

Grand Canyon Field Institute  
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Grand Canyon Field Institute Announces 2009 Program

If you measure your vacation's success by its departure from the ordinary, then a "learning" vacation at Grand Canyon's mile-deep gorge may score off your chart. From scenic day hikes to whitewater rafting, Grand Canyon Field Institute (GCFI), working in partnership with the National Park Service, shares the rich cultural and natural history of North America's premiere destination with participants of all ages. GCFI's mission is to enhance understanding and appreciation of Grand Canyon through education-based, hands-on experience. Utilizing the world-famous canyon as the "ultimate classroom," their expert instructors cover topics such as geology, ecology, botany, hydrology, orienteering and photography. GCFI Director Mike Buchheit points out that Grand Canyon National Park plays host to over four million visitors annually, and that most flock to congested scenic overlooks and the upper stretches of the more heavily traveled trails. The majority of visitors leave one of the "crown jewels" of the national park system with a handful of memories and a few photographs. "What we offer are small classes that take participants to intriguing destinations," said Buchheit. "Our knowledgeable instructors are uniquely qualified to unveil the canyon's secrets and make the experience intimate and unforgettable." One of the most popular classes is the "Learning & Lodging" package. Conducted in partnership with Xanterra Parks & Resorts, this package includes two nights lodging, most meals, and two full days in the field with a GCFI instructor on Grand Canyon's majestic South Rim. GCFI programs are conducted year round, and are limited in size. Class fees vary. For more information call GCFI at (866) 471-4435, visit their Web site at [www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute](http://www.grandcanyon.org/fieldinstitute), or write to GCFI, P.O. Box 399, Grand Canyon, Arizona 86023. GCFI is a program of the Grand Canyon Association, a non-profit cooperating association that supports education and science at Grand Canyon National Park.