

# Grand Canyon

For Kids!

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Grand Canyon National Park



## Protecting the Park

With nearly five million visitors each year, Grand Canyon is one of the most visited national parks in the United States. Rangers, scientists, residents, Native American tribes, volunteers, and visitors work together to protect and preserve the park. *Stewardship* means taking care of the land and everything in it.

## Respecting Wildlife

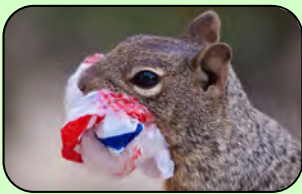
Many species of wild animals (also called *wildlife*) live at Grand Canyon. Deer, elk, birds, rattlesnakes, mountain lions, rabbits, squirrels, and others make their home there.



Elk can be dangerous to visitors who come too close.

Most visitors enjoy seeing wildlife. But sometimes people walk too close to animals, feed them human food, or leave trash on the ground that animals may eat. These actions can cause both people and animals to get hurt or become sick.

Respecting wildlife means keeping food away from animals, throwing trash in garbage and recycling bins, and staying a safe distance from wildlife.



Litter is not healthy for squirrels and other animals to eat.

## Cool Quote!

"Leave it as it is. You can not improve on it ... Keep it for your children, your children's children, and for all who come after you, as one of the great sights which every American ... should see."

- President Theodore Roosevelt, 1903

## Leave No Trace

The best way for visitors to protect Grand Canyon during their visit is to *leave no trace*. This means enjoying but not disturbing the park.



### Know Before You Go

Be prepared with food, water, sun protection, a map, and a plan.

### Choose The Right Path

Always stay on trails and sidewalks.



### Trash Your Trash

Throw trash in garbage cans and recycling bins.

### Leave What You Find

Leave objects where you find them for others to enjoy.



### Be Careful With Fire

Always watch campfires, and put them out completely.

### Respect Wildlife

Leave animals alone and enjoy looking at them from a distance.



### Be Kind To Other Visitors

Share the park with others.



The member-driven Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics teaches people how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly. This copyrighted information has been reprinted with permission from the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics: [www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org)

  
leave no trace  
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## Junior Rangers Protect Parks

Each year, about 30,000 children become Grand Canyon National Park Junior Rangers! Thousands more earn junior ranger badges at other parks throughout the United States, too.

Junior rangers help park rangers by:

- Cleaning up litter, watching out for wildlife, protecting what they find, and taking care of the park
- Exploring Grand Canyon and learning more about its geology, ecology, and history
- Bringing fun facts home to share with family and friends

To become a junior ranger, kids must complete an activity book, attend an educational program taught by a ranger, and take the junior ranger pledge.



### Grand Canyon Junior Ranger Pledge:

*I promise to discover all I can about Grand Canyon National Park and to share my discoveries with others.*

*I pledge to enjoy and protect Grand Canyon and all national parks and to be a friend to my planet Earth.*



## Learn More

Check out these cool tools to learn more about human history at Grand Canyon:

- [Listen](#) to “Explore, Learn, Protect” and other Junior Ranger songs
- [Find a park](#) that participates in the Junior Ranger program
- Become a [Junior Ranger](#) or [WebRanger](#)

## Create a National Park

National parks protect, preserve, and share American public lands that hold unique history, culture, beauty, and natural resources.

The National Park System includes more than 400 parks, monuments, seashores, wildlife preserves, rivers, and other lands nationwide.



**Sentry milk vetch, an endangered plant protected by Grand Canyon**

### Your challenge:

If you could create a national park, what would it be?

**Think** of your favorite park or natural area. Why is it special to you? Which plants, animals, fossils, history, or scenery does it protect?

**Draw** or **create** a new national park that has your favorite features. You can use colored pencils, recycled objects, clay, and other tools.

**Share** your creation with a family member, friend, or teacher.



**An endangered California condor soaring over Grand Canyon**

Look kids! It's a California condor. We can help protect condors by watching them from a distance and never feeding them.

