



Insider's Look at Grand Canyon

Webisode #30 – Archaeology Day 2010 with Ranger Libby Schaaf Transcript

Ranger Patrick Gamman: Welcome to another webisode of Insider's Look at Grand Canyon. I'm Ranger Patrick and I am here with Ranger Libby and we are here to talk about an exciting upcoming event in March.

Ranger Libby Schaaf: Hello Ranger Patrick, I'm Ranger Libby and I am happy to tell you March is Archaeology Month throughout the whole state of Arizona. Grand Canyon National Park will celebrate Archaeology Day on Saturday, March 27th at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center.

Patrick: So Libby, why do we celebrate Archaeology Day here at the Grand Canyon?

Libby: Native people have lived in the Grand Canyon area for thousands of years and have left behind clues about their lives. The oldest artifacts are from the Paleo-Indian period and are nearly 12,000 years old. Did you know that Grand Canyon has over 4300 archaeological resources with nearly 4% of the park surveyed? This gives us just a small glimpse into the vast extent of human history of the area.

Patrick: Well Libby, what will be happening at Grand Canyon for Archaeology Day?

Libby: We will be celebrating with hands on activities for all ages at the Grand Canyon Visitor Center from 11 am to 4 pm on March 27th. You can join a ranger to make a split-twig figurine, similar to artifacts that have been found throughout remote caves of Grand Canyon. These split twig figurines are similar to the shape of a deer or perhaps a bighorn sheep and are thought to be a hunting talisman. You could also make a pinch pot out of clay and compare your work to thousand year old pots which were used for cooking, serving or storing food. Obtaining and preparing food used to take a lot more time for people of the past than it does for us today. If you want to pretend to be a modern archaeologist, you can participate in the artifact sifting activity. When you find bits of archaeological evidence, perhaps you can discover what they are and what they were used for.

Patrick: That sounds like fun, but what else is happening to celebrate Archaeology Day?

Libby: On Archaeology Day, March 27th, there will be a special evening ranger program with park guide Jennifer Onufer who assisted with an archaeology project along the Colorado River in Grand Canyon last spring. Jennifer will describe her first hand experience of the complexity of preserving a delicate park resource in a challenging environment. On the previous day, Friday March 26th, park archaeologist Ian Hough will be giving an illustrated program (as the evening program) about the people of Grand Canyon's past and he will be available to answer questions. The evening programs take place at 7:30 pm at the Shrine of Ages Auditorium which is on the Village Shuttle bus route near parking lot A.

Patrick: Well Libby it is so great that you came here to be on the show and share the exciting news about archaeology day, but do you have any final thoughts for our listeners?

Libby: As visitors take part in these activities, we hope they will reflect on how Grand Canyon has been and remains a homeland and a sacred place to a number of American Indian cultures and it offers us an opportunity to consider the powerful and spiritual ties between people and this amazing place. Grand Canyon National Park preserves not only spectacular scenery but also a connection to our human heritage.

Patrick: Well folks, thanks for joining us here on Insider's Look at Grand Canyon. We hope to see you at Archeology day here at Grand Canyon, March 27th, 2010.