

NAVAJO YES

TALES FROM THE TRAILS



Yá'át'ééh!

Hello readers! With NavajoYES programs & events in full swing, we are excited to share with you our Spring newsletter. This issue highlights our most recent projects as well as a look at what's ahead! Ahéhee'!

Diné Bike Project

NavajoYES shared over 100 bikes in the month of February!

We have hosted three Bike Exchange weekends thus far in 2024. This year we have received donations from the Aspen and Carbondale, Colorado communities, as well as Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Pictured: The team in Colorado. Zoel Zohnnie and crew, who travelled with two trucks and two trailers to retrieve the goods! Also pictured: Emily Marshall of Aspen, CO, and crew; who facilitated donation of 120 bikes, parts and accessories, clothing, helmets, and more.



Trails Conference 2024

NavajoYES hosted their 9th Annual Outdoor Recreation & Trails Conference in Navajo Nation Capital, Window Rock, AZ. The event featured presenters from Rail to Trail Conservancy, Revolution Rail Company, Navajo Parks & Recreation, and the Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren himself; along with many others!



Rail to Trail

Eric Oberg and Kevin Bell (*Rail to Trail Conservancy*) presented on Rail to Trail efforts across the country. They were able to have a meeting with Navajo Parks leaders and others. They also did a site visit of the former Black Mesa to Lake Powell Railroad. Their presentation touched on several topics, one being how they would like to support the vision of NavajoYES' Rail to Trail efforts.



Revolution Rail Company

Revolution Rail Company co-owner Robert Harte presented on rail bikes and entertained the idea of what that would look like on the former railroad. He also met with the Railroad Board and tribal parks staff.

Navajo Parks & Recreation

Navajo Parks hosted a gathering of park managers and admin, in an effort to promote trails and outdoor recreation on the Nation. Good times ahead in the tribal parks, with more trails and outdoor activities in the works.

ARPA Grant Helps Fund Benches Given to Parks for Trails:

NavajoYES provided 100 new park benches to Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park, Monument Valley Welcome Center, Little Colorado River Tribal Park, Four Corners Navajo Tribal Park, and Antelope Canyon

Next, NavajoYES will be providing exercise stations to Four Corners, Monument Valley, and Little Colorado River. In addition, picnic tables will be given to Four Corners, Monument Valley, Little Colorado, Asaqyi, and Lake Powell; all in an effort to support the parks.



NavajoYES Events:

Runners and riders from around the nation took on the challenge of our winter/spring events while taking in spectacular views across Navajo Country



LCR Half Marathon

The LCR trail races kicked off the Navajo Parks Race Series with an epic winter run on February 10. Ahe'hee to Karen Patterson and her awesome team at LCR for the hospitality and support; as well as Navajo Parks & Recreation, Grand Canyon University, NPS Ranger Kelli Jones, and Cameron Trading Post for helping make it happen!

MV Ultra

A big thank you to all the amazing volunteers for making the 10th annual MV Ultra a reality. Ahe'hee to Monument Valley Tribal Park and Navajo Parks for the hospitality! Kudos to The View, UNHS, Gouldings, the Navajo Rangers and MV Fire for the support! The new 50K and trail half courses received rave reviews from runners.



Chiltown Bicycle Classic

The Chil-town Bicycle Classic was the first event in the Tour de Rez Cup Series again this year. Kudos to Chilchibeto Chapter, Canyonlands Healthcare, Navajo County and all the awesome volunteers for the support in making the event a success. Ahe'hee!

Other Events & Programs

Antelope Canyon:

NavajoYES was one of the official charities of Antelope Canyon Ultra. We also hosted an aid station; while also supporting one of our own, Nealsa Curley.

Wilderness First Aid Course:

NavajoYES hosted another Wilderness First Aid course during the month of January with Paulson Bronston. The course was a two-day training and had a full and enthusiastic class. Participants came from various backgrounds; including parks and recreation personnel, Navajo Rangers, EMS, and community members.

School Visits:

In the days leading up to the LCR Half Marathon NavajoYES members, Tom and Rygie, paid a visit to the students of Cameron and Gap, AZ. While there, they spread the message of health, wellness, and family togetherness. Many more school visits are on the April schedule, as part of the Shiprock Kids Marathon program.



Larry Holiday

It is with heavy hearts, that we share the news of the passing of our good friend Larry Holiday. Larry played a big role of being the MC at many of our events around the Nation. He always brought many stories, knowledge, good humor, and smiles to each event. Larry will be missed but long remembered.



Highlights

NavajoYES' Rail to Trail efforts were highlighted in the Navajo Hopi Observer. Scan the QR code to read the story:



USAToday has nominated Shiprock Marathon as one of the best marathons in the country! We were ranked 10Best in 2024. The results of the nationwide survey will be announced on April 3.

Upcoming Events & Programs

- March 30 – Bike Exchange (Beclabito, NM)
- Spring – Ongoing work on Rail to Trail Route
- April TBA – Bike Exchange (Beclabito, NM)
- April – School visits around the Reservation
- April 6 – NavajoYES Board Meeting (Page, AZ)
- May 4 – Shiprock Marathon (Shiprock, NM)
- May 18 – Hashkeniinii Bike Race (Navajo Mountain, UT)
- June 8 – 12 Hours of Asaayi (Camp Asaayi, NM)
- June 2024 (TBD) – Wilderness First Aid Training (Monument Valley, UT)

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