



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANLEY, IDAHO—The Sawtooth Society’s Austin Kraal Memorial volunteer program is gearing up for its third summer. The program is looking for new volunteers to join the growing number of people who are helping make the Sawtooth National Recreation Area an even better place.

The volunteer program was formed in honor of Austin Kraal. Kraal worked many summers in the Sawtooth NRA as a volunteer for the trail crew. He loved the Sawtooth Mountains for the peace and solace he found while working in them.

When Austin Kraal passed away in 2011, his parents, Kevin and Debi Kraal, approached the Sawtooth Society with the idea of starting a volunteer program in his honor. The program would give youth and adults alike the opportunity to spend time in the Sawtooth NRA while working on various projects to protect and enhance the area.

Since its inception, the program has grown every summer. Youth groups from Twin Falls, Ketchum, Boise and Emmett have traveled to the Sawtooths to build fences, plant shrubs, tear down barbed wire and clean campsites. Adults sacrifice vacation time for time on the trail clearing waterbars and down trees.

This summer is slated to be the largest effort yet. The Sawtooth Society hopes to find even more groups of people who want to give back to this incredible area.

“Anyone can be apart of the volunteer program,” Volunteer Coordinator Kelly Conde said. “There are projects for everyone. The program is a fun thing for groups of friends to do. It makes a great family activity or a way to introduce youth to the area.”

Conde said she is looking for groups in particular to participate in this year’s projects though individuals are also encouraged to sign up.

For those interested in learning more about the volunteer program, which projects are lined up for this summer, and how to sign up for a project, they can email Kelly Conde at kelly@sawtoothsociety.org.