Youth Outreach Report
Seeds of Stewardship (Southern and Northern Arizona)
& Gear Girls Programs
March – July 2020

At the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak in March, all youth outdoor programs were temporarily suspended until it could be determined that a safe working environment for staff, students and teachers was possible. Youth Outreach & Education Coordinators spent the month of March cancelling outings and stewardship projects, and communicating with schools and agencies we partner with.

Treven Hooker and Julie Polovitch dedicated the month of April to development of do-it-yourself environmental education activities that support school curricula, encourage youth to get outdoors with their families, and maintain a connection to the Arizona Trail. Each activity is centered around a specific destination on the Arizona Trail within close proximity to Tucson and Flagstaff. There are also ways for youth to share their observations and completed activities with other youth through social media.

Please review the Tools for Remote Learning online. These activities can be adapted to other locations and shared with youth and families throughout Arizona (and beyond). Attached is a sample of activities developed for grades 9-12 in northern Arizona.

Coordinators also distributed *Arizona Trail Junior Explorer Handbooks* to schools in digital and printed formats in English and Spanish.

Both Youth Outreach & Education Coordinators were temporarily furloughed on May 1 and are expected to resume work again on August 1. They will begin communicating with schools, teachers and administrators to determine the feasibility of resuming in-person programming for the fall semester.

If the ATA's youth programs are unable to continue for a variety of health and safety reasons and/or lack of interest from schools given the COVID-19 outbreak, Youth Outreach & Education Coordinator positions will be transformed to support our volunteer program; community outreach; wildlife monitoring project; administrative duties; and other tasks to support the ATA's core programs and projects.