



## Dunes Life Puppet Theater

### *Shows Available*

### **Pedro Ponders the Past**

*Pedro Ponders the Past* is a one act puppet skit on the geological history of White Sands National Monument written by Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Joplin J. Sell. The show lasts approximately 45 minutes and follows a new park ranger as she prepares for her first Sunset Stroll. The new ranger learns about the unique geological formation of the dunefield, the importance of water to the dunes, plants, animals, and people who have lived in or around White Sands National Monument.

Appropriate for grades K-3.

#### *Summary:*

A new ranger is very nervous about giving her first Sunset Stroll but with the help of Pedro the packrat and several of his animal friends, she comes to learn all about White Sands National Monument. Pedro helps her understand the formation of the Tularosa Basin and later the formation of the unique gypsum dunefield. Matilda the Camel tells the new ranger all about the ancient animals that once roamed the area. Bubo the Burrowing Owl explains why water is so very important in the dunes. Tula the Tarantula helps the ranger understand the significance of insects and how they benefit plants. Gypsy the Cottontail Rabbit describes how plants are not only important to the dunefield but also to animals and people. Finally, Andres the Coyote explains how people have lived in or around White Sands National Monument for thousands of years. With the help from Pedro the packrat and all of his friends, the new ranger feels confident that she can give an excellent Sunset Stroll.

### **Dreams of Adaptations**

*Dreams of Adaptations* is a one-act puppet skit on animal adaptation at White Sands National Monument written by Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Joplin J. Sell. The show lasts approximately 30 minutes and follows the adventures of a young Mescalero Apache boy as he encounters the secrets of the dunefield and learns how the animals have adapted to this unique desert environment.

Appropriate for grades K-3.

#### *Summary:*

A young Mescalero Apache boy named Chato is sent on a quest by his grandmother into the gypsum dunefield to return with the pelt of the elusive Kit Fox. Chato has difficulty finding a kit fox but encounters a magical great horned owl named Gustavo. Gustavo places a spell on Chato turning him into an apache pocket mouse and challenges him to survive one night in the dunefield or never return to being a boy. Chato is very upset and afraid of being alone in the dunes, especially as a small mouse. As night falls, he realizes he is not alone and with the help of Coneja the Desert Jackrabbit, Leopold the Horned Lizard, Corvina the Chihuahuan Raven, and even Zorro the Kit Fox, Chato not only survives the night in the dunefield but learns how each of them thrives in their desert home.