



## Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting May 2026

### SOUTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- Park Ranger Bret Hartman led a *Junior Ranger Adventure Day* at Crystal Peak Park on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The participants were able to learn about the history of Verdi and see some of the amazing wildlife in the area including some industrious beavers hard at work.
- *Washoe County Rocks!* Geology series was a huge hit Bartley Ranch on Saturday May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our over 30 attendees got to learn about the natural formations in the Truckee Meadows and got a chance at doing some rock identification.
- Park Ranger Chris Smyczek took stepped in for a *Ranger Walk* at Davis Creek Regional Park on May 9<sup>th</sup> around Davis Creek Pond and the Nature Trail. Our participants got to take in the sights around the pond and learn all about aquatic environments and why they are important.
- Park Ranger Bret Hartman led *Birding with a Ranger* at Bowers Mansion Park on May 17<sup>th</sup>. The over 50 attendees got a glimpse of one of Washoe Counties newest program series highlighting the incredible birding opportunities in our parks!

### SOUTH REGION UPCOMING EVENTS

- The next Program in the *Washoe County Rocks Program* will be held at Galena Creek Park on May 30<sup>th</sup> with Park Ranger Bob Holland and one of our local geologists talking about hydrothermal impacts and other forces that helped shape our region
- *Programs on the Porch* kicks off at Bowers Mansion Regional Park on May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7pm with Coyote crossing and will run through July 1<sup>st</sup> with lots of Bluegrass music and fun for the family.
- *Junior Ranger Adventure Day* will be held at Galena Creek Regional Park on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 1pm. Participants will get the chance to learn more about our great parks and what goes into protecting and preserving them.



## NORTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- Peavine District Park Rangers and the Discovery Room Volunteers hosted *Discovery Room Crafts Days* during Spring Break, March 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>. This free program is supported solely by donations and the dedicated group of retired schoolteachers and hard-working Rangers who make it possible.
- Washoe County Juvenile Services “Youth Employment Program” assisted Rangers at Lazy 5 with the construction of a new shade structure that was donated by a community member to provide shade to visitors of the new off-leash area at Lazy 5.
- On Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, Park Ranger Gabe Barbato led a 4-mile round trip *Ranger Walk* along the Sugarloaf Peak Trail in Spanish Springs.
- North Region staff led several volunteer projects as part of the annual KTMB Great Community Cleanup on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. North sites included Rancho San Rafael, Swan Lake NSA, North Valleys Regional Park and Lockwood Trailhead.
- *All About Birds* was the theme of the *Junior Ranger Adventure Day* at Swan Lake Nature Study Area on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30am.

## NORTH REGION UPCOMING EVENTS

- On Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>, Park Rangers will lead a 1-mile *Ranger Walk* along the Evans Creek Nature Trail at Rancho San Rafael. Attendees will learn about flora, fauna and Basque history. Attendance for *Ranger Walks* is typically capped at 25-30 people, and Free registration is now live on our website.
- Pah Rah District Rangers will host an upcoming *Junior Ranger Adventure Day* at the Pah Rah Trailhead on Sunday, July 19<sup>th</sup> from 10-11:30am. Free registration for this event will open 30 days in advance.
- The 21<sup>st</sup> summer of the *Lazy 5 Summer Music Series* will kick off on Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, featuring *Greg Austin & Southern Justice* at 6:30pm. The FREE music series continues each Wednesday through August 12<sup>th</sup>. The full schedule for the series can be found on the Lazy 5 Regional Park web page as well as social media.
- The Park Rangers at Rancho San Rafael will team up with volunteers at the newly renamed “Rancho Play Room” (formerly the Discovery Room) each week during summer to present *Summer Themed Weeks*, featuring free fun with arts, guest speakers and storytelling. 9am-12pm Thursdays and Fridays, June 18<sup>th</sup>-July 31<sup>st</sup>. Themes this summer include *Geology*, *Big Rigs* and *Pollinators*. Pre-registration for up to 50 children per hour will be required, as well as suggested donations to assist with craft supplies.









