

WELCOME TO ESWA'S VOLUNTEER WILDERNESS RANGER PROGRAM

Thank you for signing up to become a Volunteer Wilderness Ranger (VWR) with the Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance (ESWA)! We're excited to have you join our partnership with the USFS as we work to protect and preserve our local Wilderness areas. This program is a great opportunity for those who enjoy hiking, sharing knowledge with fellow Wilderness travelers, and want to join in supporting our hard-working USFS partners.

You can serve as a VWR in two different ways: As a Trail Patroller, educating people on our Wilderness trails about Leave No Trace principles, or as a Trailhead Host, sharing information with people about to hike into the Wilderness. In both roles, your role is to act as a goodwill ambassador for the USFS, providing a friendly face and a warm welcome to Wilderness travelers, and information about safe and respectful backcountry travel.

Below is some important information about our VWR Program:

1. **Welcome Call.** You will soon receive a phone call from a member of our VWR Committee to welcome you, learn more about you, and answer any questions you may have.
2. **Training Process.** ESWA's VWR training consists of three equally important parts, all of which are required to be completed before you become a VWR.
 - a. The live training will be held on **Saturday, Jun 6th, 2026** in Silverthorne from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. **You must attend this.** Details will be sent you closer to the date. If you cannot attend, please email Mike Browning asap at mfrowning1952@gmail.com.
 - b. In mid-May we will email you links to nine short videos you need to watch before the live training. They present fun and useful information that will not be covered at the live training but that is still very important. They range in length from 2 to 16 minutes and can be watched anytime you want before Jun 6th.
 - c. After the live training you will do a 3-4 hour patrol on a local Wilderness trail of your choosing with an experienced VWR so you can put what you have learned into action.
3. **Expectations.** ESWA spends a lot of time and money training you to be a VWR. In exchange we ask you to commit to do at least four patrols and/or trailhead host sessions each year. They can be on days, times, and Wilderness trails of your own choosing. You will learn at the trainings how to sign up for such patrols

and trailhead host sessions. Patrols are normally at least four hours long. Trailhead host sessions are normally at least three hours long.

We also ask all VWRs to be members of ESWA. The membership form can be found at <https://www.wild4eswa.org/join>. The uniform and supplies you will receive at the live training cost over \$75. Your donation helps offset this expense and supports ESWA's many other programs.

ESWA's VWRs are formal representatives of the USFS, answer questions hikers may have, and educate them about Leave No Trace principles and USFS Wilderness regulations. If you don't like interacting with others being a VWR may not be for you.

4. **Other Activities Available.** ESWA's VWR Program is our most popular program, but many other volunteer opportunities are also available, including:
 - a. Sawyers. Our sawyers help clear trails of the trees that fall across them each winter. If you are interested, send an email to glenn@hackemer.com for more information.
 - b. Llama Trips. Each summer ESWA runs four or five llama-supported backpack trips to do work deep inside our Wilderness Areas. These will be announced in our monthly e-newsletters you will start receiving.
 - c. Social Events. Each month ESWA holds a local social event to mingle, get to know each other, and make plans for outings. Details will be given in our monthly e-newsletters.

For more information about ESWA and its many other programs check out the ESWA website at wild4eswa.org., or call or email VWR Program Chair Mike Browning at 303-408-0995; mfbrowning1952@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING BACK TO OUR LOCAL WILDERNESS AREAS!