

SYRCL River Ambassador training session scheduled

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The South Yuba River Citizens League and California State Parks have combined their efforts to create the River Ambassador program, including volunteers Theresa Huck (left) and Katie Nickels. River Ambassador training is set for Friday.

Recognizing that it takes a community to keep the Yuba clean, the South Yuba River Citizens League and California State Parks are hosting a River Ambassador training on Friday in Nevada City, according to a release.

SYRCL and State Parks are seeking 40 trained volunteers to join the program for the 2019 summer season. At the training, potential volunteers will receive a comprehensive overview of the River Ambassador program including "Leave No Trace" principles and techniques for effective public outreach and education.

This season, River Ambassadors will also be promoting a message of extreme caution to protect visitors. This year's high flows and cold water are a serious safety concern. River Ambassadors volunteer for four-hour shifts, three to five weekends throughout the summer.

Thanks to its stunning emerald swimming holes and picturesque granite boulders, the South Yuba River is one of the most visited attractions in Nevada County. Each year, the river attracts an estimated 700,000-plus visitors to the trails and sandy beaches of South Yuba River State Park. More visitors mean more coolers, more dog waste, more trash and a greater risk of fire in the dry canyon.

To address these issues, every weekend from Memorial Day to Labor Day, River Ambassadors will be stationed at popular Yuba crossings, informing visitors about river safety, the area's high potential for wildfires, the importance of recycling, and the harmful effects of glass, litter and dog waste on the river's wildlife and ecosystem.

KNOW & GO

WHAT: SYRCL and California State Parks' River Ambassador volunteer training

WHEN: 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday. New volunteers, please arrive at 5 p.m. with valid ID for paperwork and refreshments.

WHERE: 313 Railroad Ave, Suite 101 in Nevada City

This is the eighth season that SYRCL and State Parks are collaborating on this summer volunteer program.

Equipped with a smile, River Ambassadors model how to “Love the Yuba Like a Local” through education and friendly face-to-face social interactions. To become a part of the team, check out SYRCL’s volunteer training on Friday. Refreshments will be served, and all are welcome. For more information, please visit <http://www.yubariver.org> or contact Daniel Belshe, Community Engagement Manager at Daniel@yubariver.org or call 530-265-5961, ext. 201.

Source: South Yuba River Citizens League