Grand Canyon

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park

Field Trips Fall 2014 to Spring 2015

Grand Canyon National Park rangers conduct curriculum-based field trips using this remarkable landscape as a tool. Students engage in real-world exploration of concepts they learn in the classroom.

Trip Logistics

Fall trips run Monday through Friday, between September 17 and November 13, 2014.
Spring trips run Monday through Friday between March 18 and May 22, 2014.
(no programs October 13, 24, November 11, 14, April 7, 8, 9, 22, 23)

Programs are free to schools. A waiver for the park entrance fee is included. For Title 1 schools and tribal schools travel grants may be available. See online for details.

Each park ranger leads a group of up to 35 students. For schools bringing more than 35 students, if staffing allows it may be possible for multiple park rangers to lead separate groups simultaneously. Each group will have a 5:1 student to chaperone ratio, in addition to a lead teacher to act as assistant to the park rangers. Please submit a separate registration form for each group of up to 35 students.

Field trips are outside, weather permitting, and require walking up to 1.5 miles on paved and unpaved trails, as well as rocky terrain.

To Register

1) Fill out a form. All registration forms are available online at:
www.nps.gov/grca/forteachers.

2) Submit registration form by email to GRCAeducation@nps.gov, or faxing 928-638-7691.

3) Wait for confirmation by email.

Registration begins 7 am August 20, 2014.

Field Trip Name	Grades	Length	Description	Start time	Topic
Dynamic Earth	3 to 6	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	Geology
Grand Canyon Rocks!	3 to 6	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	Geology
Stories in Stone	3 to 6	2.5 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	Geology
Life on the Edge	3 to 5	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	Ecology
Eco Explorers	3 to 5	2.5 hours	A shorter version of Life on the Edge.	9 am or 1 pm	Ecology
Rails and Tales	4 to 6	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	Human History
Time Travelers	4 to 6	5 hours	Become an archeologist unearthing 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. Meets at Desert View Visitor Center, 25 miles east of Grand Canyon Village and Park Headquarters.	9 am	Human History
Into the Canyon	5 to 8	5 Hours	Hike into the canyon on the Bright Angel Trail, 3 miles round-trip and 1,500 feet descent and ascent. Students measure our body's physical responses to strenuous exercise. Learn how to have fun and stay safe while hiking outdoors. Not recommended for people with heart or respiratory problems, difficulty walking or extreme fear of heights.	9 am	Human Physiology/ Hiking Safety
Fire: Creator or Destroyer?	7 to 8	5 hours	Examining forest plots, comparing burned and unburned locations, collecting data and recording observations, students gain an appreciation for the important role of fire in this ecosystem.	9 am	Ecology
Earth Explorations	9 to 12	2.5 Hours	Through observing and analyzing fossils from Grand Canyon, students gain an understanding of how geoscientists use the rock record to determine past environments. Additionally, students will explore the dynamic geologic processes that formed Grand Canyon.	9 am or 1 pm	Geology
Chillin' out on Climate Change: High School Geology	9 to 12	5 hours	Grand Canyon National Park protects an outstanding record of climate change through time. Comparing the fossils found in three distinct rock layers, recording sedimentary structures and completing journal entries allow students to grasp natural climate change variables and relate this to human-induced climate change.	9 am	Geology
Battle for Survival	9 to 12	5 hours	Through analyzing forest structure, recording tree and soil data, observing evidence of wildlife and discovering the fascinating survival strategies of plants and animals, students understand interrelationships between the living and non-living components of the ecosystem.	9 am	Ecology