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Death Valley National

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## **Death Valley News Release**

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## Death Valley National Park Volunteer Trail Crew Restores Telescope Peak Trail



The week ending August 18<sup>th</sup> a Student Conservation Corps (SCA) crew of volunteer high school students finished a three-week project working on the Telescope Peak Trail. The crew with members hailing from all parts of the country worked at elevations of 8,000 to 11,000 feet restoring the Telescope Peak Trail.

The longest trail in the park, the Telescope Peak Trail traverses the slopes below the summit of Rogers Peak, crosses the meadows and ridgeline of the high Panamints, ending at Telescope Peak the highest point in the park at 11,049 feet.

The SCA crew of six with two crew leaders was sponsored by a grant provided by the National Park Foundation with funding from the Nature Company. In March of 2006, Death Valley National Park was one of five parks across the country awarded Trail Restoration Grants by the National Park Foundation.

Trail work included the widening of dangerously narrow trail tread, the cutting and trimming of trees and brush and removal of rock debris along the length of the trail and stabilization of two of the switchbacks near the end of the trail.

Park superintendent JT Reynolds spent a rainy evening camped out with the crew near the Telescope Peak trailhead at Mahogany Flat Campground. He commented "I was impressed by the cohesive, fun loving group enjoying their experience in one of the park's and nation's most scenic areas. The trail work they accomplished will increase safety, please visitors, and last for years to come.

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