

FRIENDS of THE FOREST PATROL VOLUNTEERS PROGRAM OUTLINE

GENERAL MISSION:

The Patrol Committee will assist the Red Rock Ranger District with a variety of activities in support of their System Trails and the Wilderness Program. These activities include recreation management, ecology preservation, trail assessment and maintenance and data collection. Patrol members also serve as hosts for the trail system, and attempt to make the outdoor experience a pleasant and informative one for the visitors using this resource.

ACTIVITIES:

The primary activity of the Trail Patrol members is to hike Forest Service Trails, while wearing Forest Service Volunteer identification and conducting the following activities. Some members “adopt a trail”, hiking the same trail on a regular basis. Most Trail Patrol members hike a variety of trails. The choice of trail to hike, day and time is totally up to the Trail Patrol member.

Make contact with trail users and act as a goodwill ambassador for the Forest Service, answering questions relating to the trail and the Sedona area, providing safety advice when appropriate, and encouraging ethical use of forest resources.

Collect trail use information for the Forest Service. This includes counting the number of vehicles in the parking lot; counting the number of day hikers, backpackers, mountain bikers, and horseback riders; noting the general condition of the trail; and recording this information on the Trip Summary Report, which is submitted to the Trail Patrol Committee Chair at the end of the month.

Monitor the trail condition, noting the need for trail maintenance, signage or graffiti removal. If work is needed, call the Trail Patrol Committee Chair when you get back from a hike so she can alert the appropriate volunteers and/or staff. If possible, provide UTM GPS coordinates.

Remove and pack out any trash or articles left behind by visitors using the forest.

Be prepared to assist if emergency situations arise, including administering First Aid (if you have training), contacting the proper authorities to deal with a situation, or seeking assistance from the authorized Forest Service personnel. (Please refer to Patrol Safety)

At no time will the Friends of the Forest be active in any type of Law Enforcement procedures, or the enforcement of any Forest Service or Civil regulations. The only duty of the Patrol member is to report the incident, and let the proper authorities handle the response.

If you wish to learn to do Trail Maintenance, there are two committees which do that. One is on Friday mornings for a period of four to six hours chaired by Mike Haboush. The other is the Trail Patrol Hotshots, chaired by Gene Rector and Kevin Harding. Ask your committee chair for more information.

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