

## Weed Free Trails Volunteer Program Orientation

Saguaro National Park will hold its annual "Weed Free Trails" orientation on December 1, 2010. The goal of this program is to monitor the Park trails and remove network primarily through volunteer assistance. Weed Free Trail Volunteers monitor the trails for a suite of invasive species that threaten the Park's natural resources. Volunteers map the locations of these plants so they can be revisited in the future. If the patch is small enough volunteers will also remove the plants.

This is a great opportunity to help out your national park, learn about invasive plants and their impacts, and how to properly remove them. This is a fun program that gets you out in the park enjoying all that nature has to offer. The program is designed to be flexible and can conform to your schedule.

Over the past 3 years, volunteers have managed to successfully monitor all of the trails in the Rincon Mountain District below 5000' elevation for a suite of invasive plants. Thanks to the many long hours put in by dedicated volunteers, the trails are looking better and better every season, and the spread of invasive plants from the roads, to the trails, and into the wilderness has been greatly curtailed! We still need more help! The trails at TMD have received little attention and are in dire need of attention.

The one day orientation is a prerequisite for participation in the program, and will cover a wide variety of topics. A field training day will take place for those who wish to participate. The field training will take place approximately one week following the orientation. We ask that volunteers commit up to eight hours per month.

We ask that volunteers attend an orientation on:

- Expectations of NPS on volunteers
- Plant Identification
- Project parameters
- GPS training
- Outreach training
- Cultural training
- Radio training
- Safety Training

The details are as follows:

- When: Wednesday December 1, 2010
- Where: [Environmental Education Center, Tucson Mountain District \(West\)](#)
- Time: 8:00- 11:00 Classroom session  
11:00-12:00 Lunch (on your own; consider bringing your lunch because not many food establishments nearby)  
12:00-3:00 Field Session (cultural awareness training, plant identification, GPS training); some hiking required so where appropriate footwear

Please RSVP by November 24, 2010. Please contact Bethany via email (Bethany\_Hontz@nps.gov) or telephone (520-733-5187) to sign up for the "Weed Free Trails" orientation.

If you would like to get involved, please contact me or Irene Weber (Irene\_Weber@nps.gov) via email or telephone to sign up for the "Weed Free Trails" orientation. I hope to see you there!