Grand Canyon

National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior Grand Canyon National Park Arizona



Curriculum-Based Programs

September 2012 – May 2013



Greetings from Grand Canyon National Park

National Parks provide outstanding outdoor classrooms that support and enhance your learning objectives. Grand Canyon National Park conducts curriculum-based education programs using this remarkable landscape as a teaching tool.

Parks provide students with real-world examples of concepts they learn in the classroom. These activities encourage students to explore, experience, and engage in the learning process. Field trips take place along the rim of Grand Canyon—an inspirational backdrop. In-Class programs, Distance Learning and Teacher Workshops are also available.

All programs are aligned with National and Arizona Academic Standards. For additional details, visit www.nps.gov/grca/forteachers.

Program Offerings

Field Trips

Teacher Workshops

Distance Learning

•Ranger-Visit-To-Classroom

To Register

- 1. Fill out a form. All registration forms are available online at: www.nps.gov/grca/forteachers, or by calling 928-638-7931.
- 2. Once registration period opens, fax forms to 928-638-7691, or mail them to the address on the last page.
- 3. Wait for confirmation by mail.

Program Type	Dates Offered	Registration Begins
Fall Field Trips	Weekdays Sept. 19-Nov. 16, 2012 (no trips Oct. 8, Oct. 12, Oct. 26, Nov. 12)	7 am, Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2012
Spring Field Trips	Weekdays Mar. 20-May 24, 2013 (no trips Apr. 15-17, Apr. 24-25)	7 am, Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012
Teacher Workshops	Oct. 12-14, 2012 and Oct. 26-28, 2012	7 am, Wednesday, Aug. 22, 2012
Ranger-Visits-to-Classrooms	Variable (see schedule for details)	7 am, Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012
Distance Learning	Variable (see schedule for details)	7 am, Wednesday, Sept. 5, 2012

Cost

Programs are free to schools! A waiver for the park entrance fee is included. For schools with restricted travel budgets and at least 50 percent of the students receiving free or reduced lunch, travel grants may be available. Call for more information.

Group Size

Field trips are limited to 35 students maximum, and require a student to chaperone ratio of 5:1.

Field Trips

Grand Canyon fall and spring field trips focus on three major topics: Geology, Ecology, or Human History. Teachers can find a program for every grade from 3rd through high school. Programs usually last either five hours or two-and-a-half hours. Start times, length and target age-groups can vary: Please read the "special notes" section below carefully.

Geology Programs

Grand Canyon is one of the world's best-known geologic showcases. In this outdoor classroom students gain a greater understanding of earth processes, the scientific method, and the amazing science of geology. Distances listed are round trip.

Program Name	Grades	Length	Description	Start time	Special Notes
Dynamic Earth	3rd - 6th	5 Hours	Unravel the mystery of how Grand Canyon formed. Hike into the canyon to explore a fossil site and gain an understanding of how scientists determine environments in the geologic past. After, learn about the deposition of the colorful rock layers and explore the dynamic geologic processes that formed Grand Canyon.	9 am	1.5 mile walk, moderately strenuous, paved and un- paved trails, some rough and rocky stretches
Grand Canyon Rocks!	3rd - 6th	2.5 Hours	Focus on the rock layers and their depositional environments. Through hands-on activities, learn the geologic processes that formed Grand Canyon.	9 am or 1 pm	1.5 mile walk, moderate terrain, paved trail
Stories in Stone	3rd - 6th	2 Hours	Using the eyes of a paleontologist, discover fossils preserved in the rocks of Grand Canyon. Through close observation of the 270 million-year old Kaibab Formation, students record the fossils they find and interpret the environment in which the animals lived.	9 am or 1 pm	1 mile walk, moderate terrain, paved trail
Earth Explorations	9th-12th	2.5 Hours	Explore a fossil site and gain an understanding of how scientists use the geologic record to determine past environments. After, learn about the deposition of the sedimentary rock layers and explore the dynamic geologic processes that formed Grand Canyon.	9 am or 1 pm	1.5 mile walk, moderately strenuous, paved and un- paved trails, some rough and rocky stretches

History Programs

Grand Canyon's fascinating human history spans 12,000 years from the paleo-hunters of the Ice Age to today's visitors. The canyon has attracted people for many different reasons throughout time, making it an ideal setting for studying human survival and success within this spectacular landscape.



Program Name	Grades	Length	Description	Start time	Special Notes
Time Travelers	4th - 6th	5 Hours	Become an archeologist and unearth clues about Grand Canyon's ancient inhabitants. Sift for artifacts, explore ancient ruins, and climb the stairs at Desert View Watchtower to learn about the native peoples who shaped Grand Canyon's 12,000 years of human history.	9 am	Meet at Desert View Visitor Center, 25 miles east of Grand Canyon Village and Park Headquarters.
Rails and Tales	4th - 6th	2.5 Hours	While exploring historic Grand Canyon Village, discover stories of people who have shaped the park's pioneer history. Through scavenger hunts, activities and journaling, students learn about the changing ways people have valued Grand Canyon over time.	9 am or 1 pm	One mile, moderate terrain, paved trail

Field Trips

Ecology Programs

Grand Canyon's depth and size result in a remarkable variety of ecosystems in close proximity to one another, making it an outstanding place to study ecological concepts. Distances listed are round-trip.



Program Name	Grades	Length	Description	Start time	Special Notes
Life on the Edge	3rd - 5th	5 Hours	Using their senses, students explore the forest and rim ecosystems of Grand Canyon. Activities, games, and journal entries help students learn plant and animal adaptations. Make wildlife observations, search for evidence of animals, and learn the role of National Parks in protecting wildlife and plants.	9 am	2.5 miles, moderate terrain, paved trails and dirt paths
Eco Explorers	3rd - 5th	2.5 Hours	A shorter version of Life on the Edge for groups that would like a half-day program.	9 am or 1 pm	1.5 miles, moderate terrain, paved trails and dirt paths
Endangered!	4th - 6th	2.5 Hours	Grand Canyon provides a refuge for unique species and habitats, making it an incredible area to study biodiversity. Students will help rangers track the endangered California Condor, observe and evaluate human impacts, and understand the complexity of park management decisions.	9 am	2.5 miles walking along paved trails
Fire Ecology	7th - 8th	2.5 Hours	The forests of Grand Canyon rely on fire to stay healthy. A variety of activities, including visiting a recently burned forest, help students learn how destruction leads to creation.	9 am or 1 pm	1.5 miles walking along paved trails and dirt paths.
Battle for Survival	9th - 12th	5 Hours	Periodic drought, parching heat, blasting winds and winter snows conspire to threaten the survival of Grand Canyon's plants and animals. Students analyze two forest plots and discover the fascinating strategies animals and plants use to thrive in this harsh landscape.	9 am or 1 pm	2.5 miles, moderate terrain, paved trails and dirt paths

Human Physiology Programs

How does the human body adapt to the challenge of hiking? Into the Canyon requires two pre-field-trip visits to your classroom from a ranger to accomplish preparatory activities. During the field-trip, students hike 1,500 feet down the Bright Angel Trail then back up to the rim 3 miles round-trip.



Program Name	Grades	Length	Description	Start time	Special Notes
Into the Canyon	5th - 8th	5 Hours	Hike into the canyon on the Bright Angel Trail, 3 miles round-trip and 1,500 feet descent and ascent. Students measure pulse, breathing rate, and blood pressure before and after hiking to understand our body's physical responses to strenuous exercise. Learn how to have fun and stay safe while hiking outdoors.	9 am	Requires advance preparation, including two pre-visit classroom programs. Not recommended for people with heart or respiratory problems, difficulty walking or extreme fear of heights.

Ranger-Visits-to-Classroom

Would you like a ranger to visit your classroom? Rangers travel throughout Arizona and surrounding regions to conduct engaging, hands-on activities that support your course curriculum. In-class programs for up to 35 students focus on geology, ecology or human history. Assemblies are available for groups of up to 300 students, parents, and teachers.

Distance Learning

Do you live hundreds or thousands of miles from Grand Canyon National Park, but wish you could bring your class to the canyon? Why not invite a virtual ranger to your classroom? For schools with video-conferencing equipment, we offer geology and ecology-based educational programs via two-way conferencing over the Internet.

Teacher Workshops

Teacher workshops are designed to help you understand how to use the resources available at Grand Canyon National Park as a teaching tool in your classroom. During the workshop, rangers conduct activities related to the field trip programs we offer and to the classroom-based lessons plans available on Grand Canyon National Park's web site.

Contact Information

For information on education programs and teacher workshops:

School Group Coordinator Environmental Education Program Grand Canyon National Park P.O. Box 129 Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

Phone: 928-638-7931 Fax: 928-638-7691

E-mail: Anastasia_Roy@nps.gov

Web site: www.nps.gov/grca/forteachers





National Park Service Division of Interpretation, Environmental Education P.O. Box 129 Grand Canyon, AZ 86023

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