

# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve  
11500 Highway 150  
Mosca, Colorado 81146  
Phone 719-378-6352 Fax 719-378-6310  
Revenue and Fee Manager: sharyl\_cyphers@nps.gov



## Educational Entrance Fee Waiver

National Park Service (NPS) regulations allow school groups and other *bona fide* national and international educational institutions to obtain a waiver of park entrance fees, provided that the visit is for educational or scientific purposes, and the resources or facilities the group proposes to use support those purposes.

Educational fee waivers are not granted automatically. Applicant groups must show they qualify for the waiver. There are three criteria the group must meet to qualify for an educational fee waiver: eligibility, educational purpose, and relevance of park resources or facilities.

### 1. Eligibility

Applicants must prove they are a *bona fide* educational or scientific institution by presenting one of the following types of documentation:

- A statement confirming educational or scientific tax-exemption, from the IRS or the applicant's national, state, or local tax authority; or,
- A statement, from a bona fide educational institution meeting one of these eligibility standards, confirming that the group is visiting for the purpose of providing transferable educational credit based on a curriculum; or,
- A statement of accreditation, or recognition as an educational institution, from a qualified national, regional, state, or local authority for the applicant's location.

### 2. Educational Purpose of the Visit

Applicants must provide a written statement confirming that the visit supports a specific curriculum for which academic credit is offered.

### 3. Relevance of Park Resources or Facilities

Applicants must provide a written statement identifying the park resources and/or facilities that will be used to support the educational purpose of the visit, and how they are relevant to that purpose.

For office use only: ACCEPTED

DENIED

MORE INFO NEEDED

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To apply for an educational fee waiver, complete the enclosed application and be sure to include the following:

1. Attach current, official documentation of recognition as an educational institution by a federal, state or local government entity, or other evidence attesting to educational status (e.g. accreditation letter, tax exemption status).
2. A written statement confirming a direct relationship between the visit purpose and the use of the Park. The visit must be to study some aspect/resource specific to the Park. A general statement to the effect that the visit is for "educational purposes" is insufficient by itself. An explanation of what the educational purpose entails and how it is related to Park resources is required. (Course outlines, lesson plans, or a copy of the curriculum meet this requirement).
3. A written statement confirming that the visit supports a specific curriculum for which academic credit is offered.

*Organizations that are generally considered service, civic, or fraternal, e.g. Scouting, Rotary, Elks, etc. do not qualify for the education fee waiver unless the group meets the applicable criteria above.*

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DENIED

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**Please fill out completely. Fax or mail to address above.  
IMPORTANT: Applications must be received at least 2 weeks before the school visit.**

Name of school: \_\_\_\_\_

Address of school: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

Name of Sanctioning School Official (i.e. principal, superintendent): \_\_\_\_\_

Group Leader / Trip Organizer: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Date(s) of visit to the park: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade level(s) of students: \_\_\_\_\_  
m/d/y m/d/y

# of students: \_\_\_\_\_ # of school employees: \_\_\_\_\_ # of volunteers/chaperones: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you scheduled a ranger-guided program? YES NO NOT YET

**For college courses:**

Course #: \_\_\_\_\_ Credits received for course: \_\_\_\_\_

Catalog description (can send a photocopy): \_\_\_\_\_

**For K-12:**

Lesson plan or outline to describe how your visit relates to the study of resources at Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve (ex. geology, lessons on plant and animal adaptations, wilderness study, etc.)

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