



Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting January 2026

SOUTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- Washoe County Park Rangers harvested 60+ trees from Galena Creek Regional Park that were given to local families as part of the Christmas Trees for Special Families event.
- Washoe County partnered with KTMB to host a site of their annual Christmas Tree Recycling program. It ran December 26th through January 11th.
- The Come in From the Cold Series began at Bartley Ranch on January 10th with The Monday Night Volunteers and runs through March 14th

SOUTH REGION UPCOMING EVENTS

- The Astronomical Society of Nevada will be at the Galena Creek Visitor Center with a presentation from Mike Hopper, Friday January 23rd at 5pm. They will be looking at the brightest stars of Winter.
- Park Ranger will be leading a *Ranger Walk* at Bartley Ranch Regional Park. There will be a stroll around the ranch trails and he will highlight the artifacts and historic buildings that preserve some of the history of the southern Truckee Meadows.
- *Junior Ranger Day* will be hosted at Bartley Ranch Regional Park on February 7th. Attendees will learn about our local birds of prey and their impact on the Great Basin's ecosystem

NORTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- Washoe County Park Rangers hosted the annual *Christmas Trees for Special Families* distribution event on Thursday, December 4th, 2025, at Rancho San Rafael. Over 50 White firs were provided 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. An insect-themed program was hosted on January 14th.
- Washoe County and KTMB partnered to host a drop-off location at the Reno Sports Complex at Rancho San Rafael as part of their annual Christmas Tree Recycling program, which accepted trees from December 26th through January 11th.
- Park Rangers, along with the Parks Natural Resource staff teamed up to host a Maintenance Day at the recently renovated Sun Valley Bike Park on Sunday, January 11th. Staff and Volunteers installed signage and worked on various drainage projects aimed at making the improvements at the Bike Park sustainable.
- *Junior Ranger Adventure Day* was held in partnership with Animal Ark on Saturday, January 24th from 1-2:30PM at the North Valleys Community Center. Junior Rangers and their families interacted with live animals provided by Animal Ark and had an opportunity to build their own kestrel nesting box. The no-cost registration filled up within 2 days of posting!

NORTH REGION UPCOMING EVENTS

- *Ranger Walks* return with a Ranger-led adventure being hosted at Swan Lake Nature Study Area from 10-11:30am on Saturday, February 7th in partnership with the Northwest Nevada Bird Alliance (formerly the Lahontan Audubon Society) to observe and learn about the Tundra Swans and many different bird species. Free registration is live at WashoeCountyParks.com.
- Pah Rah District Park Rangers will host a safety-themed *Junior Ranger Adventure Day* at Lazy 5 Regional Park on Sunday, March 8th from 10-11:30am.
- Peavine District Park Rangers and the Discovery Room Volunteers team up to present *Discovery Room Crafts Days* from 10am-1pm both weeks of Spring Break, March 25th-27th and April 1st-3rd. This free program is supported solely by donations and the dedicated group of retired schoolteachers and hard-working Rangers who make it possible.