



Bouldering Boy Scouts make cleanup part of park visit

By Jené Estrada, Hi-Desert Star Jan 24, 2019



The boys of troop 3717 get their first taste of rock climbing on the boulders at Indian Cove Campground.

Jene Estrada Hi-Desert Star

TWENTYNINE PALMS — A group of about 50 Boy Scouts from the Temecula area traveled to the Indian Cove Campground last weekend for their annual trip to the desert. While Troop 3717 has been making this trip for about 30 years, they decided to make this time special and, in light of current events, use part of their time helping to clean up the park.

Troop mom and event organizer Gayle Hagegard said the group almost had to cancel the trip when they heard about the government shutdown affecting Joshua Tree National Park.

Their campground reservations were all canceled. They also had been following the news about problems with vandalism and trash in the park.

“We do this trip every year so it’s an important place to a lot of the boys,” Hagegard said. “This is the largest trip we do in a year and we have 50 boys, siblings and parents here with us.”

The troop got help from some of their friends at the Uprising Adventure Guides in Joshua Tree to coordinate new campgrounds. Once they had the go-ahead to come to the park, they decided to use a portion of their time to help with park clean-up.

While volunteers and rangers paid with reallocated funds have been cleaning up bathrooms, there’s still a lot of trash scattered throughout the national park, especially the areas most popular with visitors.

Hagegard said the scouts were shocked by this, as many of them have grown to love the desert, and were happy to do what they could to help.

“The troop volunteered for this and they’ve been using this weekend to pick up trash at the camping and picnic areas, along the hiking trails and more,” said Sue Cram, owner of Uprising Climbing Center.

Cram has a long history of working with Boy Scouts and met up with the troop on Sunday to get the kids scaling the Joshua Tree boulders.

“We’ve been here since 1999 and we work with a lot of different groups but we love working with the Boy Scouts,” Cram said.

(1) comment



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Just a correction...

Sue Cram's company is called Uprising Adventure Guides

<https://www.joshuatreeuprising.com/>

It was a super cool success! Sue has a very good staff.

Nice job!