



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Montezuma Castle  
National Monument

P.O. Box 219  
Camp Verde, AZ 86322

928-567-5276  
FAX 928-567-3597

---

## Montezuma Castle National Monument News Release

September 25, 2009

For Immediate Release

Contact: Ed Cummins, Chief Ranger, 928-567-3322, x 27

### MONTEZUMA CASTLE NATIONAL MONUMENT AND NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION LAUNCH 2009-2010 FIRST BLOOM PROGRAM

#### Nationwide Program Connects Local Youth with Parks, Teaches Conservation and Stewardship

(Rimrock, AZ, Sept. 25, 2009) – Montezuma Castle National Monument will host a kick-off event for its [First Bloom](#) program as part of the national celebration of the parks Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>. First Bloom is a [National Park Foundation](#) program that connects kids between 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grades to nature and national parks. There are 26 parks across the country participating in First Bloom, which will run from September 2009 through June 2010. The Central Arizona Boys and Girls Club and the Yavapai-Apache Nation are partners in this First Bloom project with the park.

Montezuma Castle National Monument's First Bloom kick-off event will include introducing the participant kids from the Central Arizona Boys and Girls Club and the Yavapai-Apache Nation to Montezuma Well and teaching the kids about native plants. The event will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at noon, and will feature ceremonial blessings from the Yavapai-Apache Nation for the future pollinator garden that the kids will plant during the First Bloom project.

First Bloom participants will meet with park rangers monthly throughout the program year. They will engage in outdoor, hands-on activities and learn to appreciate the outdoors and their national parks. Toward the end of the program, the youth will plant a native pollinator garden landscape at Montezuma Well. That landscape is a lasting connection for those youth, an important learning experience, and a feature that all future visitors to the park will enjoy.

For more information on First Bloom, including teacher resources, photos of other projects, games and other interactive tools for students, please visit [www.first-bloom.org](http://www.first-bloom.org).

For more information on the Montezuma Castle National Monument event please call Sharon Kim, Chief of Natural Resources, at 928-649-6196.

For more information about First Bloom and the National Park Foundation, please visit [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org)

-NPS-