



Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting November 2025

SOUTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- Junior Ranger Adventure Day was held at Hidden Valley Regional Park on October 18th, 25 kids were able to learn the basics of hiker safety and orienteering with Park Rangers Chris Smyczek and Nick Steuer
- Washoe County Park Rangers hosted 5 Fall Photo Hikes at Bartley Ranch, Thomas Creek, Wilbur D. May Arboretum, Crystal Peak and Lockwood Parks. Participants were able to take some very colorful Fall photos that will hopefully be featured in next year's Fall photo exhibit
- The Sierra Nevada Autumn Photo Exhibit ran October 1-October 31st in the Western Heritage Interpretive Center. It featured photos from local photographers and had over 250 votes for people's favorite photos. The winner of the People's choice was Max Thomas!

SOUTH REGION UPCOMING EVENTS

- Washoe County Park Rangers will be harvesting trees from Galena Creek Regional Park as part of the Christmas Trees for Special Families event. This helps to reduce the fire load on our public lands while providing trees to veterans and foster families.
- Washoe County will partner with KTMB to host a site of their annual Christmas Tree Recycling program. It will run December 26th through January 11th.

NORTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- Peavine District Park Rangers visited the students of Glenn Duncan Elementary on September 24th and Westergard Elementary School on October 3rd to highlight the Park Ranger profession and Washoe County Junior Ranger Program.
- Pah Rah District Park Rangers hosted *Wildlife Wednesday* programs at Lazy 5 Regional Park on Wednesday, October 8th and Wednesday, November 12th.
- Park Rangers and May Arboretum staff hosted well attended a *Fall Photo Hike* in the Nevada Farms and Families Area and May Arboretum on Saturday, October 18th.
- Rancho San Rafael Regional Park celebrated the completion of the new "All-Inclusive" playground with a *Day of Play* on Saturday, November 1st, which included a tour of the playground, food trucks and activities courtesy of the City of Reno's *Rolling Recreation*



program. Partners in attendance included the High Fives Foundation, Achieve Tahoe and the City of Reno's Adaptive Recreation program, all offering resources for adaptive recreation locally.

- More than 1,500 visitors came out to Rancho for the annual *Meet the Turkeys* event in the Nevada Farms and Families area at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park on Saturday, November 8th, featuring fun activities, photo opportunities with the turkeys and several partners such as Animal Ark, WCSO, KTMB and the Children's Entrepreneur Market.
- Pah Rah District Park Rangers hosted a *Junior Ranger Adventure Day* at Lockwood Trailhead on Saturday, November 15th.

NORTH REGION UPCOMING EVENTS

- Washoe County Park Rangers will host the annual *Christmas Trees for Special Families* distribution event on Thursday, December 4th from 3-7pm at Rancho San Rafael, providing trees to families with foster and adopted children as well as those with active-duty members of the Nevada National Guard.
- *Wildlife Wednesdays* continue at Lazy 5 Regional Park on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm. Park Rangers will host the next program on December 10th.
- Washoe County will partner with KTMB to host a drop-off location at the Reno Sports Complex at Rancho San Rafael as part of their annual Christmas Tree Recycling program. It will run December 26th through January 11th.
- *Junior Ranger Adventure Day* will be held in partnership with Animal Ark on Saturday, January 24th from 1-2:30PM at the North Valleys Community Center.