



The Dirt



Official Volunteer & Partner Newsletter of the Santa Fe National Forest
Spring 2023 | Issue 6

Welcome to our newsletter!

Your source for volunteer and partner news, events, ways to get involved, and resources on the forest.

In this issue...

- Gearing up for the 2023 Season
- Celebrating Volunteers
- The TERMITES Get to Work
- Learning about Pecos Canyon



RECRUITMENT CORNER

Upcoming Opportunities for Volunteer Work



National Trails Day Events - Saturday June 3

Keep an eye out on the National Trails Day event page as we plan and add events across the forest: <https://americanhiking.org/national-trails-day/find-an-event/>

Passport to Pecos Participation

Know a kid (kindergarten to middle school) who might want to take an educational journey up Pecos Canyon? We would love to give them a Passport to Pecos activity booklet for their adventure. See page 6 for more information about this program.

Have any events to add to the "recruitment corner"? Email sarah.smith3@usda.gov to add your project to the next newsletter.

CELEBRATING NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH: APRIL 2023

Despite Forest closures and wildfires, Santa Fe National Forest volunteers contributed almost 22,000 volunteer hours in 2022! We're looking forward to doing great work in 2023.



You help keep our Forests clean, trails accessible, cultural sites protected, resources documented, and more! We appreciate your efforts and celebrate your hard work and continued support.



THANK YOU

The Santa Fe TERMITES "Dig In" on Sign Installation



This season, we'd like to feature one of our trail groups and the work they completed in 2022. Members of the TERMITES (their name being a fun reflection of some of the work they do: Trail Engineering, Rehabilitation, Maintenance, Including the Elevator Shaft) installed signage at key junctions in the Pecos Wilderness. After hearing accounts of hikers becoming lost or disoriented along trails above the Santa Fe Ski Basin, the TERMITES jumped into action at the request of the forest. Group members provided the forest with suggested sign locations and proceeded to install temporary signs to guide trail users during the interim. Once this season's snow melts, the TERMITES will return to locations along Winsor Trail 254 and Skyline trail 251 on the west side of the Pecos Wilderness to install permanent signs.



The TERMITES also recently tackled signage on the Norski Track along Hyde Park Road. This 2.5-mile trail has had laminated paper signs in the past, but the TERMITES undertook a mission to install more permanent signs along the trail. One of their handy group members constructed forest-approved wooden signs and the group installed 17 signs. Temporary directional and informational signs were also installed at other key junctions along the trail. The TERMITES plan to replace these temporary signs with official permanent signs once the snow melts this summer. Revisions to maps and the creation of informational flyers are also in the works for this popular all-season trail. We thank the TERMITES for their continued commitment to improving our trail systems! To join them on a trail project this season, visit their website at this link: <https://www.sfnftermites.org/>

CAMP HOSTS NEEDED

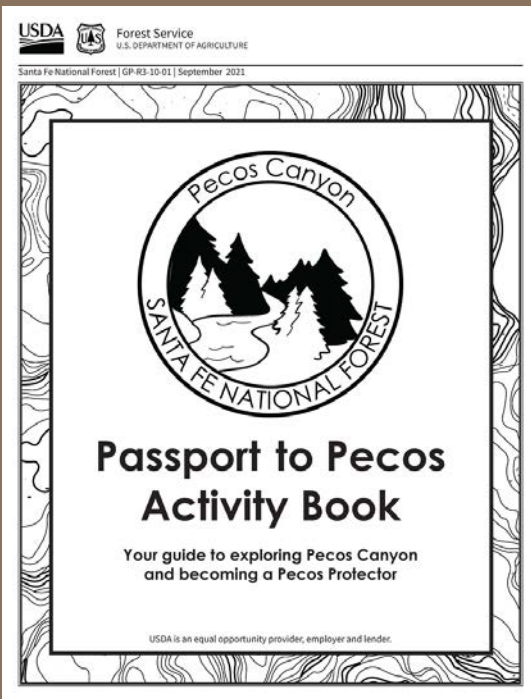


Apply on [Volunteer.gov](https://www.volunteer.gov)

Search "Santa Fe National Forest"

Have you heard about our newest educational program?

PASSPORT TO PECOS

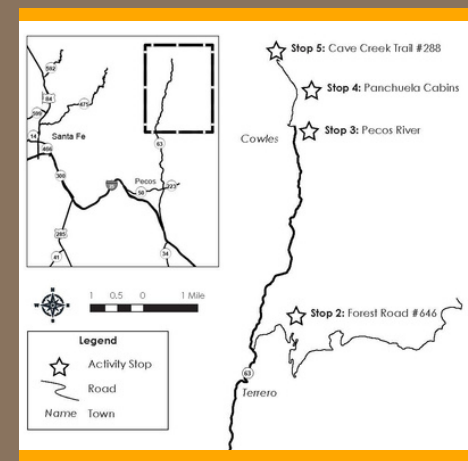


Created in 2021, the Passport to Pecos program is a self-paced educational journey for youth of all ages. The program aims to expose youth to their nearby public lands and engage them in a variety of educational areas to earn the title of "Pecos Protector". The program teaches participants about responsible recreation and Leave No Trace, campfire safety, cultural resources and traditional histories of Pecos Canyon, federally designated lands and waters, biodiversity, and more. In 2023, Forest representatives and Woodsy Owl will be visiting local classrooms to distribute booklets and host meet-and-greets with students.

Participants can download the passport booklet from the Santa Fe National Forest website or pick up a physical booklet from the Pecos ranger station (32 S. Main St. Pecos, NM). Upon embarking on their journey, participants will be guided up Pecos Canyon to a series of educational "stops," (see map to right) where they will participate in activities and learn about different topics. Participants can also come by the ranger station during business hours for a goodie bag filled with surprises, including a Pecos Protector badge (right).

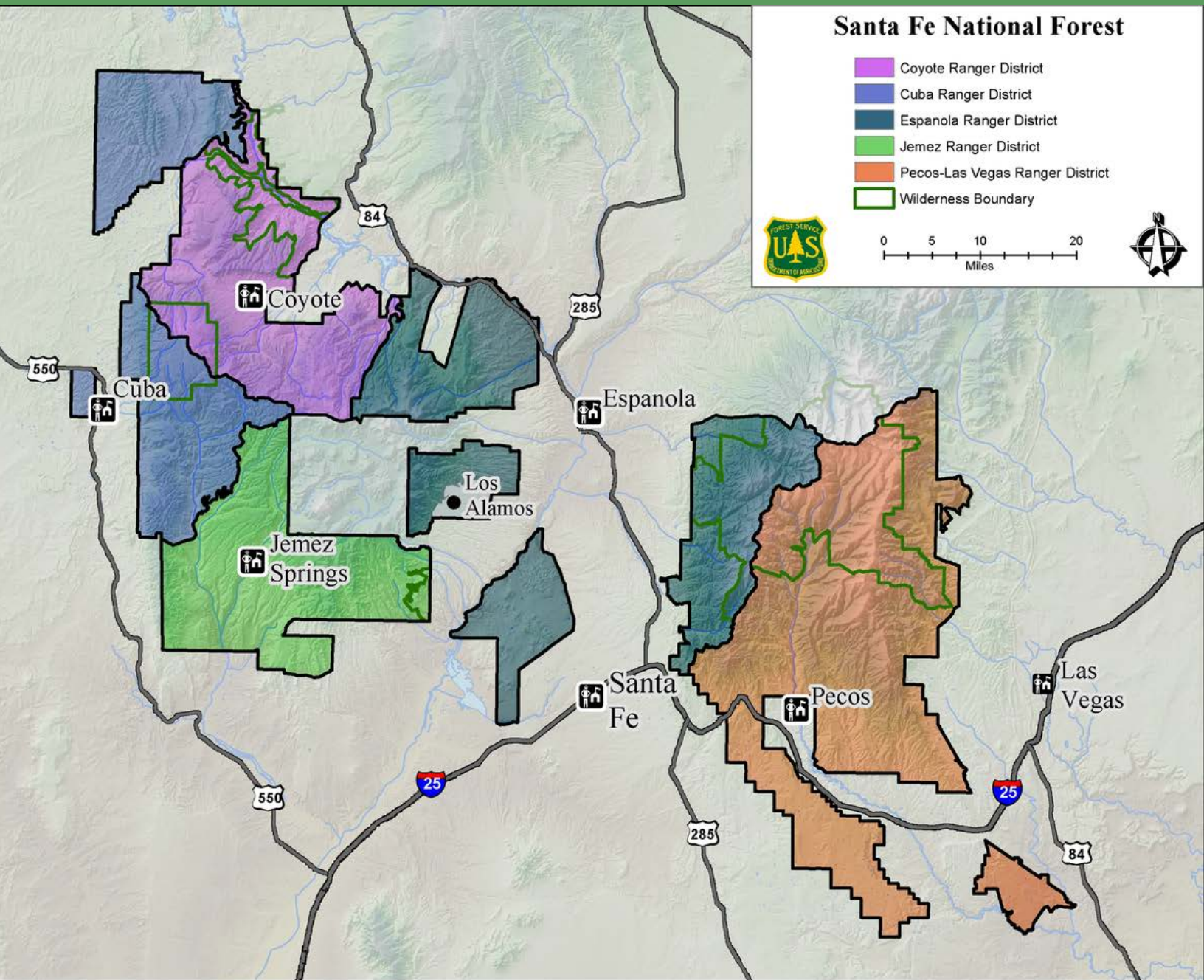
Download a digital booklet by clicking the link below or stop by the Pecos ranger station for a physical booklet.

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd954405.pdf



Want Woodsy Owl to come to your school with booklets and goodie bags? Contact Sarah Smith to coordinate: (sarah.smith3@usda.gov); 505-469-8681.

Don't know what district you're on? Refer to this map or contact a district representative to be pointed in the right direction!



See district information on our website here:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/santafe/about-forest/districts>

YOUR VOLUNTEER CONTACTS

Española and Coyote Districts

Lynn Bjorklund lynn.bjorklund@usda.gov

Cuba District

John Hennard john.hennard@usda.gov

Jemez District

Liam Covey-Shannon liam.covey-shannon@usda.gov

Pecos/Las Vegas District

Sarah Smith sarah.smith3@usda.gov

Forest Recreation Program Manager

Jeremy Golston jeremy.golston@usda.gov

