Helping Kids Connect with the Canyon

Field Institute Launches 2019 Season

Park Skies Are Darker!

Preserving Colorado River Heritage
FROM THE CEO

Sharing the Canyon

Remember the first time that you saw Grand Canyon? Can you recall its immensity? Its stunning palette of colors? The way its grandeur made you feel?

For far too many, such a formative experience is simply not possible—even for families living within only a few hours of the park. But thanks to the generosity of friends like you, Grand Canyon Association is supporting park efforts to change that.

Grand Canyon’s history is astoundingly rich. From Ancestral Puebloans, to early Spanish explorers, to the 11 American Indian tribes traditionally associated with the area—numerous peoples have been drawn to the canyon’s glowing walls, its myriad plants and wildlife, and its watery life force, the Colorado River.

In this issue of Canyon Views, you’ll learn how you support education and outreach at Grand Canyon National Park—especially for young people whose histories are inextricably tied to this sacred place.

The Canyon Field School, with key support from our Grand Canyon Association Field Institute, is enabling youth—from diverse groups—to see Grand Canyon for the first time. High school and college students are leaving the Canyon Field School inspired and, as you’ll read inside, ready to dedicate their careers to safeguarding this national treasure.

Next year, we celebrate an incredible milestone. Grand Canyon National Park, one of the world’s premier parks and most recognizable landscapes, turns 100! As you contemplate this once-in-a-lifetime moment—and the many things you love about the park—please consider making a gift that will allow others to share in the joy of this extraordinary place…for years to come!

Susan E. Schroeder
CEO
Igniting New Passions

With your support, diverse youth from across the country are connecting with the Grand Canyon—and embracing their role as the park’s next stewards.

The Canyon Field School is forging life-changing introductions: it’s bringing students from different backgrounds and cultures together—most of whom have never been to the park—and sharing the many wonders of the canyon. There, among the tan, orange, and pink layers of ancient history, students are learning about nature, meeting new friends and, in some cases, setting their sights on careers that will ensure the beauty and magnificence of Grand Canyon National Park are protected for generations to come.

Thanks to a start-up grant from the APS Foundation, the Canyon Field School, originally spearheaded by the National Park Service (NPS), is currently being reimagined and expanded through an innovative new partnership. In tandem with NPS interpretive rangers, the school will focus on immersive overnight, multi-day and week-long experiences at the canyon for students in fifth through twelfth grades. The Grand Canyon Association Field Institute, with its 25 years of experience leading outdoor programs, will also reignite its mission to serve a broad base of canyon explorers.

Reaching kids in the great outdoors

The Canyon Field School envisions a future where all young people who want to discover and experience Grand Canyon National Park can do so. Unfortunately, that’s not historically been possible for many of the Southwest’s children and teens, even those living only three or four hours from the park’s southern entrance.

“At the start of the week, we always ask our students if they’ve ever been to Grand Canyon before,” says Allison Amavisca, Canyon Field School manager. “We’re finding out that only about one in ten kids has.”

Mike Buchheit, who directs the Field Institute, says the Canyon Field School would like to see youth from underserved communities comprise at least 50 percent of the program’s participants. This includes youth from Native American tribes, Hispanic communities, and urban centers like Phoenix and Tucson. For instance, the APS grant enabled children with the Tucson Boys and Girls Club to visit Grand Canyon for the first time this summer. When fully-realized, the Canyon Field School would also like to extend enrollment to youth across the country, through scholarships made possible by GCA supporters.
By reaching out to such diverse audiences of youth, the Canyon Field School aspires to the loftiest and most meaningful of NPS goals: to grow the next generation of committed Grand Canyon caretakers. “Ultimately,” says Andy Pearce, an interpretive ranger at the park, “our hope is to create future stewards of the canyon, or at least, young people who will connect in some way with this incredible place.” And Canyon Field School participants are already doing that. “Our programs are proving especially meaningful for kids whose ancestors have direct ties to the canyon,” says Allison. Stories about Spanish explorers in the canyon resonate deeply with young Hispanic-Americans.

“And getting to take tribal youth down the Bright Angel Trail,” says Allison, “to show them inscriptions on the rock walls that their own ancestors may have created, provides a deep connection to the landscape that would be hard to replicate elsewhere.”

Students discover for themselves
Of course, it’s a goal of the Canyon Field School to teach students about the canyon’s world-renowned geology and ecology, as well as its diverse human history. And through your support of the school, students also gain important environmental literacy, like how to use reusable water bottles and carefully throw away and recycle their trash.

But a major intention of the school, says Allison, is to let young visitors learn experientially, freely, and on their own terms. So instead of studying books and specimens to learn about geology, students with the Canyon Field School hike down inside the canyon where they can touch rock layers formed and carved out millions of years ago. There, the rocks, through their curious colors, fossils, and preserved footprints and carvings, tell powerful stories of the rise and fall of oceans and continents, the evolution of plants and animals, and the ancestral peoples who once called the canyon home.

Future caretakers
Canyon Field School students learn how they can give back to their national parks—through volunteering, or a career with NPS. This past July, for instance, high school graduates with the Native Conservation Crew, a group of local Hopi and Navajo youth, learned about the wide range of jobs within the NPS.

“Most are familiar with park rangers,” says Allison, “but many were surprised to learn that there are archaeologists, biologists, and a variety of artists who also work for Grand Canyon National Park.” The students also got to meet with the Park’s Emergency Medical Technicians and search-and-rescue rangers who provide lifesaving services to visitors in need.

It’s evident that such opportunities are helping lure enthusiastic young people to the canyon. After a session this past July, Iverson, a young man from the Hopi Nation, declared, “I’m definitely joining the Park Service!”

With your support, Grand Canyon Association hopes to provide even more scholarships for enthusiastic youth who are finding their roots—and bright futures—in the awe-inspiring place that is Grand Canyon.

To learn more, or to make a gift to support the scholarship fund at Grand Canyon Field School or other youth education programs at Grand Canyon National Park, please contact our Chief Philanthropy Officer, Ann Scheflen, at (928) 863-3876 or ann@grandcanyon.org.
Since 1993, the Grand Canyon Association Field Institute (GCAFI) has been engaging park visitors in the natural, historical, and cultural wonders of Grand Canyon. By sharing the expertise of our seasoned team of geologists, biologists, archaeologists, historians, artists, and National Park Service resource specialists, we are committed to helping visitors find adventure, new knowledge, and inspiration at the canyon.

We can’t think of a better way to celebrate Grand Canyon National Park’s Centennial than to participate in a world-class educational adventure. Over 3,000 participants of all ages will attend a program or two in the coming year, embarking on a once-in-a-lifetime watery trip down the Colorado River, touching rocks that predate life on our planet, or capturing the majesty of the park’s deep, vibrant gorge with pencil, paintbrush, and camera lens.

“We have a number of first-time class offerings in 2019 to join favorites such as rim-to-rim backpacking and photography workshops,” said Mike Buchheit, Field Institute Director. “New programs include several citizen science classes on the North Rim in support of the park’s Science
and Resource Management team, a natural history backpack to South Canyon, and a Kanab to Deer Creek geology backpack.”

“Through a growing number of service-based classes, the Field Institute is building on its legacy of support for the National Park Service in furthering the understanding of everything from prehistoric habitation at the canyon to bison impacts,” said Buchheit. “As with every activity the program conducts, these hands-on learning experiences help to further GCA’s mission of protecting the park, while giving students a way to give back to a place they love.”

The Field Institute also offers rim-based, “on demand” tours, like the “Meet the Canyon Family Hiking Adventure,” which includes a day of hiking and exploring in the company of a private instructor/guide. New in 2019 is the “Grand Rim Adventure,” a South Rim walking tour that will cover many canyon topics and terrain. These tours are offered on a fixed schedule and are subject to open enrollment up to 12 participants.

And what better place to take an art class than at the Grand Canyon? In 2019, the Field Institute is offering classes and workshops in photography, fiber arts, drawing, writing, and plein-air painting. Don’t miss this chance to let your inspiration soar in the company of a talented instructor and fellow artists. All skill levels are welcome.

SUPPORTER BENEFIT: Supporters always get first access to sign up for Field Institute trips and classes! Watch your mail for the 2019 Field Institute class list, and mark November 6, at 8:00 a.m. MST, on your calendar as the first day registration opens just for GCA Supporters. Registration opens to the general public on November 12, at 8:00 a.m. MST.

To register or learn more about courses offered, follow the “Take a Field Institute Class” link at grandcanyon.org or call (866) 471-4435.
One evening last July, Vicky Stinson strapped on her headlamp and set out for Grand Canyon Village. She was focused on the individual lights—there are thousands altogether—which shine on the Village’s hotels, restaurants, restrooms, pathways, and other public amenities and help ensure a safe, enjoyable experience for visitors to the canyon after dark.

Vicky, a Project Manager for the National Park Service, has completed many of these nightly rounds along with Craig Chenevert, Grand Canyon National Park’s Historical Architect. Vicky oversees Grand Canyon National Park’s Dark Sky Initiative, an ambitious project that your support makes possible: to inventory, replace, and adjust the park’s roughly 5,000 lights and fixtures. The goal is to reduce light pollution so visitors can see an unobstructed view of the vast, twinkling universe above them, just as travelers to the canyon did hundreds of years ago.

Within reach: Dark Sky Park status
With initial work along the South Rim nearly complete, Vicky is now busy making recommendations on exactly how to modify each light in Grand Canyon Village and other areas of the park.

It’s all about the right balance, she says. While everyone involved in the Dark Sky initiative is intent on bringing darker skies to the canyon, the park must also ensure a safe nighttime experience for visitors.

During her nighttime trek through Grand Canyon Village last July, Vicky also hiked a portion of the Bright Angel Trail. She stopped at a vantage point where she could gaze up at the South Rim’s historic El Tovar Hotel. She was amazed. “I noticed just how soft the light is there now.”

Vicky observed something else. “I also kept running into people,” she said laughing. “There are a lot more stargazers out there now!”
In 1869 a courageous, one-armed Civil War veteran and naturalist led a pioneering expedition through the canyon on the Colorado River. At least three men lost their lives on the treacherous journey made in small wooden boats, but John Wesley Powell succeeded in informing Americans about a jaw-dropping chasm few had ever heard about: Grand Canyon.

“Our boats, tied to a common stake, chafe each other as they are tossed by the fretful river... What falls there are, we know not; what rocks beset the channel, we know not; what walls rise over the river, we know not... With some eagerness and some anxiety and some misgiving we enter the canyon below and are carried away by the swift water...”

Thanks to Powell’s publicity efforts, Grand Canyon—or, as he called it, “the library of the gods,” suddenly became one of America’s most celebrated scenic wonders. It was set aside as a national park in 1919—a seminal moment in the park’s history that we celebrate next year.

Powell’s historic journey has inspired many others to similar bravery, including river runner and Grand Canyon explorer Philip M. Smith. Smith, who died in February 2014, devoted his five-decade-long career to science, technology, and public policy. He served as the executive officer of the National Academy of Sciences for over a decade, and prior to that, led research expeditions in Antarctica.

Smith was also an avid whitewater enthusiast, backpacker, and advocate for environmental causes. In 1960, he participated in a now-famous powerboat run against the current up the Colorado River in the Grand Canyon—a feat once thought impossible.

Thanks to a generous gift from Smith’s estate, Grand Canyon Association has created a special fund to help preserve Grand Canyon’s historic boats and create opportunities for visitors to view the boats and connect with the canyon’s riveting river history.

Smith hoped that others who cherish the Colorado River and its fascinating boat history would join him in funding this important initiative.
From their first view in 1969, David and Darlene Barnes knew that they were connected to the Grand Canyon. They were on a road trip from their home in Kentucky and stopped to see it, spending several hours walking the South Rim. For many years after, the canyon always stuck in the back of their minds.

When the Barnes’ returned in the early ‘90s, their love of the canyon sparked another passion. They fell in love with hiking while walking on the rim trail near dusk, where they saw the headlamps of hikers ascending the Bright Angel Trail illuminating the sky. David and Darlene determined they needed to be a part of that experience. They’ve now taken more than 100 trips into the canyon, inspiring their children and grandchildren to become avid hikers and river runners themselves.

As history buffs, David and Darlene realize the trails they walk on have been visited by some of the conservation world’s most powerful figures. The Barnes’ have one of the largest collections of Teddy Roosevelt memorabilia in their Kentucky home, forming a connection to the canyon and its history.

Last year, the Barnes’ made a gift to the A Grand Vision Centennial Campaign Trails Forever Endowment fund.

Giving to Grand Canyon Association ensures these trails and facilities will be updated and available for all future visitors, including the Barnes’ grandchildren and future great grandchildren. “Through the efforts of GCA over the last 15 years, there’s been a notable improvement in infrastructure and facilities at the park,” they said.

Every trip into the canyon is meaningful to the Barnes’, who take an average of three canyon trips a year. According to Darlene, the best sense of accomplishment she’s ever had is when she hikes into the canyon and gets back up to the top, arriving at the trailhead and looking across the vastness and thinking about what she’s just accomplished.

“The canyon can change people’s lives,” said David.
Almost 100 years ago, an urgent effort was underway… to save the canyon. By the late 1800s, numerous profiteers had descended upon Grand Canyon. They staked out its minerals, springs, natural overlooks, and ancient trails—and hastily erected hotels and other buildings. And when tourists came to see the grandest chasm on earth, the quick-money seekers demanded exorbitant fees in return.

Fortunately, canyon advocates, including a very vocal Teddy Roosevelt, fought back. First struck by Grand Canyon’s majesty in 1903, Roosevelt strongly opposed exploitation of “this great wonder.” Instead, the rugged outdoorsman and 26th U.S. president urged Americans to preserve the canyon and “leave it as it is.”

But it wasn’t an easy fight. Not for Roosevelt, or the other legislators who tried in vain to pass bills protecting Grand Canyon. Finally, as a tide of conservation and concern over America’s natural heritage swept the United States, a bill designating the canyon as a National Park passed both houses of Congress. And on February 26, 1919, President Woodrow Wilson signed the park bill into law, so that the largest canyon on earth could be enjoyed by all future generations.

This impassioned struggle, to save something spectacular, is what we celebrate during the centennial next year. We invite you to be part of this extraordinary moment in time—as we reflect on the courageous visionaries of the past and, perhaps even more importantly, consider our critical role in preserving and protecting the canyon for the next 100 years and beyond.

What you can do is keep it for your children, your children’s children, and all who come after you, as the one great sight which every American should see.” – Teddy Roosevelt

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Join the Centennial Celebration...

Because you are an important friend to the canyon, we invite you to participate in upcoming centennial events, including the 100th birthday celebration on Founder’s Day (February 26) and the weeklong Summer Fest and Star Party from June 22 to 29. For a list of other special events, go to grandcanyon.org/events/grand-canyon-centennial.

Won’t be at the canyon in 2019, but still want to support your favorite national park during its milestone 100th birthday? Then please visit grandcanyon.org/donate.

Your gift now is more important than ever. Together, we can help answer Teddy Roosevelt’s call, ensuring that Grand Canyon remains the “one great sight” that generations now, and into the future, are able to behold.
Support YOUR Park with Subaru… want to DRIVE more support for the Canyon?

Considering a new car this fall? Grand Canyon Association is a proud participant in Subaru’s 2018 Share the Love event, where car buyers are offered the chance to share their love for Grand Canyon! For every car leased or sold through Flagstaff Subaru, customers will be given the option to donate $250 to the Grand Canyon Association, a designated “Hometown Charity.” The event runs from November 15, 2018, through January 2, 2019.

Visit the Flagstaff Subaru dealership, or its website, www.FlagstaffSubaru.com, where you can choose your car and select Grand Canyon Association as the recipient of your donation! Even if you don’t live nearby, Flagstaff Subaru is happy to ship vehicles nationwide!

GCA SHOP
Looking for the perfect Grand Canyon National Park gift? Shop online at shop.grandcanyon.org, where you’ll find new books, collectibles, gifts, and other ways to show support for your favorite park!

Shopping at in-park stores or the GCA Online Store supports Grand Canyon National Park, and GCA supporters receive 15% off of their purchase (some exclusions apply).

The perfect sock of your favorite park!
$15.00, Supporter price $12.75
Wear these every day or to hike Bright Angel Trail. Our unique sock has heel and toe reinforcements and full terry looping inside, giving you that extra cushion. Made of cotton, poly, and elastic for a stretchy comfortable feel.

Stay warm and canyon on!
$15.00, Supporter price $12.75
Ward off winter’s chill and share your love of Grand Canyon with this one-size-fits-all, 100% acrylic beanie featuring a stunning view of your favorite park!

A piece of the canyon, wherever you go!
$21.00, Supporter price $17.85
This fully adjustable, made in the USA, 100% cotton hat features an embroidered Split Twig Figurine inspired by those found in the Grand Canyon Museum Collection. The figures are believed to be of bighorn sheep or possibly mule deer, and archaeologists think they were used for ceremonial purposes by people living in the canyon between 11,500 BC and 3,000 years ago!

Cuddle up with the canyon!
$249.00, Supporter price $211.65
This Southwest-inspired 64” x 80” pure virgin wool/cotton blanket with unnapped whipstitch trim is made in the USA and is based on the work of Roselyn Begay. Begay is a Navajo/Dine artist living near Chinle, Arizona who has been weaving her craft for over 50 years. (Dry clean)
Give the Park you love an early birthday present today.

Thank you for supporting the one and only Grand Canyon. Your gift makes a difference today and for generations to come. It helps keep the canyon GRAND, for all time!

There is no better time to make your tax-deductible gift than NOW—especially as we anticipate Grand Canyon’s exciting 2019 centennial!

With your help, we can support the National Park Service as it embraces the challenging task of preserving the canyon for all to enjoy for the next 100 years. Please join us on this important journey to leave a lasting impact like those early visionaries Teddy Roosevelt and John Wesley Powell did so many years ago.

To learn more, contact Ann Scheflen, Chief Philanthropy Officer, at (928) 863-3876 or ann@grandcanyon.org. We’re always happy to speak with you!

E-MAIL EXCLUSIVE COMMUNICATIONS:

Many important updates and event invitations are sent exclusively by e-mail in an ongoing effort to keep costs low and reduce paper use. Please make sure we have your current e-mail address by visiting give.grandcanyon.org/page/29842/subscriptions/1

Grand Canyon Association’s 2017 Annual Report is now available online for viewing. Read all about how YOU made a difference at Grand Canyon last year! grandcanyon.org/about-us/annual-reports/