



2024 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

2024 and 2025

George Otott
Alan Risenhoover
Linda Neff
Jim Bily

Members

Lori Capshaw
Phyllis Winkler
Ellen Nathan
Barry Neff
Sandy Nelson

We thank Dean Cavaletto for his service as a Board member over the past two years. We also thank Dick Coe for his many years on the Board, including several years as President. His humor and steadying influence will be missed.

Non-Voting Members

Park Manager
Trail Steward Captain

Kristen Comella
Don Hite

Message to FOSC Members

from Park Manager Kristen Comella

Change and transition were significant themes in 2024. Beloved employees Jordan Perez and Phenix Johnson left State Park employment – ultimately (independently) settling for the truly greener pastures of Oregon. With their departures, esteemed seasonal employees Jesse Henderson and Cheyenne Winchester were able to gracefully step into their respective Assistant Manager and Park Naturalist roles.

While stepping into a new job role is never seamless the support of Friends of Snow Canyon made their transitions go much more smoothly. Jordan and Phenix built strong frameworks for the Trail Steward and Docent programs. These frameworks along with support from long-term Trail Captain Don Hite; a well-oiled Friends Board; and individual trail stewards and docents, helped Jesse and Cheyenne immensely as they took on new responsibilities.

This personal support combined with the passion, dedication to volunteerism, and financial support that the members of FOSC always exhibit, made great things happen in 2024:

- The public dedication of the Chuckwalla pavilion
- Support for both the part-time seasonal Naturalist and Trail Technician positions
- The fabrication and installation of new wayside signs along the Berm Trail
- Material support for the step rebuild along the Scout Cave trail (underway since December)
- Funds for new picnic tables and grills; reprints of park brochures; reprints of the Hidden Pinyon guide; decals for trail signage; and supplies for pop-up and school group programs
- A new record for both Trail Steward AND Docent volunteer hours

Not only does your support have a direct impact on our staff, but your support of the park has a direct impact on visitors. Our education programs, trail system, campground and day-use facilities, and ultimately the guest experience would be diminished without each and every one of you.

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

Year in Review

In the fiscal year ending last July, Snow Canyon saw a record 1,003,636 visitors. Compare that to just over 500,000 in 2019 and 200,000 in 2014. Despite the explosive growth, the Park is managed by only three permanent full-time employees. Kudos to Kristen Comella, Park Manager, for her leadership. She celebrated 25 years with the Park this year and was recognized for her dedication at the FOSC annual meeting.

Providing an awesome experience to so many visitors takes cooperation and coordination of the permanent staff, seasonal employees and the many volunteers working under the auspices of Friends of Snow Canyon. The Park is one of the most loved parks in the State providing an experience enhanced by the projects funded in whole or part by FOSC. Members and donors can take pride in their contributions!

Supporting the Mission of the Park

A. *Preserve and Protect*

1. **Trail Steward Program:** One of FOSC's major contributions to the Park is support of the Trail Steward Program. Staffed by 54 dedicated volunteers, led by Trail Captain Don Hite and Assistant Park Manager Jesse Henderson, the Trail Stewards perform trail maintenance and serve as Park ambassadors. In 2024, the Stewards provided 4786 hours of service, the equivalent of over two fulltime employees. As goodwill ambassadors, the Stewards meet and greet visitors to the Park, providing advice on trails to use and answering questions about the Park's flora, fauna, 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 Jesse Henderson's supervision. Projects this year included work on Red Sands, Johnson Canyon, Lava Flow, Chuckwalla, Butterfly, Tortoise Walk, Whiptail and Gila 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.
2. **Docent Program.** The Docent Program is in its third year and really took off in 2024. We have 9 docents who devoted 302 hours to various interpretive programs. Much of the time was spent with "pop-up" tables at popular trailheads. They also assist with school groups visiting the Park and providing back-up at events such as star parties.
3. **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 2024, members participated in service projects that included:
 - April 16, Chuckwalla Day-use Area stabilization and weed removal work party
 - September 18, National Public Lands Day work party eliminating an illegal path adjacent to the Berm Trail.
 - October 15, Padre Canyon tortoise fence repairs



Trail Stewards prepared to erase illegal trails

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 2024, these events included:

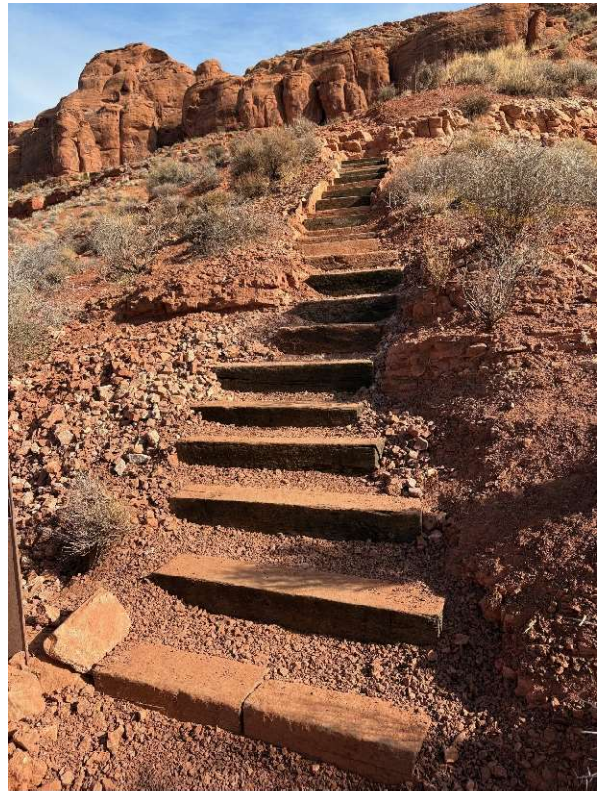
- New Paleontological Discoveries in the Lower Jurassic Kayenta-Navajo Transition with Andrew Miller paleontologist and curator at the St George Dinosaur Tracks Museum
- Star Eyed Lovers Valentines Star Party with Phenix Johnson
- All About the California Condor with Sierra Martin Wildlife Technician in Zion National Park
- Dedication Ceremony of the Chuckwalla Day-Use Pavilion
- Hike and Explore the Geology of Snow Canyon with Cheyenne Winchester
- Yoga in the Park with John Yohman (twice)
- Wildlife Fact or Folklore Hike with Kristen Comella
- Spooky Critters Exhibit with Cheyenne Winchester
- Friends of Snow Canyon Annual Meeting & Pot Luck Picnic
- Snow Canyon State Park through the Eyes of a Geologist with George Ottot

2. We maintain an informative website featuring flora and fauna of the Park, including an excellent wildflower section that helps identify the many flowers found 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.*

While most of the funding for the Park comes from entry fees and the State, FOSC augments these to improve the visitor experience. The new steps being installed on the Scout Cave trail are an excellent example. The old steps were eroding out and rotted in places. FOSC provided funding for seasonal staff to help with the work and to purchase the new railroad ties. This is a work in progress that will be completed in 2025. Last year, your dues and donations contributed over \$26,000 towards:

- Berm Trail way signs
- Expenses for staff to attend a trail maintenance conference
- Seasonal staff
- Railroad ties for the Scout Cave trail steps
- Toe Trail way signs
- Chuckwalla Trailhead improvements
- Hidden Pinyon brochure reprint
- Carsonite posts and decals for trail signs
- Park brochure reprints
- Picnic tables at Chuckwalla shade pavilion



New steps on Scout Cave Trail

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 2024 SUPPORTERS

All past and present Board Members, Trail Stewards and docents who have provided countless volunteer hours on behalf of the park and the Friends of Snow Canyon.

Foundation and Business Supporters

John C. Kish Foundation
The Wildland Trekking Co.

Friends \$1000+

Joel Bingham
Dean Cavaletto
Michael and Colleen Evans
Terry and Sandra Nelson
Williams Family Fund

Benefactors \$500+

Alan Risenhoover & Laurel Bryant
Eric & Sue Simonsen
George & Denise Otott

Golden Plus Members and Donors \$250+

Neil and Okchon Allison
Lois Andrews
Doug Beck
James and Linda Bily
Jeff & Paula Botkin
Richard and Sue Coe
Donald Dabrant
Sara Dupre
Rob and Kathy Herrick
Bonnie and Dee McGee/Hubbard
Stephen & Lisa Jarvis
John and Carolyn Jentzer
Marilyn Lorberbaum
Kathy and Bob Lovett
Lynne Mackechnie
Tom & Marsha McCoy
Katy & Mark Peterson
Jim and Sue Ann Roberts
Peter Scherer
Judy Odom & Ron Vermillion
Phyllis Winkler

We want to extend a special thank you to Chloe Ormisher, one of our docents. She raised over \$1000 as her Children of the American Revolution President's Project.

We note with sadness the passing this past year of long-time Trail Steward, Betty Jean Marianetti. Betty was one of the original Trail Stewards. Thanks to her many friends, over \$5000 was contributed to FOSC in her memory. The funds will be used to support the native plant garden being established near the visitor center.

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 fourteenth year of supporting Snow Canyon State Park. Membership is the core of the organization and depends on each and every one of you. Today, FOSC has a total of 248 memberships.

We depend on our members to keep us fresh. If you have program ideas, suggestions for program improvement, or interest in serving on the Board or as a Trail Steward, contact the Board through the email: Friendsofsnowcanyon@gmail.com
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