The National Park Service has provided immersive outdoor education programs led by Park Rangers in partnership with DVNHA since 2008. The Death Valley R.O.C.K.S. (Recreation Outdoors Campaign for Kids through Study) program has received continuous support from generous donors like you since the very beginning. Thank you! This last season’s focus was Exploring the Impact of Geologic Forces on Endangered Species Habitat through STEM Field Trips. STEM programming uses Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math as teaching tools. Despite the season’s programs being cut short due to pandemic closures, the park’s education program facilitated both classroom visits and in-person field trips totalling 85 programs for over 1,900 students from California and Nevada. COVID-19 has ushered in the rise of virtual experiences to connect visitors to parks. We all know that programs cannot take place like before. Just like the learning that takes place in traditional classrooms, we must adapt. A new project is underway to provide live and pre-recorded virtual experiences in Death Valley National Park for a target audience of youth and their families. Programs will include curriculum-based education programs for online learning during the school day (focusing on geologic processes, mining history and Death Valley’s contributions to California) and Junior Ranger public programs during the evenings and weekends. This project will also enable popular family night sky programs to continue virtually. Planning is underway and the program will most likely launch in Spring 2021. Satellite internet dedicated to the education program, computers, software, and cameras are needed for a successful virtual park field trip. Rangers will start out testing and piloting both recorded and live sessions indoors and outdoors in the park! Lesson plans will be built around the experiences, so educators can facilitate activities before and after the programs.

Though Death Valley distance learning programs would probably be very popular on a national level, it’s the local communities, and the teachers who have brought their students for years that will remain a priority in receiving program services—helping maintain vital connections with teachers and students in Death Valley National Park’s gateway communities!
Hello everyone, greetings from sunny, but cooler Death Valley National Park! Yes, we are still here returning to some version of normal. Our bookstore is open and there are park rangers collecting fees and answering visitor questions. All of our campgrounds are open and so is Furnace Creek Inn, Furnace Creek Ranch, and Stovepipe Wells. You need to wear a mask when indoors and you should anytime you’re around people, but I bet you can find a spot somewhere in this 3.4 million acres to take it off and enjoy the peace and quiet you only get in nature.

Of course, all of us here at DVNHA are still working. As I write this, repair work is happening at Scotty’s Castle. All of the parts of the Welte-mignon Theatre Organ that you saw in the Scotty’s Castle video are being reassembled and installed. We are also working with the park to create a new virtual education program to increase the reach of our already amazing Death Valley R.O.C.K.S. program. We want to thank Rio Tinto Minerals for pledging support to make this new program a reality.

I’m sure you’ve noticed an increase in our social media presence. DVNHA staff member Danielle Wood is doing a great job making sure we are available to you on whatever platform you use. If you are not getting our monthly e-newsletter or following us on social media you are being left behind. What is the worst thing that could happen? You might get pictures of your favorite national park or advanced notice of events like our Scotty’s Castle Walking Tours or spring field school programs. So, go to our website at dvnha.org and look at all the great stuff we offer and sign up for the e-newsletter if you aren’t getting it already.

You might also notice a difference in our fundraising. For the near future we will be focusing on our unrestricted fund. This allows us to use donations for whatever is most pressing right now. If you still want to donate to other funds like wilderness or education you can, but please in this time of slow sales and unknown future allow us some flexibility. In fact, take a look at the incredibly cool sock appeal below and don’t be the only one in your family without a pair.

Take care and stay safe!

David

Inspiring Passion

Hug your feet in style with exceptional comfort built to last. Ultra-wicking fiber and super-soft yarn so your feet stay dry, cool, and comfy no matter how hard you play. A perfect fit every time on any foot, stretch to fit crew style socks with 6” cuffs come with a cooling mesh upper and double stitched heel and toe. They’re also made in the USA!

Donors contributing $100 or more to assist with DVNHA’s Greatest Need will receive these beautifully woven, limited edition socks as our special thank you for helping us this holiday season! Not available for retail, we’re putting in a special order just for those contributing to our unrestricted fund.

Help us inspire passion. It’s easy. Donate online and select the size of your gift.

Visit: dvnha.org/socks-for-giving

Unisex sizing: Small/Medium is 5 - 9 for men (Women's 6 - 10)
Large/X-Large is 9.5 - 13 for men (Women's 10.5 - 14)

Hurry, we need to place order! Offer ends January 10th.
*Socks anticipated to arrive in your mailbox by March.
You Belong Here

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has launched a new #YouBelongHereOutdoors campaign to help connect people to nature. They’re asking questions like: Do you feel at home in nature? and What does belonging in nature look like for you?

We all have different ways we feel connected to nature. It turns out that outdoor experiences and access to green space vary widely, among different people. Along with geographic location and economic status, health, age, race, culture, and family background are all factors. Setting aside lands is not only important for conservation—ensuring the access of all people to these lands is also important; it helps protect the lands by growing the conservation stewards of the future.

Five unique perspectives on what brings about a sense of belonging outdoors, from those who found their place among the outdoors can be found at: fws.gov/refuges/features/you-belong-here.html

Of course our specific partner site, Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge, is outdoors open for public enjoyment, year round, sunrise to sunset. Not only is it a photographer's paradise, it is a great place for birdwatching.

Visitors are encouraged to post their outdoor experiences to help others think about their own nature connections.

Share using the hashtag #IBelongHereOutdoors and/or #YouBelongHereOutdoors to further the conversation.

"Connecting people to nature...the message is not just: Come visit.
It’s also:
We’re listening.
What do you value in nature?
What makes you feel welcome?
What have been your experiences?"
Inspiring a passion for Death Valley National Park and Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge.

“Good luck finding the green.”