

Please find below, Utah State Parks news for April 5:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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stateparks.utah.gov

- Four Weekend Boating Incidents Show Dangers of Spring Boating, Importance of Wearing Life Jackets
- Ride On! Video Contest Underway
- Utah State Parks Events

FOUR WEEKEND BOATING INCIDENTS SHOW DANGERS OF SPRING BOATING, IMPORTANCE OF WEARING LIFE JACKETS

Salt Lake City – Utah State Parks Boating Program Manager Dave Harris reported warm weather brought many boaters to our waterways this past weekend, but rapidly changing weather, cold water and unprepared boaters resulted in at least four incidents where rangers rescued boaters.

The first incident occurred at Utah Lake where rangers responded to two kayakers who were caught in strong winds and having difficulty returning to shore. Neither kayaker was wearing a life jacket.

A second incident involved a man who fell overboard into the 40-degree waters of Deer Creek Reservoir. The victim was rescued by Deer Creek State Park Rangers, and treated and released by local medical personnel.

The other two incidents occurred on Willard Bay. State Park Rangers responded to one vessel carrying two adults and two children that had broken down and was pushed up on the dike by strong winds. The second incident involved a 12-foot boat that capsized in strong winds tossing three people into the water. Only one had a life jacket. Fortunately the boat capsized close to the dike and all three were able to swim to safety.

“You never know when you might end up in the water. Wearing a life jacket not only keeps you afloat, but provides an extra layer of warmth. The water you are boating on this time of year was ice or snow just a few short days ago,” said Harris. He added that average water temperatures in northern Utah are around 40 degrees.

“The combination of additional heat and flotation might mean the difference between life and death,” reported Harris. “Wearing a life jacket can also aid in self-rescue, providing you with extra time to climb back into your boat.” Harris said statistics prove the importance of wearing life jackets. Three of four people who drowned in boating accidents would not have died had they worn a life jacket.

State boating law requires all children 12 years of age and younger to wear a life jacket while boating and it is recommended that all boaters wear a life jacket at all times.

For more information or to take a boating safety course, stateparks.utah.gov or call 801-538-BOAT. Utah Boaters...WEAR IT!

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RIDE ON! VIDEO CONTEST UNDERWAY

Salt Lake City – In an effort to educate and promote responsible off-highway vehicle (OHV) riding, Utah State Parks and Recreation, Utah School and Institutional Trust Lands Administration (SITLA), and the Larry H. Miller Group co-sponsor the RIDE ON! video contest.

Students are encouraged to submit videos incorporating principles of safe and responsible OHV riding, and stewardship of School and Institutional Trust Lands. Winning videos will be used by SITLA and Utah State Parks to communicate the importance of protecting and respecting SITLA lands, and share safe OHV riding messages.

"Educating youth about responsible riding is important," commented Utah State Parks Off-Highway Vehicle Coordinator Chris Haller. "This contest allows kids to be creative and have fun while learning how to be safe and protect riding privileges for future generations."

Students can earn cash and prizes for themselves, their schools and teachers. No taxpayer money is used for prizes. To enter a video and for more information, visit stateparks.utah.gov/rideonvideocontest. Entries are accepted now through Friday, May 13.

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UTAH STATE PARKS EVENTS

April 16 Snow Canyon State Park - Ivins
Petrified Dunes Revealed: Sandstone formations throughout the canyon contain many subtle features. Join us at 10 a.m. for a 1.5-mile roundtrip hike along the petrified dunes and discuss the Navajo sandstone and some of its overlooked features. Space is limited and registration required. 435-628-2255

April 21 Utah Field House of Natural History State Park Museum – Vernal Range Creek Canyon: Join us at 7 p.m. for a free lecture by University of Utah archaeology PhD student and Assistant Director of the Range Creek Field Station, Shannon Arnold. She will discuss Range Creek Canyon and the surveying and excavation work taking place since 2002. 435-789-3799

April 21 Edge of the Cedars State Park Museum - Blanding
In a Secret Way: Join author and historian Mark Blanchard as he shares the story of Greg Metcalf, likely the first non-native to view the ancient dwellings of Hovenweep National Monument. 435-678-2238

April 22 Snow Canyon State Park - Ivins
Evening Nature Sketching: Admire the changing colors of early evening while exploring the magic of sketching nature on this 1.5-mile, roundtrip hike at 6:30 p.m. Space is limited and registration is required. 435-628-2255

April 23 Dead Horse Point State Park - Moab
Sunset Hike: Join us for an hour-long sunset hike around Dead Horse Point. Experience changing light and shadows, wildlife and stunning scenery on this mile-long hike. Be sure to bring good shoes, plenty of water, hat and sunscreen. Meet at the Dead Horse Point overlook at 7 p.m. 435-259-2614

April 23 Yuba State Park - Levan
Easter Egg Hunt: Join park Yuba State Park staff and park concession Sequoia Motorsports for an Easter Egg Hunt at the Oasis Campground at 10 a.m. 801-423-9118

April 23 Wasatch Mountain State Park - Midway
Backyard Birds: Birds in our neighborhoods add value to our lives through their songs, colorful feathers and exciting antics. Join the naturalist at 10 a.m. at the visitor center to learn more about the birds in your backyard. 435-654-1791

April 23 Antelope Island State Park - Syracuse
Lecture: Join us at 2 p.m. at the Fielding Garr Ranch for an informative lecture on how Antelope Island's sheep industry influenced Utah's wool market. 801-649-5742

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