



an introduction to Sedona Friends of the Forest

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

Our primary goal is to help the Forest Service carry out tasks it may not have manpower or funds to carry out.

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

Sedona Friends of the Forest contributes more than 28,000 hours volunteer service each year.

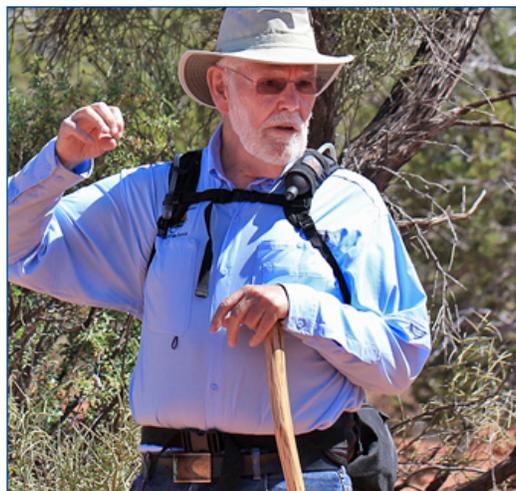
We also provide financial assistance through donations, but this isn't a primary mission and we steer clear of fundraising.

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 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 and area waterways. 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 documentary photography, publicity, 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. 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.

Cultural Resources Group

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 Group

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

Eradicating graffiti as soon as it's discovered helps limit future spread, so this group is vital for long-term conservation.

Interpretive Projects

Share your special skills or areas of interest to support the District's public education programs. Deliver talks about geology, 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.



Top, Kevin Harding leads a morning hike for birding enthusiasts at Bubbling Ponds near the Page Springs Fish Hatchery. Above, Archaeological photo team members Ann Urick, Peg Kern and Bob Kenney create a picture record of ancient petroglyphs at a remote site.

Trail Patrol Group

Hike Forest Service trails and contact visitors. Answer questions from hikers and mountain bikers to make the forest experience more enjoyable for everyone, then file a brief report at the end of each patrol. 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 delivery to Slide Rock State Park.

Periodic jobs may include **Skilled Construction** to help minimize the backlog of Forest Service maintenance needs; **Fire Tower Duty** at either Apache Maid or Mingus fire lookouts; or an array of captivating **Wildlife Observation** 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're a full- or part-time Sedona resident, but you must be a member to participate in Friends activities,

It's easy to sign up. On our website, friendsoftheforestsedona.org, select *Join Us*, then *Fill Out Application Form*. Complete the form and choose *Membership Type* from drop down box. Select *Buy Now* to submit your payment.



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!

Visit www.friendsoftheforestsedona.org for more information and to view our video. Also visit www.sedonaredrocktrails.org — the premier website for local trails information.