

Nevada offering several First Day hikes

Nevada State Parks is offering a series of guided hikes led by park rangers and/or local volunteers as part of the nationwide First Day Hikes Program.

The Jan. 1 hikes are free and the park entrance fees will be waived.

Hikes in Northern Nevada include:

- Rock Point Mill Hike

Take a short walk through the remains of the Rock Point Mill and learn some of Nevada's early history, from the California Gold Rush to the development of Dayton State Park. Dogs are not permitted on this walk. This walk is less than one mile round trip, but it includes some short, rocky hills and stairs. Participants should wear sturdy hiking boots, bring water, and dress in layers for the weather. This walk should last approximately one hour. We will discuss the purpose of the mill along with some of Nevada's early history, including the California Gold Rush, and the gold and silver discoveries at Virginia City. Difficulty: Moderate

Meet at 10am. The Rock Point Mill is located across the highway from Dayton State Park. Participants should park in the northeastern corner of the Gold Ranch Casino parking lot.

For more info, contact Kim Zuch at 775.687.4319 or washoelake@hdiss.net.

- Fort Churchill State Park

This will be a three-mile, round-trip hike along the Nature Trail at Fort Churchill State Historic Park. Hikers of all ages are invited to be immersed in the beauty of Fort

Churchill in winter and learn about the area's rich history and abundant natural resources.

Dress for the weather (hats, gloves, and waterproof boots recommended), and be sure to bring water. In the event of severe weather, the hike may be canceled.

Difficulty: Easy. It will be from 1-4pm.

Meet at the John C. Fremont Picnic Area at Fort Churchill State Historic Park.

For more info, contact Kristin Sanderson at 775.577.4880 or bucklandstation@hotmail.com.

- Washoe Lake State Park

Hike through the sand dunes at Washoe Lake starting at 1pm. Difficulty: Easy.

Meet at the Washoe Lake State Park Equestrian Area.

For more info, contact Kim Zuch at 775.687.4319 or washoelake@hdiss.net.