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Students Seek An Alternative
A few slots remain for a different kind of Spring Break

February 17, 2023 – College and university students from across the state are once again choosing an alternative to the noise and bright lights of spring break parties to spend their school vacations out in the solitude and star-studded skies of the desert landscape.

As it has for over a decade, Friends of Nevada Wilderness will again host students for Alternative Spring Break (ASB) to give them the chance to immerse themselves in nature. The five-day long experience will take place in the proposed Avi Kwa Ame National Monument at the southern tip of the state.

Students will be based at the historic Walking Box Ranch near Searchlight. They will camp under the stars among the Joshua trees and visit areas like the Wee Thump Wilderness, Spirit Mountain and Lake Mohave. ASB is designed as a service/learning experience. Participants will get hands on experience in conservation by improving the grounds at Walking Box Ranch, removing invasive weeds and cleaning up litter in Lake Mead National Recreation Area. They will also meet with public land managers to learn about the delicate natural environment and the value of conserving public lands.

“The goal of that program is to foster the spirit of stewardship in young adults by engaging them in beginner-friendly projects and providing training to help them feel confident in their volunteer abilities,” explained Grace Palermo, Friends’ Southern Nevada Director. “We’re so excited to be able to share the rich story of Avi Kwa Ame with these students and hope it inspires them as much as it does us.”

Friends provides tents, sleeping bags, and other necessary gear at no cost. Students will also enjoy delicious camp meals and desserts each night. New friends and life-long memories will be made.

Just a few slots are left for interested students and other young adults. Answers to frequently asked questions can be found here. View photos from the 2022 ASB here. Click here to sign up for the 2023 ASB! Space is limited.

Alternative Breaks are funded by the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership (SNAP), federal public lands agencies that manage more than 10 million acres of public lands and water in Southern Nevada. SNAP’s “Engaging Communities through Stewardship” project provides activities, including environmental education, stewardship events, and responsible outdoor recreation training designed to engage the local community in their public lands. ###
**About Friends of Nevada Wilderness**

Founded in 1984, Friends of Nevada Wilderness has helped protect nearly 3.6 million acres of Nevada’s wild lands by leading efforts in the expansion or designation of all 73 Wilderness areas in the state. Over the past twenty years, the Wilderness Stewardship Volunteer Program has generated over $3 million of in-kind services to benefit Nevada’s public lands. For more information visit nevadawilderness.org.

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**2022 Alternative Spring Break at Gold Butte National Monument**

Photo by Clarice Wheeler

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**The 1st ever Alternative SUMMER Break on Mt. Charleston last year**

Photo by Peter Sbraccia