United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK
3225 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, NM 88220

School Fee Waiver Application Process and Requirements

In addition to the self-guided Big Room tour, ranger-led programs and activities are now available as part of the school fee waiver application process. Each program (aside from the cave tours) lasts approximately one hour. We will be offering programs both on-site (at the park) and off-site (for classroom presentation). Fees normally charged for guided tours (i.e. Kings Palace and Slaughter Canyon Cave) will be waived as part of this educational offer. Please note that size restrictions now apply for all school fee waivers.

As the programs are tied to New Mexico Benchmarks and Standards for Science, we are striving to help meet the needs of the classroom requirements. Therefore, school fee waivers are granted under specific conditions:

- Only accredited schools and organizations can apply for school fee waivers.
- The trip being conducted must be for educational purposes and must be related to a park resource. A trip in which the primary intention is recreation does not qualify.
- Detailed lesson plans (stating methods and materials, in-class procedures, goals and objectives) must be sent in with the application to show the relationship between your class curriculum and the park's resources.
- The *Visitor Rules* sheet must be read to all participating students. A signed copy must be attached with your application.
- The school fee waiver application and all required paperwork (a signed copy of the *Visitor Rules* sheet and letter of class curriculum) must be completed in its entirety to be considered.
- A school fee waiver is not approved until your school receives an approval letter from the park. Please bring this letter with you on the day of your visit.
- Adequate numbers of chaperones must accompany groups on fieldtrips with a minimum ratio of 10 students to 1 adult. Chaperones should be chosen responsibly and are accountable for students in their group. Groups arriving with an inadequate number of chaperones will not be allowed in the cave.

Should your group wish to apply for a school fee waiver, we require a three-week application processing time. Groups requiring a bilingual ranger will require a month's application processing time. Our application is available online at www.nps.gov/cave or can be sent upon request. For more information about programs and/or school fee waivers, please contact our Education Office at 575.785.3127.

Thank you for your participation. We look forward to providing you with educational programs at Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

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