

March for Science

The March for Science stepped out April 22, 2017 and will march on. CBS News reported that *"It's been 47 years since the first "Earth Day" and today (4/22/17) it was observed around the world with a focus on science"*.

Even in Yellowstone National Park: a couple of very motivated women organized a March for Science effort on April 22 at the Visitor Center at Old Faithful. We were fortunate enough to be there to visit their booth. Some very good information was presented and there were petitions to support science-based decision making. There were well-informed people available to answer questions and encourage awareness of the importance of good science and use of it. A lot of people visited the booth and expressed concern about political manipulation of information and decayed political support of science. Over 200 people had signed petitions and notes to legislators etc. - and it was only 10:30 AM on the second day of the year that the road to Old Faithful was open for 2017!

We are all essentially dependent on and supporters of good science and the scientific method. We are all invested in improving and sustaining health, safety, life as we know it, and the things that support life and earth. We need the discipline of science and truth.

A March for Science web site (<https://www.marchforscience.com>) says that the *"March for Science has mobilized an unprecedented coalition of people committed to championing the role of science in supporting the common good. The Core Principles: Science that serves the common good; Evidence-based policy and regulations in the public interest; Cutting-edge science education; Funding for scientific research and its applications."*

The partners hosting the web site encourage all of us to *"contact friends, colleagues, neighbors and family members about the importance of advocating for scientific institutions and science-based policies ... encouraging them to engage their elected officials."*

"In the coming days, ask our leaders to listen to us as we talk to them about the value of science and tell them why we marched. We ask them to support priorities such as:

- *Sustaining and strengthening scientific integrity*
- *Using the best-available science to make policy and regulatory decisions*
- *Investing in and encouraging research and development in the public sector, and incentivizing investment in research and development in the private sector*
- *Supporting broad participation and access to diverse communities' talents and perspectives*
- *Facilitating open communication and collaboration between scientists and the broader public*
- *Encouraging scientists to take an active role in public life and policy*
- *Creating an environment that fosters a vibrant and diverse international scientific community*
- *Building capacity for science education that draws on best-available knowledge and instructs students in scientific practices."*

March for Science partners include the Society for Neuroscience, Union of Concerned Scientists, Carnegie Science, Intl. Federating of Professional & Technical Engineers, The Wildlife Society, National Teachers Association, National Farmers Union - and many other organizations (<https://www.marchforscience.com/partners/>).

Proving something, anything, as a true fact is not necessarily easy to do. Much more dangerous and expensive though is deception or failure to find and accept facts.

A few quotes in closing: *"When you believe in things that you don't understand; then you suffer; Superstition ain't the way, no, no, no" (Stevie Wonder); "Truth is hard, propaganda is cheap." (DaShanne Stokes); "Don't be deceived: it isn't words that make things real." (Marty Rubin).*

And back to Yellowstone National Park - Doug Smith (YNP biologist) uses this quote frequently: *"Supposing is good, but finding out is better" (Mark Twain).*

We encourage you to look into the March for Science and for facts supported by science and knowledge.

