



2023 Annual Report

Friends of Snow Canyon State Park is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organized in 2011 and incorporated in 2012.

The **Mission** of the Friends of Snow Canyon State Park is a) to support the mission of the Park; b) to preserve and protect the ecological, historical and recreational integrity of Snow Canyon State Park through public awareness and education; and c) to promote the development of facilities and responsible recreation for present and future generations.

Board of Directors

President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Secretary
Past President

2023 and 2024

George Otott
Vacant
Linda Neff
Jim Bily
Dick Coe

Members

Dean Cavaletto
Lori Capshaw
Phyllis Winkler
Ellen Nathan
Barry Neff
Sandy Nelson
Alan Risenhoover

We thank Eric Simonsen for his service as a Board member over the past two years.

Non-Voting Members

Park Manager
Trail Steward Captain

Kristen Comella
Don Hite

Message to FOSC Members

from Park Manager Kristen Comella

I want to thank the Friends of Snow Canyon for making 2023 another successful year. Your support of the Park and its mission has a direct impact on our staff and visitors. From the education programs we offer, to the recreation experience, to our facilities, your membership dues, volunteer service, and donations elevate the Park.

Here are some the things you helped make possible:

- A new day use pavilion at the Chuckwalla trailhead (Spring 2024 unveiling)
- A part-time seasonal Naturalist
- A wildly successful “Ring of Fire” solar eclipse event
- Reprints and distribution of our revamped park brochure

Beyond your direct contributions to the Park, one of the most significant events of 2023 was Governor Cox awarding the Friends of Snow Canyon his Spirit of Service Award. Friends were selected from hundreds of nominees and acknowledged for “making a difference in our community through acts of service”.

Thank you for making a difference and caring for this special place!

Year in Review

In 2023, Friends of Snow Canyon was a recipient of the Governor’s 2nd Annual Spirit of Service Award that honors individuals and organizations who have rendered exemplary service to others throughout the State. In her nomination, Kristen said: “The board and members work tirelessly to promote and support the park - simply because they love the canyon and the recreation and education opportunities it provides for visitors.” We are honored to receive the recognition and thank each of you for your contribution, whether monetary, participation in events or volunteering.

Established by the Board in late 2022, the Fundraising Committee organized around three elements - membership, grants and donations - to enhance the organization’s ability to support the financial needs of the Park. The objective is to increase our financial contribution beyond that for normal Park operations and maintenance to funding capital projects, programs and seasonal staff. 2023 was marked by a positive response from the local community as an increase in membership and individual donations was matched by charitable donations from local businesses. This initial success enabled funding of the Chuckwalla Shade Pavilion and a part-time seasonal naturalist, in addition to numerous operational and maintenance items.

The past year saw an all-time high for fundraising, membership, number of trail stewards and volunteer hours contributed to the Park. Thanks to all of you for your support and active participation!

Supporting the Mission of the Park

A. *Preserve and Protect*

1. Snow Canyon State Park is a precious and fragile place for recreation balanced with protection of natural resources. The Park offers hiking, biking, camping and touring while also preserving wildlife, plants and awe-inspiring geology. Members of FOSC contribute to the enjoyment of the hundreds of thousands who visit the Park and the preservation of those resources directly through volunteerism and funding via membership dues and donations. In 2023, members participated in service projects that included:
 - May 18, mustard plant removal
 - September 2, a National Public Lands Day project to repair the Toe Trail, including invasive plant removal and the rescue and relocation of a tortoise.
2. Docent Program. The Docent Program is new to the Park and is in its infancy. The idea is to have pop-up exhibit tables at popular trailheads on busy days to help educate visitors about the natural resources in the Park. Twelve of these pop-ups totaling 67 hours met with enthusiastic visitor response during the year.
3. Trail Stewards Program. This program is supported by Friends of Snow Canyon and is staffed by dedicated volunteers who serve as goodwill ambassadors to the Park. Under the joint leadership of FOSC volunteer Don Hite and Assistant Park Manager Jordan Perez, Trail Stewards provide invaluable service to both our visitors and the Park itself. Stewards meet and greet visitors to the Park's trails, providing advice on trails to use and answer questions about the Park's flora, fauna, and geology, and its local history.

Stewards work independently to maintain trails as they roam the Park on their hikes. They also participate in work parties to improve trails, under the supervision of Jordan Perez. Projects this year included work on Red Sands, Johnson Canyon, Cinder Cone, Pioneer Names, Lava Flow, Chuckwalla and Petrified Dunes trails.

During the summer when many of us retreat to cooler climes, much of the formal activity of the group is suspended. However, a dedicated and heat tempered cadre of trail stewards shoulder the responsibility of maintaining assigned trails to keep them in top condition for Park visitors.

Trail Stewards donated 3301 hours of time on the trails in 2023, a new record by far. In addition, they spent 216 hours on various work parties. This is the equivalent of adding 1.5 full-time staff to the Park. Without this contribution, the trails would not be as wonderful as they are and the visitor experience would suffer. On behalf of the Board, Park staff and our visitors, we thank the Trail Stewards for their service!



Trail Stewards hard at work. Most projects do not involve this degree of effort!

B. Provide Public Awareness and Educational Events

1. FOSC sponsors educational and fun events during the non-summer months for the enjoyment and education of members. In 2023, these events included:

- 1/11/23 Paleontology of Southwestern Utah and Snow Canyon State Park at the St. George Dinosaur Museum
- 2/28/23 Love Birds or Nesting Raptors with Rick Fridell
- 3/23/23 Ecology Walking Tour with Brady Iverson
- 4/5/23 Music of Snow Canyon with the Zion Flute Circle
- 4/15/23 Curiosity, Perseverance and Ingenuity: Exploring Mars from Snow Canyon at Red Mountain Resort with Tim Parker
- 4/21/23 In Search of Scorpions with Phenix Johnson
- 4/25/23 Ecology and Bird Watching Tour with Brady Iverson
- 5/10/23 Bird Walk with Paul Jaussi
- 9/27/23 Music of Native American Flutes in Snow Canyon with the Zion Flute Circle
- 9/28/23 Guided Hike: The Breeding Grounds of Snow Canyon with Kristen Comella
- 9/29/23 Yoga in the Park with John Yohman

- 10/14/23 Eclipse Viewing Party
 - 10/24/23 Snow Canyon State Park through the Eyes of a Geologist with George Otott
 - 10/27/23 Yoga in the Park with John Yohman
 - 11/4/23 Autumn in the Desert (Pre-Annual Meeting Guided Hike), Snow Canyon Sunshine (Pre-Annual Meeting Presentation) and Annual Meeting & Potluck Picnic
2. We maintain an informative website featuring flora and fauna of the Park, including an excellent wildflower section that helps you identify the many flowers you find in the Park. The website gives a description of upcoming events including registration information and a portal for memberships and donations. Some past presentations are available on our YouTube channel, linked from the website.
 3. We use email to send FOSC newsletters to all members. These newsletters present current Park-related information as well as FOSC updates and information.
- C. *Promote the Development of Facilities.***

Building on our success funding the Tortoise Walk last year, our new Fundraising Committee secured grants and donations to help fund the Chuckwalla Shade Pavilion. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Black Desert Resort, Ironman Foundation and Kish Foundation for major contributions towards the Pavilion. In addition, we helped fund important Park trail needs, programs and seasonal help. Based on planning and requests by Park Manager Kristen Comella, FOSC provided over \$53,000 to the Park for the following:

- \$750 for Toe Trail Signage
- \$325 for ROCKIN' Jr. Ranger badges
- \$341 for "Stay to the Trail" signs
- \$4000 for newly designed Park brochures
- \$1250 for good stewardship rewards for Trail Stewards to use with Park visitors
- \$1000 for trail signage and supplies
- \$700 for campground improvement supplies
- \$300 for refreshments for the Ring of Fire Eclipse event
- \$4000 to help fund a part-time seasonal naturalist
- \$40,816 for the new Chuckwalla Shade Pavilion



Newly installed Chuckwalla Shade Pavilion

Expressing our Gratitude

The Friends of Snow Canyon Board of Directors is grateful to every member for committing to support Snow Canyon State Park's mission. Your membership dues, donations and volunteer hours allow the Park to advance critical goals, ensuring that the Park is cared for and maintained beyond what Park staff and funding alone could do.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2023 SUPPORTERS

All past and present Board member and trail stewards who have provided countless volunteer hours on behalf of the park and the Friends of Snow Canyon.

Corporate and Business Supporters

Black Desert Resort
The Wildland Trekking Co.

Friends \$1000+

Joel Bingham
Dean and Helen Cavaletto
Bonnie McGee/Dee Hubbard

Benefactors \$500+

Laurel Bryant and Alan Risenhoover
Sandy and Terry Nelson
Denise and George Otott
John Park
Sue and Eric Simonsen

Golden Plus Members and Donors \$250+

Paula and Jeff Botkin
Doug Beck
Linda and James Bily
Jenean Campos
Sue and Richard Coe
Sara Dupre
Rob and Kathy Herrick
Bonnie McGee/Dee Hubbard
Lisa and Stephen Jarvis
Marsha and Tom McCoy
Katy and Mark Peterson
Peter Scherer
Judy Odom and Ron Vermillion
Phyllis Winkler

THANK YOU



For your continued support of our mission to preserve and protect Snow Canyon State Park

Summary

Friends of Snow Canyon is completing its thirteenth year of supporting Snow Canyon State Park. Membership is the core of the organization and depends on each and every one of you. Today, FOOSC has a total of 208 memberships.

If you have program ideas, suggestions for program improvement, or interest in serving on the Board or as a Trail Steward, contact any of the Board members.

Please tell your friends and neighbors about Friends of Snow Canyon State Park and encourage them to consider joining in support of this incredible natural wonder in our backyards.

Contact information, along with membership renewals and new member information can be found on our website: www.friendsofsnowcanyon.org.

Thank You for your Support!

Note: Detailed financial statements available on request