but you must be a member to participate.

Our website, friendsoftheforestsedona.org makes it easy. Select *Join Us*, scroll down and select *Join Online* (close log in window that appears). Fill out the Application Form. Select *Membership Level* *Payment Level* and *Volunteer Interest Areas*. Click on SUBMIT to proceed to Payment page.



Al Cornell scoops water from the clear, cold waters of Oak Creek, one of the few year-round water sources in Northern Arizona.

We hope you’ll make a commitment to help safeguard the future of Sedona’s fragile landscape. You can truly make a difference. THANK YOU!

View our video at friendsoftheforestsedona.org
for more information.