

CITY OF SEDONA

VOLUNTEER PARK RANGERS



15th ANNUAL REPORT

CY 2021

Department of Parks & Recreation

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2021 CY

Sedona Volunteer Park Rangers



Prologue

Over the years the City of Sedona Volunteer Park Rangers have experienced a steady growth in the number of volunteers joining the program and hours donated to the city. After 16 years of serving the City of Sedona, the Ranger program should have reached its maximum number of Rangers and experiencing its most productive year.

Unfortunately, that was not the case, instead COVID has dealt us a devastating blow, cutting the number of Rangers in half, and canceling many of the activities that we have assisted with in the past.

But COVID hasn't and won't defeat us. After all, we started in June 2007 with only three Rangers in make-shift uniforms and grew into a 7-day a week, 360 days a year operation within a short period of time and we will do it again.

Even with a substantially smaller group of loyal Rangers, we have been able to continue to offer basic services to the city, its visitors, and residents.

The Model

The Sedona Volunteer Park Ranger (SVPR) program is based on the 106-year-old National Park Service (NPS) model of resource protection and visitor service. There is an old NPS adage that a Ranger's job is to protect the resource from the people and protect the people from the resource. We try to accomplish this through education and sometimes with our mere uniformed presence, but always with the intention of assuring that our visitors and residents have a safe, friendly, and enjoyable experience.



Visitor Contacts

Program Objectives

The overriding objectives of the SVPRs is to serve the community by assisting the Department of Parks & Recreation with their activities; performing resource improvement projects in the city parks; providing assistance to our visitors; assisting with community events and assisting other City Departments when needed.

Goals and Accomplishments

➤ Provide personnel to meet the needs of the City's Department of Parks & Recreation by providing support for park events including, but not limited to assisting with parking, gate security, traffic control, and educational/interpretive programs. This year we substantially increased the number of walking park patrols where we have built an excellent working relationship with the park neighbors and reduced the number of park violations. The patrols have also provided us with the opportunity to report maintenance, safety, and security concerns before they become major problems.

➤ Provide the highest standards of professional assistance and informational services to our visitors in Uptown. By meeting visitors on the street, we can answer the immediate questions (where are the restrooms?) as well as providing short educational experiences. We also provide safety messages, discourage inappropriate activities, and serve as first responders to emergencies. In addition to assisting visitors in Uptown, the Rangers pick up litter, check restrooms, clean off graffiti, remove hazards and serve as lost and found. We take pride in representing the city in a friendly and welcoming way that encourages visitors to return and stay longer.

➤ Provide personnel support at community events and maintain a highly trained and responsive group of volunteers prepared to respond to emergencies and offering support to other agencies during times of community emergencies.



Playground Equipment Safety Check



Posse Grounds Workday

During the 2021 calendar year, we provided Posse Grounds Workday and Park Evaluations; assisted the Sedona Police Department with trailhead parking at Back O'Beyond during Spring Break in February, March, and part of April.



Sedona Mountain Bike Festival

Rangers also assisted visitors at the Red Rock Concerts and the Sedona Wine Fest at Posse Grounds Park, and assisted Parks and Recreation in a ‘COVID safe’ “Trunk and Treat” event at Posse Grounds Park for Halloween.



Celebration of Spring



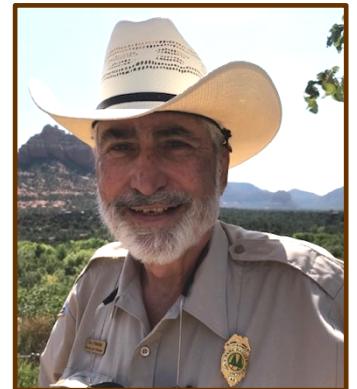
Sedona Stumble Run: Along Carruth and up Soldiers Pass Road

Rangers assisted Parks and Recreation with a 'COVID safe' Spring Event at Posse Grounds Park. And ended 2021 with a 'COVID safe' Breakfast with Santa.



COST / BENEFIT TO THE CITY

This year the rangers provided 1054.8 volunteer hours. That brought the total to 33,919.50 hours since the program began. Using the commonly accepted formula adopted by State and Federal governments to calculate the value of volunteers, the SVPR provided \$30,104 this year while costing the city less than \$3,000. This brings the total contribution to the city up to \$592,336.50 since the program began, while costing the city less than \$42,000 since 2007.



PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

The SVPR Program is administratively under the City's Department of Parks and Recreation, but the SVPR Program Manager (a volunteer) is solely responsible for the day-to-day operation and supervision of the program, and for all personnel matters while serving as program liaison with City Staff.



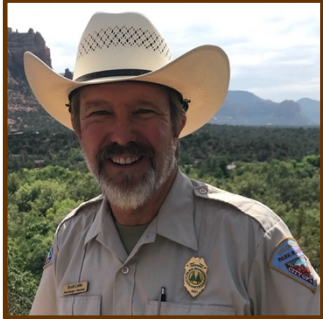
The program's Administrative Assistant researches and requisitions uniforms, badges, first aid supplies, printed informational brochures and Junior Ranger stickers, submitting the requests to the Park and Recreation's Administrative and Recreation Assistant; and maintains a status of funds in tandem with the city. The SVPR Administrative Assistant also assists with preparing monthly schedules, maintains daily time and attendance, and submits monthly and quarterly volunteer hour reports to the city.

No city equipment, office space, staff time, office supplies or utilities are used in the administration of the program. The day-to-day cost to administer the program is borne by the program manager. The Sedona Volunteer Park Ranger program remains a truly all volunteer community effort.



Current Staffing

During the 2021 calendar year we were able to meet all the requests for rangers' assistance at community and P&R events but occasionally with fewer Rangers than in the past.



This year we tried a proactive recruitment program with a full color ad in the local paper, posters, and a brochure. Unfortunately, we received no new recruits. In talking to other volunteer coordinators that seems to be a common problem, people are just not volunteering for long term commitments. But we'll keep on trying.

Rangers Class of 2021

**Bob Huggins
Judy Huggins
Michele Zahner
Tom Lamkin
Greg Stein
Tony Hendey
Scott Liske**

We sincerely appreciate serving the community and respectfully submit our 15th Annual Report.

Bob Huggins, Program Manager
City of Sedona
Volunteer Park Rangers