



southern
utah
wilderness
alliance

SPRITUALITY AND WILDERNESS LEADER'S GUIDE

EVENT PREPARATION:



Set a date, time, and location.

Arrange for a room to fit the size crowd you are anticipating – not too big, not too small.

Contact the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance's outreach staff to learn the current status and local political circumstances regarding the protection of Utah's wild lands.

Publicity suggestions:

worship bulletin announcement; pulpit announcement; church/organizations newsletter and website; posters in high visibility locations within the building; posters in the community; press release in local newspaper; invite other churches/organizations.

Participant preparation:

suggest, but don't require an RSVP;
provide an advance copy of the Introductory Reading to each person who RSVPs and encourage them to read it.

Prepare sufficient copies of printed materials:

Introductory Reading; Utah wilderness map and description; "America's Red Rock Wilderness Act" description; volunteer pledge sheet.

Prepare the space:

sufficient seating; proper equipment (power point projector and laptop or dvd player and television); pens for writing; refreshments if any.

CONDUCTING THE SESSION:

Arrive early and make sure all necessary equipment is functioning properly and materials are available.

Distribute materials as people arrive. Begin on time. If appropriate to your group, offer a prayer.

Introduce the session by saying it will be divided into three segments: a) a discussion of the topics raised in the Introductory Reading; b) the viewing "Wild Utah: America's Red Rock Wilderness"; c) a discussion of steps the group can take individually and together in order to help protect Utah's wild lands.

If there are twelve or fewer present you may want to have each person introduce themselves by giving their name, saying a sentence about why they have chosen to come, and whether they have visited Utah's red rock canyonlands.

Initiate and guide the discussion by asking people to answer the questions contained in the Introductory Reading: Have you had a spiritual experience in a natural setting? How intrinsic was that wild place to your experience? Is it important to protect such places? Might efforts to protect wild places be an expression of your faith or spiritual experience?

Conclude the discussion in no more than 45 minutes from the announced starting time of the event. It is not required that all the questions be answered.

Show the DVD.

Explain the current status and local political circumstances regarding efforts to protect Utah's wilderness.

Using the volunteer pledge sheet as a guide, discuss what actions those in attendance want to take as individuals and together in order to help protect Utah's wilderness.

If a meeting with a local congressional office is to be sought, make sure a person is designated to schedule it and that a person or two are designated as the primary spokespeople. Plan similarly for any additional activities which people have decided to do as a group.



Encourage people to complete the volunteer forms and leave them with you.

Conclude the event no later than 1 ½ hours after the start time listed in the promotional materials.

If appropriate to your group, end with a brief prayer.

FOLLOWUP ACTIVITIES

Send copies of completed volunteer pledge sheets to your SUWA staff contact along with a report of how many people attended and what followup activities are planned.

Discuss, as needed, with SUWA staff regarding any questions or need for assistance that came up during the event.

Contact each person who completed a volunteer form and thank them.

Implement any plans made by the group.