

2012 Grand Canyon National Park Celebrate Wildlife Day: May 19, 2012

Hi, my name is Ranger Ron Brown and today we're talking to Pat Brown and AJ Lapre, a couple of Park Ranger Interpreters here at Grand Canyon National Park. Hi Guys. Tell us what is going on.

Hi Ron, I'm Pat Brown, a Park Guide here at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center. On Saturday May 19, Grand Canyon National Park will host its fifth annual Celebrate Wildlife Day in conjunction with National Endangered Species Day. This is the special day each year that is all about promoting understanding and appreciation of the amazing wildlife that makes the Grand Canyon landscape its home. It is also a day to honor the work of biologist Eric York, who dedicated his life to the study of wildlife in Grand Canyon National Park and around the world.

That sounds great. Tell us about it.

Hi, this is Ranger AJ Lapre. Celebrate Wildlife day is a fun way to help park visitors learn more about lots of critters from fish to squirrels and even ravens and bison. We'll have presentations about things like wildlife management and tracking and get updates on how some of the most special species are doing. We will also be doing lots of different family friendly activities between 10 AM and 4 PM on Saturday, May 19 here at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center.

Activities sound like fun. Tell us about that Pat.

All of our activities are family friendly. We'll examine scat and tracks; there will be face painting and a bird outing. We'll even learn about radio telemetry tracking and see what is inside owl pellets. We'll have exhibits and touch tables with lots of opportunities to see and touch things like pelts and skulls. There will be more than just activities though. AJ tell them about our special presentations.

Sure Pat. Throughout the day we will have special presentations with park biologists and researchers as well as special guests. We have illustrated presentations planned

about the non-native bison on the North Rim and the native fish in the river including the endangered humpback chub. There will be programs about species as rare as our Mexican spotted owls or as common as squirrels and ravens.

Let's not forget the best part of all though. Arizona Game and Fish Department Wildlife Education will be here with live animals! You can get right up close and learn more about raptors and snakes, birds and mammals.

This sounds like a big effort.

It is Ron. We couldn't do this without our partners. Celebrate Wildlife Day is a collaboration between Grand Canyon National Park and partners including Arizona Game and Fish Department Wildlife Education, the Grand Canyon Association, The Peregrine Fund, Arizona Game and Fish Department Region 2 and 3, Xanterra Parks and Resorts, The Endangered Species Coalition, and Delaware North Companies Parks and Resorts.

Thanks Guys. We'll see you there.