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News Release



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Stewardship Saturday, Junior Ranger Program, and “Destination: Devils Hole!” Coming Up at Ash Meadows NWR

AMARGOSA VALLEY, Nev. – The Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is hosting a number of activities for the public on the last two Saturdays in March. Volunteers can help restore native plant species, children can earn a Junior Ranger badge, and hikers can trek to Devils Hole. Ash Meadows NWR is a unit of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

March 19, 2011, is another Stewardship Saturday at the Ash Meadows NWR. Volunteers are needed from 8:30 a.m. until noon to take part in ongoing efforts to restore Tubb’s Spring to its natural state. Participants will help Ash Meadows staff plant native trees and grasses around the spring. Planting native species is an important part of restoration, as they control the invasion of non-native weeds.

It is recommended that participants wear shoes and clothes that can get dirty. Snacks and water will be provided, and volunteers are welcome to bring a lunch to enjoy afterwards at one of the picnic areas.

Those wishing to volunteer are asked to register online at www.getoutdoorsnevada.org. For additional information, please contact the Ash Meadows NWR office at (775) 372-5435.

On March 19 & 26, 2011, the wildlife refuge is offering a Junior Ranger program and a hike to Devils Hole. The activities will be conducted by FWS and National Park Service personnel.

The 30-minute Junior Ranger program begins at 11:30 a.m. Participants will meet at the Point of Rocks picnic area and walk to Kings Pool while learning about the desert pupfish, the history of the wildlife refuge, and the natural history of Ash Meadows and Devils Hole (a detached unit of Death Valley National Park).

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Those taking part will receive a Death Valley National Park Junior Ranger booklet. Children can later take their completed booklet to one of the visitor centers in Death Valley National Park and receive a Junior Ranger Badge. Participants in the Junior Ranger Program are not required to register.

Immediately following the Junior Ranger activities, a National Park Service ranger will lead a hike — Destination: Devils Hole. The one-way hike to Devils Hole begins at the Point of Rocks picnic area, heads to King's Pool, and continues up the adjacent hillside where the group will stop for lunch. After lunch, the hikers cross the valley to reach Devils Hole. The entire trip covers 2.5 miles. Once at Devils Hole, participants will learn about its fascinating history.

Hikers are required to register. To sign up and for more information, contact Cyndi Souza via email to cyndi_souza@fws.gov, or by telephone at 775-372-5435.

Additionally, hikers are advised to:

- Wear sturdy hiking boots and comfortable clothing. Dressing in layers will help participants adapt to changes in the weather.
- Bring plenty of food and water.
- Carry sunscreen and a hat or umbrella.

Please Note: "Destination: Devils Hole!" is a **one-way hike**. Participants are responsible for arranging a means of returning to the Point of Rocks picnic area.

The 23,448-acre Ash Meadows NWR (www.fws.gov/desertcomplex/ashmeadows) is located in the Amargosa Valley of southern Nye County approximately 30 miles northwest of Pahrump. The west entrance to the wildlife refuge is on State Route 373, and the south entrance is on Bell Vista Road. Signs mark both entrances.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov.