

River ambassadors prepare for high water weekend

Environment | April 12, 2019

Submitted to The Union



As spring break kicks off this weekend for much of Nevada County, students and families are expected to head to the Yuba River to soak up the beautiful scenery and sunshine.

However, heavy snowpack in the Sierra this winter has created dangerously cold, high flows on the Yuba. It will be several months before it's safe to swim, according to a release.

Given these dangerous conditions, the South Yuba River Citizens League and California State Parks River Ambassadors will be making an appearance at the Highway 49 crossing this weekend to help get the word out.

"River Ambassadors are here to protect our river and our river community," said Daniel Belshe, SYRCL's community engagement manager. "On a warm, sunny day those emerald pools look inviting but the cold, high, fast flowing water can weaken even the strongest swimmers. We want to be present at the river this weekend to inform river-goers about the dangerous conditions."

From Memorial Day to Labor Day, River Ambassadors are scheduled at major river crossings along the South Yuba River State Park. This spring they will be promoting a message of extreme caution to help visitors stay safe. This year's high flows and cold water are a serious safety concern.

"We are needing more help from our community to keep the River Ambassador program going strong," said Belshe. "SYRCL and State Parks are seeking 40 volunteers to join the program for the 2019 summer season."

The next chance to become a River Ambassador will be on May 18 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the SYRCL office, 313 Railroad Ave, Nevada City. For more information visit <http://www.yubariver.org> or contact Andrea Tineo, stewardship coordinator at atineo@yubariver.org or 530-265-5961, ext. 212.

Source: South Yuba River Citizens League