



Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting January 2024

SOUTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- Washoe County Staff harvested 60 trees from the area near Galena Creek Regional Park to give out as part of our Christmas Trees for Special Families program which also helps to thin, overgrown areas of the forest and promote overall health of the surrounding ecosystem.
- Come in from the Cold returned to Bartley Ranch on January 6th in the Western Heritage Interpretive Center. The program will be held every Saturday evening from 7-8:30pm featuring treats from one of our local bakeries.
- Bartley Ranch was one of the sites for Christmas Tree recycling in partnership with KTMB. Almost 8000 trees were recycled through the program. This reduces the number of trees thrown into local landfills and provides beneficial mulch to our local parks and residents.
- Junior Ranger Adventure Day was held at Bartley Ranch with Ranger "Red" Muratori and Brett Hartman. There were 25 children in attendance who learned about the history of Bartley Ranch and many other interesting facts about the area.

SOUTH REGION UPCOMING EVENTS

- Come in from the Cold will continue in the Western Heritage Interpretive Center through March 9th at Bartley Ranch Regional Park. The final show will feature the Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra
- Junior Ranger Adventure Day will be at Davis Creek in the month of March. They will be exploring the forest and the creatures that inhabit that unique area of the Truckee Meadows

NORTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- The annual Christmas Trees for Special Families event took place at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park on Thursday, December 7th. Nearly 60 Washoe County families with foster and/or adopted children, or active-duty members in the Nevada National guard were paired with a free tree to enjoy during the holidays, and a voucher for free recycling at any one of the KTMB Christmas Tree Recycling locations. The festive event hosted by staff and volunteers included a craft table and a visit with Santa Clause and Smokey Bear.



- Park Rangers Gabe Barbato and Chris Smyczek hosted a Junior Ranger Adventure Day program at Lockwood Trailhead on December 16th. The 16 children in attendance learned about the Truckee River ecosystem, explored for signs of wildlife, and learned about how local plants and animals survive during winter.
- Ranger Staff at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park provided support to KTMB's Christmas Tree Recycling Program location at the Reno Sports Complex from December 26th through January 7th.
- Park Ranger Gabe Barbato hosted a raptor-themed Wildlife Wednesday program at Lazy 5 Regional Park on January 19th (rescheduled due to weather). The once-monthly Wildlife Wednesday Programs have attracted a loyal Spanish Springs audience since being introduced this past summer.

NORTH REGION UPCOMING EVENTS

- A farm-themed Junior Ranger Adventure Day will be led by Park Ranger Celia Walker at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park's Nevada Farms and Families area on February 24th. Children in attendance will learn about the plants and animals of Rancho San Rafael on a walk along trails and they'll sow the seeds of curiosity in a gardening activity.
- Spring Break Discovery Days will take place in Rancho San Rafael's Discovery Room on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week (March 27th-29th & April 3rd-5th) during Spring Break for the Washoe County School District, in partnership with the Discovery Room volunteers and Ranger staff.