

Project Summary
Rocky Mountains Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit

Project Title: Outreach to support Every Kid in the Park campaign and Urban Ranger Program

Type of Project: Technical Assistance/Education
Discipline: Interdisciplinary
Funding Agency: National Park Service
Other Partners/Cooperators: University of Utah
Student Involvement: yes
Effective Dates: 9/1/2015 - 12/30/2017
Funding Amount: \$54,566 [FY16: \$27,2831 FY15: \$27,283]

Investigators and Agency Representative:

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Project Abstract: University of Utah will recruit a graduate student to work with Timpanogos Cave National Monument (TICA) and the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program to identify and categorize the location of schools that could benefit from the *Every Kid in the Park* campaign allowing TICA to target outreach to schools located along the Jordan River and possibly other schools in the urban interface. A similar strategy will be used for the Urban Ranger (UR) program to target schools.

The intent is to support the UR program, the *Let's Move Outside: Play, Learn, Serve, Work Initiative* involving NPS, Salt Lake City (SLC), and the YMCA, and the *Every Kid in the Park* campaign. The focus of the UR program will be along the Bonneville Shoreline Trail and to areas it expands through 2016, such as the Jordan River Parkway Corridor that includes three counties across the populated Wasatch Front.

The graduate student, with assistance from TICA, RTCA, and the recipient, will develop an outreach program focused on *Every Kid in the Park* that would also be used for the UR program based on the identification and categorization conducted. The program will support the core curriculum adopted by the state Department of Education and local school districts.

The intent of this effort is to create and document an effective, sustainable, scalable park urban youth outreach model which can be used at TICA and replicated at other similar NPS units and as part of the UR program. Other existing NPS models will be examined and their successful components incorporated. Then programs and activities will be developed to increase awareness and participation with a range of park experiences at National Parks, or at close to home regional or local parks, which relates to the NPS *Find your Park* campaign. The goal for outreach programs is to promote NPS relevancy for the next generation. To this end, the intent is for the graduate student to develop, deliver, and evaluate indoor and outdoor classroom programs promoting park experiences. Ideally, the outreach program will combine a National Park experience with a pre and/or post trip to a classroom or local park outdoor setting and include evaluation of same.

Keywords: graduate student, youth, outreach, Every Kid in the Park program, Timpanogos Cave National Monument (TICA) and the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program National Park Service, University of Utah