



FINDING AID

Yellowstone Women's Organization Records 1968-1988

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HISTORY

The Yellowstone Women's Organization began in the early 1970s with the stated purpose to "promote harmonious relations among employees and their families, and to provide monetary assistance to recreational and other beneficial purposes." In the early years the organization was affiliated with the National Park Service Women's Organization (NPSWO), attending national conferences and providing requested statistical information about housing and the numbers and types of female Park employees and spouses at Yellowstone. The group also contributed to the national Park Employees and Alumni Association (E & AA), donating funds raised at lunches and other events to support an educational grant program of the E & AA.

The Yellowstone group organized a number of activity committees including housing, welcome, friendly shoulder, school board, and local directory, which published a list of Park residents along with birthdays, occupations, and children's names. In the later 1970s interest groups were formed for activities such as crafting, book review, gourmet foods, and cross country and downhill skiing. The group also organized a number of social events. The Yellowstone Teton Women's Lunch, which may have predated the organization, ran from 1968 to about 1980 and provided networking opportunities between the two parks. The location of the event varied between Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks. Other events included salad lunches, fashion shows, and dances. In the 1980s, a Spring Fling was coordinated that featured a more formal meal as well as a band. Funds raised from some of the social events as well as silent auctions contributed to educational funds, library furnishings, and in later years an American Cancer Society drive and the creation of a teen center in Gardiner's Scout House.

The group's name seems to have fluctuated somewhat with official records listing the following: Park Women's Organization (1977) and Yellowstone Area Women's Group/Organization/Association (1981-), where the latter word fluctuated regularly. The organization appears to have disbanded sometime in the late 1980s or early 1990s, possibly being replaced by or merging with the Yellowstone Federal Employees Association, which took over many of the social and employee assistance duties.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

YELLOWSTONE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION RECORDS 1968-1988

CATALOG NUMBER: MSC 084

VOLUME: 0.25 LINEAR FEET

DESCRIPTION

The Yellowstone Women's Organization records contain the administrative records of a social and beneficent association for women living in the area of Yellowstone National Park in the 1970s and 1980s. The records include minutes, financial reports, correspondence, membership and attendance lists, and event materials including contracts, financial records, and promotional materials.

The minutes date from 1975 to 1988 and include reports from committees, planning for social and fundraising events, and determinations on expenditures. Interfiled with the minutes are financial reports and correspondence, primarily documenting purchases and planning for the Spring Fling. There are also flyers, posters, and printed announcements for the various events. Sign-in sheets for attendees to the Yellowstone Teton Women's Lunch are also included. Meetings were largely held from September to April. There appear to be some gaps, but it is unknown if there are minutes missing or if meetings were not held. Finally, there is a treasurer's account book for 1985 to 1988.

These records document the development of women's organizations in the 20th century and provide insight into the social life and customs of living within a national park.

ARRANGEMENT

The collection is arranged by format and then chronologically.

PROVENANCE

Found in collection, 2000.

RESTRICTIONS: No.

ASSOCIATED MATERIALS: None.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

File Unit Nbr	Title
01.01	Minutes, 1968-1976
01.02	Minutes, 1977-1979
01.03	Minutes, 1980-1985
01.04	Minutes, 1986-1988
01.05	Treasurer's account book, 1985-1988