Why I Volunteered: Preserving Utah’s Beautiful Landscape

Living in Southern Utah, Snow Canyon State Park has become quite familiar over the years. I’ve had the pleasure of seeing increased visitors enjoying what the park has to offer; biking, hiking, climbing, camping, and most of all, exploring the Lava Tubes. However, more visitors has also resulted in a growing litter problem in the Lava Tubes. Many of my fellow park visitors have probably witnessed large groups hauling significant amounts of glow-sticks into the tubes, cutting them open, and leaving them strewn across the caves. This popular trend has drastically increased the trash present in this area of the park, and made me realize that somebody needed to do something. That is why I volunteered.

Sacrificing approximately 120 hours of joint volunteer cleanup over the summer, my group and I were shocked how quickly trash would replenish in the tubes. I gained even more appreciation for the preservation of Utah’s beautiful landscape after discovering for myself what effort that can take. Some of this litter not only degrades the beauty of our park, but can cause health problems and injuries to visitors and species present in Snow Canyon, going against all that Utah State Parks stands for. If the trend of leaving glow-sticks, bottles, spray paint, and more in our tubes continues to grow, it’ll be too much for volunteers to keep up with. That is why I ask that we all respect our State Parks and pack out more than we pack in.

~ by Shelby Crockett, S.U.U.

Did You Know?
The Friends of Snow Canyon has an official website. To check it out, go to: www.friendsofsnowcanyon.org Learn more about how you can
**Fall Calendar of Events**

**Sunset Hike**  
Explore the twilight sights and sounds of the canyon during a 1.5-mile round trip hike.  
**Fri, Oct. 4, 6:45-8:30 pm**

**Sunrise Hike**  
BYOC (Bring Your Own Coffee) and welcome the sun—watch the magic of a new day unfold in the canyon on this early morning stroll to see the sun rise.  
**Sat, Oct. 12, 7:00-8:00 am**

**Moonlit Hike**  
Join park staff for a moonlit, two-mile hike. Enjoy the unique opportunity to see the canyon by moon-glow!  
**Fri., Oct. 18, 8:00-9:30 pm**  
**Sat, Oct. 19, 8:00-9:30 pm**

**Monsters in the Desert**  
Gila monsters are one of the most mysterious and endangered creatures of southwest Utah. Join **Ann McLuckie**, Wildlife Biologist, as she discusses the biology of these fascinating lizards. Find out how Gila monsters are studied using radio-telemetry and try radio tracking for yourself!  
**Sat, Oct. 26, 10:00-11:30 am**

**Simple Campfire Desserts**  
Join us around a toasty fire to bake and sample some simple campfire desserts. Leave with recipes for your next camping trip.  
**Fri, Nov. 1, 7:00-8:00 pm**

**Nature’s Bounty**  
Learn to identify traditional uses of some of Snow Canyon’s edible and medicinal plants during this 1.5-mile, round trip hike.  
**Sat, Nov. 23, 9:00-10:30 am**

**Lava Tube Hike**  
Join park staff for a two-mile, roundtrip hike and the chance to explore the unique formations of a lava tube!  
**Sat, Nov. 30, 10:00-11:30 am**

**Star Walk: Polaris**  
Join park staff for a one-mile, round trip hike and the opportunity to learn more about our north star, Polaris and its neighboring constellations.  
**Fri, Dec. 6, 6:00-7:00 pm**

All listed events are free and open to the public. Space is limited; registration required. **Program registration is held two days proceeding the scheduled event.**

Register by phone or in person. For more information or to register for a program contact park staff at (435) 628-2255.

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Have you checked out Snow Canyon State Park’s Bookstore?  
Looking for a unique gift? We have hats, shirts, magnets, books and much more!  
Stop by our visitor’s center next time you are in the park and see what’s new!
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Lava Tube Hike
Join park staff for a two-mile, round trip hike and the chance to explore the unique formations of a lava tube!
Fri, Nov. 15, 6:00-7:30 pm
Sat, Nov. 16, 6:00-7:30 pm

Sunset Nature Sketch
Admire the changing colors of early evening and enjoy the magic of sketching nature on this 1.5 mile round trip hike!
Fri, Nov. 8, 4:45-6:30 pm

Star Walk: Polaris
Join park staff for a one-mile, round trip hike and the opportunity to learn more about our north star, Polaris and its neighboring constellations.
Fri, Dec. 6, 6:00-7:00 pm

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