



## Insider's Look at Grand Canyon

### Webisode #6 – Recycling at Grand Canyon village Post Office Transcript

**Patrick:** This is a podcast for Insider's Look at Grand Canyon. And here we are talking to the Postmaster General of zip code 86023. Which is not even close to Beverly Hills, it is Grand Canyon Village. I got Park Service folks and folks from the mail, and... Ma'am what do you do here at Grand Canyon? Your name is Rosie.

**Rosie:** Rosie McGee, I work for the concessioner, Xanterra, south rim and I do visual displays for the retail stores.

**Patrick:** Here we are, a whole crowd of people, but you happen to be coming in to get your mail. But you dragged into all this....but there is a reason, you started writing letters. What were your letters telling everybody?

**Rosie:** Well, I had asked the postmaster, here, why there wasn't recycling of the mail. Because everybody stands here and they throw their stuff, all the envelopes and all that. I didn't know it, but there is a program already in place with the post office. There was a pilot program that this is part of... So, I wrote some letters to the president, the congress, the senate, the senators, postmaster general in Washington, and the post office in Phoenix. I got some responses. They told me about the program, the pilot program that was already in place. I wrote back and said; "O.K., well why don't you put the national parks at the top of the list for rolling out to their post offices. Because of all the visitors and it can really send the recycle message to the world. Three days later, these things appeared.

**Patrick:** These great recycle boxes.

**Rosie:** So, the post master general apparently called the Arizona guy, the manager down there and they already had this in place so they sent them up here.

**Patrick:** Nice, nice, thanks!

**Rosie:** That is kind of the story of how it happened.

**Patrick:** Well, then once that came towards Grand Canyon, who did it go to next?

**Diane:** Basically, I am Diane Hanna I am an Environmental Specialist for the United States Postal Service, very much like what Rosie said. The letter came into the post master general. It went to the head of our environmental programs, Mike Fanning. Then it came to me. I had implemented the discarded lobby mail recycling program which we have branded as: Read, Respond, Recycle your mail. We started a pilot program in Arizona, and the Phoenix/ Tucson Metro areas. We've got about forty-two different facilities that are participating in it. This was just a really good opportunity for us to bring recycling up here to the Grand Canyon. It was a great partnership with the Park Service as well.

**Rosie:** You would be the person to ask; has this also been rolled out to other national parks?

**Diane:** Not yet, but we are working on that. That is something we are looking into in our next fiscal year. For fiscal year 2010. We are not exactly sure what our budget is going to be, but we are looking at different parks that we might be able to implement the exact same thing that we have done here at Grand Canyon.

**Rosie:** It just seems like a really good opportunity because of all the visitors and visibility.

**Dianne:** It is a great opportunity.

**Patrick:** Now, nobody is going to get away here. I am going to talk to the park service people then the post master here of Grand Canyon. So, could you two introduce yourselves?

**Ken:** My name is Ken Guillory and I do the operational aspect of the recycling program.

**Patrick:** For the park service?

**Ken:** Yes.

**Patrick:** O.K. and you?

**Deirdre:** I am Deirdre Hanners and I am the Environmental Protection Specialist at the park, so I work with the environmental management system and the Green Team.

**Patrick:** Nice, o.k. so you could each tell us maybe a little bit of your role in making this happen?

**Ken:** OH BOY! Diane wrote me some letters basically. E-mails, phone calls, we played e-mail tag and voice mail tag for weeks until finally this came together. It was just a lengthy process and because of the President's visit. kind of interrupted things for a bit, but today is the end result of that.

**Patrick:** Nice, and Deirdre?

**Deirdre:** Kind of along the same lines. Maureen Oltrogge actually contacted me and said: "There is some really great opportunities with the Postal Service to get out the message about recycling and the partnership between the Park Service and the Postal Service." I made a phone call and Ken made lots of phone calls and we have been talking ever since, so here we are.

**Patrick:** This is great! And now, last but not least the Post Master General of Grand Canyon National Park for Grand Canyon village. Most folks don't know that, sure we get four million visitors a year and as a national park we are supposed to be serving people, but there are like 2,000 people in our community, sometimes more and you have to service those folks. Could you tell our audience your name and how this is affecting the post office now?

**Kent:** Yes, my name is Kent Boyak, I am the Post Master here at the Grand Canyon. Now, like you said we have approximately 2,000 permanent residents and more then that during the summertime. And we have a lot of mail volume that comes to the post office here at the Grand Canyon. We discard a lot of mail. We found that our trash collection bins have been full for years, since I have been here. This will be a good program. It will eliminate the amount of trash that is going to the landfill and it will increase the awareness for not only the residents, but also the visitors here at the Grand Canyon for recycling.

**Patrick:** Well, that's terrific! You know at national park we are supposed to set an example, we have bio-fuels here, hybrid cars, and we are even encouraged to ride our bicycles here, but I want to thank all you folks for all of your hard work in making this happen and thanks for joining us on Insider's Look at Grand Canyon!

**All:** Thank you...