



Forest Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Dirt



Official Volunteer & Partner Newsletter of the Santa Fe National Forest
Summer 2023 | Issue 7

Welcome to our newsletter!

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

In this issue...

- The Summer So Far...
- Wilderness Emergency Protocol
- A Family Trail Workday



The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

RECRUITMENT CORNER

Upcoming Opportunities for Volunteer Work



July 6 : Cowles Ponds Teen & Family Workday

A workday for teens and families! For more information see page 6 of this issue.

Looking for a Volunteer Crosscut Saw Supervisor

Are you crosscut saw certified at a B or C-level and want to help with a backcountry project? We need folks to go out and clear on Jacks Creek trail 257 from the junction with Dockweiler trail 259 to Pecos Baldy Lake. This is one of our most popular hikes and it's in desperate need of attention. We have A-level sawyers who can help saw trees but need supervision by a B or C-certified crosscut sawyer. Contact Sarah Smith to help: sarah.smith3@usda.gov. Dates are flexible.

A "PEEC" INTO TRAIL WORK

**PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER (PEEC)
AND THE SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST PAIR UP FOR THE
FOREST'S FIRST TRAIL WORK DAY OF THE YEAR**



In late April, a dozen volunteers convened to work on the Pajarito trail near Los Alamos. The crew worked on the trail from the Rendija Trailhead up towards the rim of Guaje Canyon. Here the trail is infamous for making hikers "slip and slide" due to an eroded and steep trail surface. The group worked on stabilizing the trail and making the surface easier to travel on. They also implemented drainage features and terraces to reduce future erosion. Thanks to our volunteers for their hard work on the trail!



Let's Talk

WILDERNESS EMERGENCY PROTOCOL



Is your group prepared if an emergency were to happen in the forest's remote areas? Make sure your group has a plan for emergencies as well as resources to refer to while you're in the field. As always, your district representative can assist with more information if needed. Have a safe summer!

PLAN AHEAD

- Know where the closest hospital to your work site is and directions to get there.
- Carry a communication device like an InReach, Spot, or forest-issued radio.
- Always have at least one crew member who is certified in First Aid and CPR.
- Have an evacuation plan and know where the closest helicopter landing spots are if you are in remote areas.
- Discuss medical concerns with your crew members if you have them.



IF YOU HAVE AN ACCIDENT OR EMERGENCY

1. Get medical attention first. The patient is your number one priority. Everything else can be sorted out after.
2. Document as many details about the incident and events leading up to the incident as you can remember: you'll need this for paperwork later.
3. Contact a volunteer coordinator so they can report the incident. They will have you or the patient fill out Forest Service paperwork in addition to your following your organization's documentation process.





Santa Fe National Forest

Teen & Family Trail Workday

Thursday July 6th



Need an activity for your teens now that school is out? Want to break a sweat as a family while helping improve a popular trail? This event is designed to be teen and family friendly.

Join us for a day of trail work on the Cowles Ponds Trail to restore its accessibility. The Forest will provide tools and hard hats (gloves and eye protection upon request) and will lead the workday.

Meet at 10am at Cowles Ponds (at the end of Hwy 63).

Bring a lunch, water bottle, and sun protection.


Wear personal protective equipment including long sleeves, long pants, work boots or sturdy shoes, work gloves, and eye protection. Work will end at 3pm.

A parent/guardian signature is required for minors either before the workday or when you arrive on the day of the project.

Transportation for unaccompanied minors from the Pecos Ranger Station to the trail and back can be arranged. Contact project coordinator below to request transportation.



For more info: email, call, or text Sarah
sarah.smith3@usda.gov
505-469-8681



September 23rd is

National Public Lands Day



National Public Lands Day began 30 years ago as a way to encourage connection with and stewardship of our nation's great public lands. On this day, all public land sites across agencies are free and recreation or volunteerism are encouraged. No matter how you choose to celebrate, we hope you get out and enjoy New Mexico's public lands!



YOUR VOLUNTEER CONTACTS

Española and Coyote Districts

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