

Grand Canyon National Park Update, September 16, 2009
Evening Star Talks and Special Programs by Rangers Mike Weaver & Emily Davis

Good morning all this is Ranger Mike and Ranger Emily with a look at early fall here at the Grand Canyon.

Well, summer is pretty much over and that means the kids are back in school and most of the crowds have thinned- not disappeared mind you, just died down a bit.

The temperatures are also changing for the better, a beautiful 70 degrees during the day, and still quite hot in the inner canyon, mostly around 90 or so, which means care still needs to be taken when venturing below the rim.

Although daytime temperatures are pleasant, night time will seem quite crisp and cold for most of you with the temps in the mid 40's. Remember to pack your coats!

The fall season also means a change in the activities on the rim. Although we offer fewer ranger programs, the talks and walks we present are, as always, educational and entertaining.

We present two of our best-attended programs when most of you probably don't really want to be on the rim - after the sun goes down. For three days around the full moon rangers lead a nighttime walk on the rim trail. When the sky is at its darkest, new moon, rangers also present a star program.

As the canyon literally lights up during full moon, rangers will lead you on a walk along the rim. There is no telling what you might see - with the increased light the animals are very active and the eerie shadows make for a very exciting stroll.

Because of its high, dry climate and relative isolation, Grand Canyon is one of the darkest places on earth with more stars than most people will see in their entire lives. Rangers, including the two of us- Ranger Mike and Ranger Emily- will take you on a tour of the night sky.

This weekend, September 17th, 18th, and 19th, Grand Canyon Park Rangers will meet visitors at Mather Point for star talks. Mather Point's location and the jet black sky make this an excellent location to hear the stories and science behind constellations, planets, galaxies, and the universe.

Occasionally, visitors can even see satellites and comets zooming far overhead! So join us this fall and discover how the canyon changes after the crowds thin out for one of our favorite seasons here at the canyon.

Thanks for listening. We look forward to seeing you on a starry night!