

Student Name: _____

EBLS 6th Grade San Juan 2019 RSVP

Please respond as soon as you can, but no later than Wednesday, August 28th.

Mrs. Jenkin's class: Monday, Sept 16 to Friday, Sept 20

Mr. Baggaley's class: Monday, Sept 23 to Friday, Sept 27

After reading the information packet, please check one of the following:

- ☐ **My student will attend the sixth-grade San Juan River experience. Completed forms and \$435 contribution are included with this RSVP (you can make electronic contributions here: <http://edithbowen.usu.edu/students-parents/payments>).**
- ☐ **My student will attend the sixth-grade San Juan River experience. Completed forms are included with this RSVP. We need to visit with EBLs administration about payment options.**
- ☐ **My student will NOT be attending the sixth-grade San Juan River Experience. (Students not participating will attend the other 6th grade classroom during the week instead).**

Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____, 2019

****This form and the release forms on pages 7-10 must be returned by Wednesday, August 28th. Keep the packing list.**

Overview:

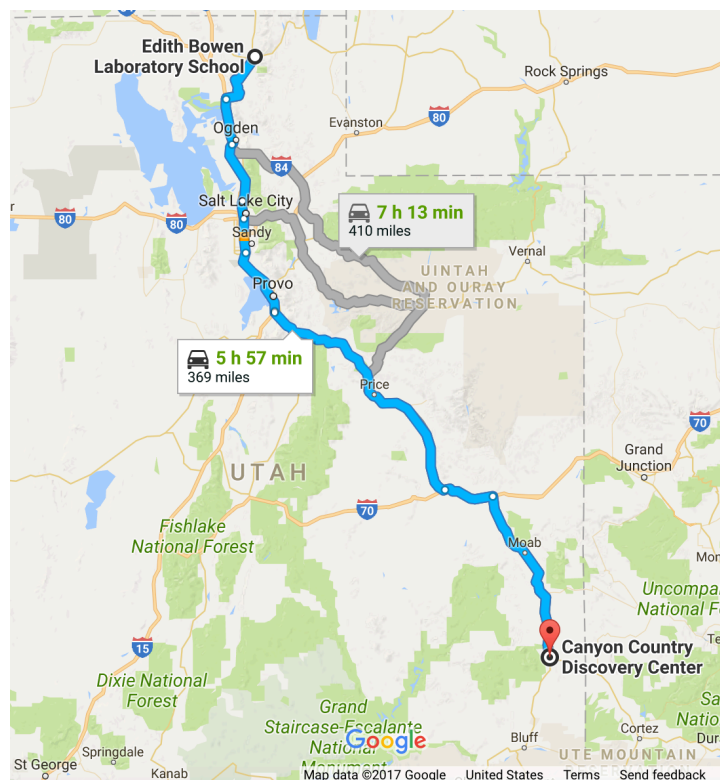
EBLS 6th Grade Canyon Country Discovery Center Experience **Four nights, Five days. Cost is \$435 per student.**

Website: <https://www.ccdiscovery.org/>

This is the new capstone field experience for EBLS students and will take place the last two weeks of September (each class will go a separate week). This field experience will focus heavily on integrating the social studies ancient civilization curriculum with the new 3-D Science SEEd standards that includes the movement of energy through environments.

On Monday sixth graders will travel via mini-bus to Monticello, Utah and camp at the new Canyon Country Discovery Center (CCDC) facility. In the evening, students will spend time exploring interactive science exhibits and peering through the massive telescope at the stars and moon. Tuesday morning, students will head to Bluff, Utah to Sand Island boat launch and spend the next three days rafting and camping on the San Juan River with the CCDC staff and guides. This is a class I to II section of river, renowned for its kid-friendly currents and Ancestral Puebloan cultural artifacts that include pictograph panels, ruins, and stairs cut in sandstone walls. CCDC will provide life jackets, rafting equipment, professional guides, and food. On Thursday afternoon we will pull off the river in Mexican Hat and then return to the CCDC facility where we will camp again and process the experience. Friday morning we will load up in the USU minibuses and return to Logan between 4 and 5 PM. We anticipate the drive will take approximately 8 hours, including stops. View more details at www.edithbowen.usu.edu

The cost of this five-day field experience is \$435 per student. Contributions can be made in a single payment or in monthly chunks here: [http://edithbowen.usu.edu/students-parents-payments](http://edithbowen.usu.edu/students-parents/payments). Please contact Eric.Gierloff@usu.edu with financial questions.





Canyon Country Discovery Center



Message from our Adventure Director

Welcome!

On behalf of the staff here at the Canyon Country Discovery Center, thank you for joining us on your forthcoming adventure. We're looking forward to your trip as much as you are!

David Taft

Table of Contents

Trip Schedule.....	pg. 2-3
Trip Preparations.....	pg. 4-5
Gear packing list.....	pg. 6
Liability Release Form...	pg. 7-8
Medical Release Form....	pg. 9-10
Cultural Sites Policy.....	pg. 11
On the San Juan River....	pg. 12-13
Canyon Country Discovery Center.....	pg. 14-15
The Colorado Plateau.....	pg. 16-19
Bibliography.....	pg. 20

Edith Bowen Lab School San Juan River Experience

September 2019

Trip Highlights:

- Float 26 scenic miles of the San Juan River
- Enjoy Class I-II rapids
- See evidence of the Ancestral Puebloans, historic Navajo, Jte and pioneer Mormon occupations
- Learn about Colorado Plateau geology, night skies, and natural history

Complete and return the following documents to EBLs by Wednesday, August 28th.

- > **RSVP Cover Sheet**
- > **Liability and Publicity Release (pages 7-8)**
- > **Medical Form (pages 9-10)**

Canyon Country Discovery Center
1117 N. Main St. Monticello, UT 84535
435-587-2156



Trip Itinerary

Monday: Arrive at Canyon Country Discovery Center in Monticello, guides and expert staff will meet you and provide evening activities, dinner and help with campsite setup.

Tuesday: Arrive at Sand Island Campground and launch on the river. Float downriver visiting geologic outcrops, rock art, and ancient dwellings along the way. Learn about the natural and cultural history of San Juan River by participating in hands-on activities. Visit rock art and ruins during the day and study geology. Enjoy a view of one of the darkest skies in the lower 48

Wednesday: Travel downriver, day hike, float through rapids, and enjoy the beauty of the surrounding canyon. Evening programs will focus on stars, bugs, bats, and other river animals.

Thursday: Enjoy a final day floating on the river, study fossils in limestone outcrops, and swim. River section ends in Mexican Hat where we will meet the vans and head back to the Discovery Center. Participants will have a chance to visit our hands-on museum before settling in at our campus campsite.

Friday: We will provide a wholesome breakfast before sending the group back to Logan!

Daily River Schedule

Our pace will be moderate. There will be plenty of time for photography and questions.

7:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9:00 a.m.	Depart for river travel
12:30 p.m.	Lunch on river
4:00 p.m.	Get to camp
6:30 p.m.	Dinner
7:30 p.m.	Evening activities and plan for next day.



Trip Includes

- All meals from dinner on day 1 through breakfast on day 5
- A fleet of modern rafts
- A waterproof dry bag
- Personal flotation device (pfd)
- Permit fees
- River transfers
- Guides and Educators

Trip Does NOT Include

- Sleeping gear
- Personal items

Pre-Trip Preparations

In addition to the RSVP form, the following forms must be completed:

☐ Liability and Publicity Release (pg. 7-8)

☐ Medical Form (pg. 9-10)

Complete and return documents to Edith Bowen Laboratory School

Health Insurance

We advise you to have medical or trip health insurance in case of an accident. Check with your insurance agent to review your health insurance policy to verify whether it will cover you on this trip. It's a good idea also, to confirm if your homeowner's policy will cover loss or damage to your camera, luggage, gear, etc.

Physical Conditioning

Four Corners School recommends that participants be in "excellent" physical condition for this Ed-venture. Excellent means that an individual be involved in aerobic exercise a minimum of three times a week. Examples include but are not limited to, jogging, walking, swimming, cross-country skiing. Be sure to consult your physician before undertaking any physical training program for preparation trip.

Health Considerations

The following information is intended to be helpful to you and your physician to safeguard your health and well-being. If any of the following conditions concern or apply to you, please consult with your physician for advice to help determine whether this trip is appropriate for you.



Gear Packing List

Clothing

- ☐ 1-2 long-sleeved light weight shirt(s)
- ☐ 2-3 T-shirts/tops
- ☐ 1-2 light, loose fitting hiking pants
- ☐ 1-2 pairs of shorts
- ☐ Rain jacket

- ☐ Rain pants (if you have them)

- ☐ Warm jacket (fleece)
- ☐ Underwear
- ☐ Swimsuit/trunks

Footwear

- ☐ Comfortable shoes for hiking
- ☐ River sandals or old sneakers (no flip flops!)
- ☐ 3-4 pair of socks

Head gear

- ☐ Shade hat or visor with secure straps
- ☐ Bandanna
- ☐ Wool or fleece hat

Tips:

The items listed are strongly recommended for this Adventure. Clothing durability, versatility and comfort are important. Layered clothing can help you regulate fluctuating temperatures and weather conditions.

Synthetic or wool clothing can keep you warm when you get wet. Cotton and down materials do not.

Sleeping Gear

Compact sleeping bag
Sleeping pad (smaller is better)

Optional Items

Camera (protect against sand, hot, cold, wet or impact)

Plastic bags for dirty clothes

Camping Items

- ☐ Water Bottle (at least 1 liter)
- ☐ Small backpack
- ☐ sunscreen and lip balm (SPF 15+)
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Flashlight or headlamp (+ batteries)
- ☐ Biodegradable soap
- ☐ Insect Repellent
- ☐ Hand towel / washcloth (if you want)
- ☐ Personal toiletries
- ☐ Personal medications

Tents, Dishware, cookware and cooking equipment are provided.

Drinking water, hot cocoa, and powdered lemonade and Gatorade will be provided.

Please remember to do your best to travel lightly.

Excessive gear can represent a lot of bulk and weight over time and distance. We want you to remember this trip positively!

We provide a 35" x 17" waterproof dry bag for all your gear. Waterproof dry bags are constructed of 18 oz. PVC coated polyester fabric and have polypropylene webbing straps with fastex buckles.

It's best to pack clothing, etc. in small "stuff sacks" and have a compressible sleeping bag and pad—all of which go in the dry bag. Depending on how light you pack, tents can also be in your dry bag (or there will be a different dry bag just for tents). You may also bring a backpack on the raft, but place items in zip-lock bags to keep backpack contents dry.



Hands-On Discovery

Four Corners School of Outdoor Education

@Canyon Country Discovery Center

Program Name: Edith Bowen Lab School Fall River Camp

DATES: September 16-20 and 23-27, 2019

IMPORTANT: THIS IS A LEGAL DOCUMENT

We ask that you read this, understand it, sign it, and return it to our office no less than two weeks before the beginning of the program. If you have any questions, please ask us or consult an attorney.

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION wishes to inform our guests that **Edith Bowen Lab School Fall River Camp** is not risk free. The same elements that contribute to the unique character and fun of Edith Bowen Lab School Fall River Camp such as the physical exertion or living outdoors, can cause loss or damage to equipment, injury, illness, or in extreme cases, permanent trauma or death. We do not want to heighten or reduce your enthusiasm for the experience, but we do want you to know in advance what to expect, and to be informed of some of the possible inherent risks.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITY RELEASE OF LIABILITY, WAIVER OF CLAIMS, EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT.

Please read and be certain you understand the implications of signing.

Express Assumption of Risk Associated with Recreational Activities.

I, _____ do hereby affirm and acknowledge that I have been fully informed of the inherent hazards and risks associated with the recreational activity generally described as **Edith Bowen Lab School Fall River Camp**, including the rental of equipment and transportation associated therewith in which I am about to engage.

Inherent hazards and risks include but are not limited to:

1. Risk of injury from the activity and equipment utilized is significant including the potential for permanent disability and death.
2. Possible equipment failure and/or malfunction of my own or others' equipment.
3. This activity takes place outdoors and therefore includes risks associated with exposure to elements, excessive heat, hypothermia, impact of the body upon the water, injection of water into my body orifices, encountering objects either natural or man-made, exposure to animals with the attendant risk of kicking, biting, shying away, running off or otherwise moving in an unanticipated manner causing injury and/or death.
4. My own negligence and/or the negligence of others, including but not limited to operator error and guide decision making including misjudging terrain, rapids, weather, trails, or route location.
5. Attack by or encounter with insects, reptiles, and/or animals.
6. Accidents or illness occurring in remote places where there are no available medical facilities.
7. Fatigue, chill, and/or dizziness, which may diminish my/our reaction time and increase the risk of accident.

***I understand the description of these risks is not complete and that unknown or unanticipated risks may result in injury, illness, or death while participating in Edith Bowen Lab School Fall River Camp.**

Release of Liability, Waiver of Claims and Indemnity Agreement

In consideration for being permitted to participate in the activity(ies) described above and related activities, I hereby agree, acknowledge and appreciate that:

1. I HEREBY RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE, the following named persons or entities, herein referred to as **Four Corners School of Outdoor Education**.

Name _____

2. To release **Four Corners School of Outdoor Education**, their officers, directors, employees, representatives, agents, and volunteers, and vessels from liability and responsibility whatsoever and for any claims or causes of action that I, my estate, heirs, survivors, executors, or assigns may have for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death arising from the above activities whether caused by active or passive negligence of the **Four Corners School of Outdoor Education** or otherwise. By executing this document, I agree to hold **Four Corners School of Outdoor Education** harmless and indemnify them in conjunction with any injury, disability, death, or loss or damage to person or property that may occur as a result of engaging in the above activities.

3. By entering into this Agreement, I am not relying on any oral or written representation or statements made by **Four Corners School of Outdoor Education**, other than what is set forth in this Agreement.

This release shall be binding to the fullest extent permitted by law. If any provision of this release is found to be unenforceable, the remaining terms shall be enforceable.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, AND I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, AND UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP LEGAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND I SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

Signature

Name (Print)

Date

FOR PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE: This is to certify that I, as Parent, Guardian, Temporary Guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree not only to his/her release of Four Corners School of Outdoor Education, but also to release and indemnify the Four Corners School of Outdoor Education from any and all liabilities incident to his/her involvement in these programs for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian (Print)

Date

Publicity Release

In connection with my participation in the production of any print, audio filmed, or digital program material produced by Four Corners School, or partner organizations, I hereby grant, assign, and convey all rights, titles, and interests I may have in and to the specified program material and in and to any reproduction made there from.

I irrevocably authorize the Four Corners School, and partner organizations, free of charge and without limitations to broadcast, distribute, publish, and/or exhibit the specified program material and any reproduction made therefrom, or any portion thereof.

Four Corners School will not identify any individual by name when a photograph is used in publication.

Signature

Name (Print)

Date

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian

Name of Parent/Legal Guardian (Print)

Date



Four Corners School of Outdoor Education

@Canyon Country Discovery Center

SOUTHWEST ED-VENTURES CONFIDENTIAL MEDICAL HISTORY FORM

The following questions relate to problems that may occur while participating in outdoor activities or have particular significance in the wilderness, away from medical help. We ask these questions so that we can be prepared to deal with any problems that may arise and **although some questions may not seem relevant, please answer them thoroughly and honestly, as a complete medical history could help save your life in the event of illness or injury.** Should a serious injury or illness occur, this form provides emergency medical personnel the necessary medical history for appropriate treatment. This form is confidential and is seen only by course staff or medical personnel. You may receive a follow-up call from course staff if more information is needed. A medical or physical condition does not necessarily prevent participation on a Southwest Ed-Venture or Safari trip. Please print legibly. If additional space is needed, attach a separate sheet.

Program Name: _____ **Dates:** _____

Participant Contact Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, ST Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____

Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Emergency Contact Information

Contact 1 Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Alternate Phone: _____

Email: _____

Contact 2 Name: _____

Home Phone: _____

Alternate Phone: _____

Email: _____

Participant Medical Information

Family Physician: _____

Phone Number: _____

Age: _____ Weight: _____ Height: _____

D.O.B. _____ Male Female

Blood Type (if known): _____

Date of last physical: _____

Insurance Information

Insurance Company Name: _____

Policy Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

If you have had any of the following illnesses, state type of illness and the approximate year of occurrence:

Arthritis	Epilepsy	Measles	Recent Surgery	Year(s) of Occurrence:
Colitis	Giardia	Anemia	Heart Disease	_____
Cystitis	Mumps	Ulcer	Chickenpox	_____
Meningitis	Pleurisy	Hepatitis	Typhoid Fever	_____
Convulsions	Diabetes	Polio	Other	_____

If you have had any of the following, state year of occurrence + body part affected	Check immunizations and year administered	Do you smoke? Yes No Daily consumption: _____ (smoking on all programs is discouraged, restricted or prohibited)
Hernia _____	Tetanus _____	List any recent exposure to infectious diseases: _____ _____
Dislocations _____	Typhoid _____	
Broken Bones _____	DPT _____	
Concussions _____	Polio _____	
Sprains/Strains _____	Small Pox _____	
Back Problems _____	Other _____	

Check YES to any of the following symptoms or conditions you currently have or have had and provide a brief description. If not applicable check NO.

A. Dizziness, loss of consciousness, or recurrent headaches.....	Yes	No	_____
B. Ear, nose, throat, eye, or sinus problems.....	Yes	No	_____
C. Impairment of sight, hearing, or speech.....	Yes	No	_____
D. Chronic cough, coughing blood, or contact with tuberculosis...	Yes	No	_____
E. Chest pain or shortness of breath.....	Yes	No	_____
F. Heart murmur or high blood pressure.....	Yes	No	_____
G. Leg cramps, varicose veins, varicose ulcer, or ankle swelling....	Yes	No	_____
H. Troublesome skin conditions.....	Yes	No	_____
I. Severe menstrual cramps.....	Yes	No	_____
J. Loss of teeth.....	Yes	No	_____
K. Gastrointestinal problems, diarrhea, abdominal pain, bleeding..	Yes	No	_____
L. Albumin, sugar, blood in urine, kidney stone, urinary problems..	Yes	No	_____
M. Muscle joint or back pain, bursitis, sciatica.....	Yes	No	_____
N. Benign or malignant growth or tumor.....	Yes	No	_____

List any drug allergies	List other allergies (food/bee stings, etc.)	List dietary needs	List medications you currently take and/or carry.
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

List any illness or condition you are recovering from or for which you receive treatment.

List and explain any other illness or condition not mentioned above. _____

I fully understand the vigorous nature of a backcountry trip. In the event of an emergency, permission is given for treatment and/or surgery and anesthesia, which might be necessary as required by a physician.

Signed: _____

Date: _____



Wildlands and Cultural Sites Policy

Canyon Country Discovery Center

Canyon Country Discovery Center is committed to the preservation of the Colorado Plateau's natural and cultural resources.

Our Adventure trips include hikes along little known routes, visits to vulnerable cultural sites, and encounters with pristine and fragile natural areas.

As mindful travelers, experts, guides, and participants, we assume responsibility for these places, to our information sources, and to the tribal and governmental authority and partnerships under which we operate.

Canyon Country Discovery Center upholds a minimum-impact approach to hiking among cultural and natural resources. This means that the fragile, non-replaceable artifacts, ruins, rock art, and cryptobiotic soil should be treated with respect and not disturbed in any fashion. They are protected under law, but most importantly they are part of our American heri-tage and are living history for Native peoples.

Please "Take Only Photographs; Leave Only Footprints"! During our visits we aim to maintain a balance between educational goals and any potential impact we may create. In particular this means not removing any cultural items or fragments from site or non-site locations, avoiding direct physical impacts to cultural or natural site features and locations, and minimizing erosion and vegetation impacts from foot or vehicular traffic.

To further the protection of the places we cherish, we ask that trip staff and participants not publish in print or other medium, or put on the Internet, any map points or routes, GPS readings, or detailed route descriptions derived from our trip.

On the San Juan River

San Juan River Overview

Floating the San Juan River in southeastern Utah is one of the most inspirational and classic settings possible for lifelong learning about both the natural and cultural history of the area. Students spend three days with our trained staff to learn about the night sky, geology, desert rivers, and much more.

During the day, students will actively take part in hands-on activities extensively used in outdoor programs in the U.S. This helps students understand concepts that are cognitively difficult to experience in classroom settings. At night, students will learn about prominent stars, planets, constellations, and deep-sky objects not visible near cities. This camp requires the ability to hike up to 3 miles round-trip over moderate terrain, camp, and enjoy group-learning experiences.

This section of the San Juan provides mostly a float trip through breathtaking surroundings, on slow-moving, silt-laden water. Thus, this is not primarily a whitewater experience, although there are some fun class I - III rapids. Depending on rain and subsequent river flows, days on the river could be moderate to long. We will make some stops during the river portion of the program to learn about geology, biology, history or archaeology. These side hikes are not particularly difficult, but come prepared for hilly terrain and possible loose footing.

Note: Activities may vary based on water levels, weather, and educational opportunities that may arise.

Camping

Each night will be spent camping at sites along the river. Our river camps are remote and primitive. There are no flush toilets, showers, or picnic tables. We do our best to make these locations comfortable, providing camp tables, portable toilets, and a handy kitchen area. We will bring chairs for the group to share. You will be sleeping on sandy beaches or rocky benches alongside the river in your tent, or under the stars. Tents are good for privacy or to avoid bugs.

Food

Food will be healthy and ample. Our menu tends towards low-fat, low-sodium, and vegetarian or limited red meat. If you have any dietary restrictions whatsoever, please indicate this on your health form. Four Corners School makes an effort to accommodate special diets within reason, but because this is a group experience, we do want you to consult with your physician and then call us to discuss your dietary needs if they are strict, or if hazards to your health exist (allergies, diabetes, etc.).

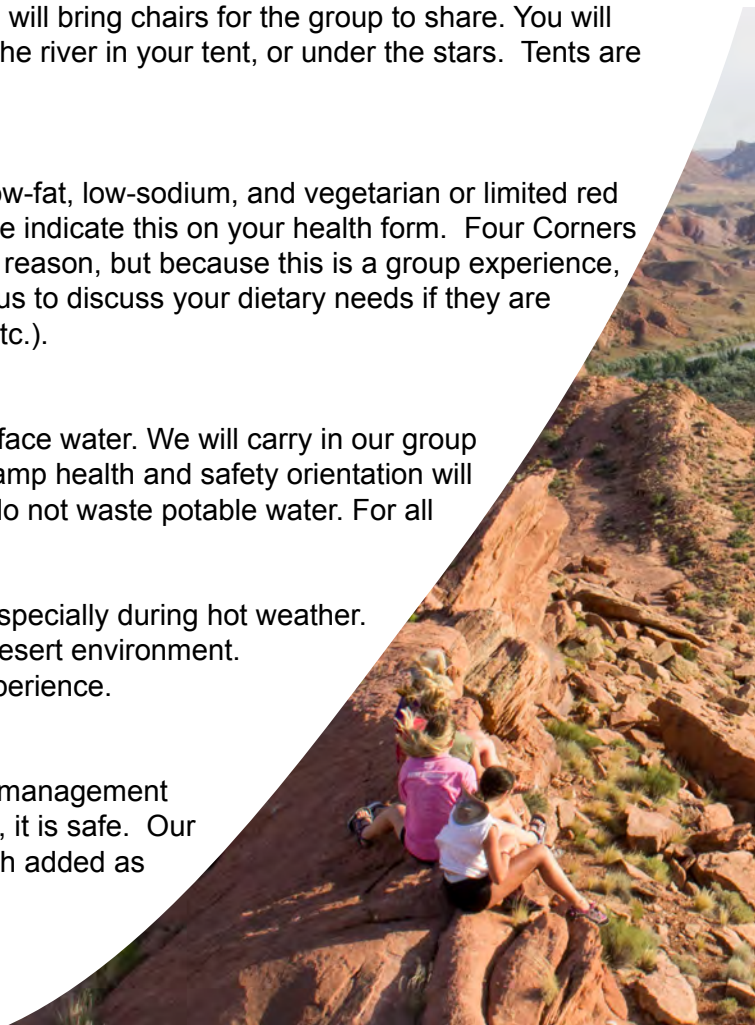
Water

Giardia Lamblia and E. histolytics are found in untreated surface water. We will carry in our group drinking and cooking water for the river portion of the trip. Camp health and safety orientation will be provided by the river guides. It is very important that we do not waste potable water. For all other water needs (bathing, cleaning, etc.) use river water.

It is very important to drinking adequate amounts of water, especially during hot weather. We recommend you drink one gallon of water a day in this desert environment. Dehydration will significantly limit your enjoyment of your experience.

“Dish Line”

Field kitchen sanitation is primitive, but regulated by federal management agency regulations, so while it may not be dishwasher clean, it is safe. Our dishwater is taken from a stream, with heat, soap, and bleach added as required.



“Groover” Procedures

All human waste and toilet paper will be carried out in order to respect this special area and fulfill minimum impact camping practices required by the land management agencies. Sanitary hygiene will include a “groover” (porta-potty placed to promote privacy) set up near camp. As prescribed by the BLM, we urinate in a “pee” bucket set up at the groover away from the streambed. Handwashing is also required with soap or hand sanitizer. Your guides will give a groover orientation at the appropriate time.

Group Participation

Though this is a guided trip, we are all part of making this journey enjoyable for everyone. We expect group members to be responsible for themselves and their gear, and to be respectful of each other’s needs as much as possible. Pitch-in on kitchen duty or volunteer for other group responsibilities if you wish; help is often appreciated. We encourage participants to wash your own dishes and tend your own campsite; we will show you how this is done in camp. Please remember that group life requires a bit of flexibility, as does the weather and environment on backcountry trips.

Medical Emergencies

We will be very far from medical help while in the remote wilderness. All of our staff are certified in First Aid and CPR and trained in backcountry accident prevention. There is no doctor or nurse on this trip. We carry a large group first aid kit and a hiking kit on the backpacks. Please use good judgment and communicate with our staff in regards to any medical conditions that might require treatment. The nearest clinic is in Blanding Utah and would take a half hour to 24 hours depending on group location. The nearest hospital is in Monticello or Blanding approximately 24 to 36 hours, depending on group location. We carry a satellite phone at all times.

Emergency Evacuation Procedure

A Life Flight Helicopter, once contacted, could arrive in approximately 2-3 hours. Hospital availability via Life Flight is approximately 2 hours to Durango or Grand Junction, Colorado.

Foot Care

Proper footwear is important. Please, break in your hiking boots (wearing them on several occasions) prior to the trip. Shoes must be worn at all times on this trip to avoid injury. Lightweight tennis shoes may be a nice option for wearing in camp.

Insects

The following insects will be in the area but may or may not be in significant numbers: mosquitoes, deer flies, gnats (no-see-ums), black flies, bees and/or wasps.

Terrain

Be prepared for some steep, rocky terrain while in the canyon country, particularly when visiting rock art panels and ruin sites. Most of the Plateau is above 5,000 feet so the altitude may affect you initially with headaches, thirst, and fatigue if you come from low elevation regions.

Weather

The weather in June will be generally hot and sunny, with a chance of wind or rain. Prepare for rainy, windy days and possible cool to cold temperatures, as well as for lengthy exposure to the sun.

General Field Conditions

Temperature Range	50F	to	90+F
Humidity	low	to	100%
Precipitation	0	to	1”
Altitude	3,000 feet	to	7,000 feet

Canyon Country Discovery Center

Dedicated to Lifelong Learning on the Colorado Plateau

Founded in 1984 as the Four Corners School of Outdoor Education, The Canyon Country Discovery Center's mission is to create lifelong learning experiences about the natural and cultural treasures of the Colorado Plateau for people of all ages and backgrounds through conservation, adventure, service, and education programs. The following programs support our vision to build a diverse community of people who are committed to conserving the natural and cultural resources of the Colorado Plateau through hands-on engagement in place-based programs.

Canyon Country Discovery

The Canyon Country Discovery Center offers hands-on educational experiences about the Colorado Plateau through learning stations (exhibits), adventure education trips, workshops, professional development training, citizen science projects, and classes.

Canyon Country Adventure

Discover archaeological and geological wonders on our guided hiking and rafting adventures. We explore Cedar Mesa, Bears Ears National Monument, Canyonlands National Park, and the San Juan River.

Canyon Country Youth Corps (CCYC)

Our CCYC program hires young adults, ages 15-25, to complete resource projects through partnerships with local public land management agencies in the Four Corners area.

PLATEAU Teacher Development Program

Our Place-Based Learning and Teaching Enhances Academic Understanding (PLATEAU) Project is a teacher professional development program that uses outdoor and place-based education to enable participating teachers to integrate outdoor education and place-based lessons into their classrooms.

Become a Contributing Member!

Your contributions sustain our education, enrichment and adventure experiences on the Colorado Plateau. As we grow into the Canyon Country Discovery Center, we look forward to increasing our impact with the support from generous partners like you.

Family Memberships begin at just \$25 for three months of unlimited entry to the Discovery Center!

Go to <https://www.ccdiscovery.org> to become a member and learn more about our programs and year round events!

Canyon Country Discovery Center

<https://www.ccdiscovery.org>

The new Canyon Country Discovery Center facility was built in March 2016. Located in Monticello, Utah, our center offers a new experience that puts learning directly into your own hands. You can then venture out into canyon country and recognize that discoveries made at the center are all around you.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Participate in summer camps, teacher training, youth development, native seed research and school enrichment programs to enhance understanding of the natural world.



DISCOVERY FOR ALL AGES

Enjoy our fun, interactive exhibit hall and interpretive programs. Summer events include evening star parties, guest speakers, and more.



EVENT CENTER

Let us be the venue for your next party, wedding, meeting or corporate retreat! Our center is equipped with a conference hall, classroom, bouldering wall and full catering kitchen.



48-ACRE CAMPUS

Stroll around our hiking trails and cultural learning pavilions. You can also enjoy a picnic, play on our nature playscape and experience the region's dark night sky from our observatory.



I want to personally invite you to visit us at the Canyon Country Discovery Center. Our growth is because of you, and you are always welcome!

Chris Giangreco, Interim Executive Director

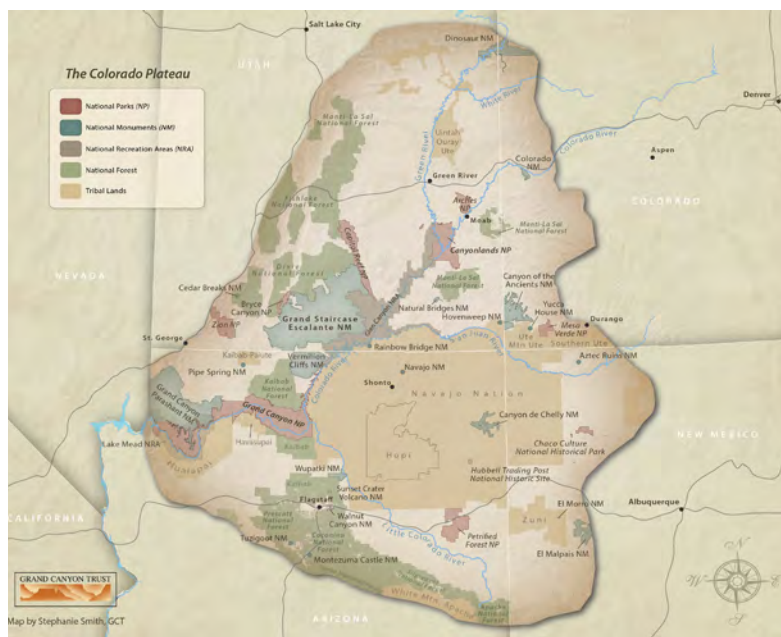
A handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Chris Giangreco.



The Colorado Plateau

OVERVIEW

The Colorado Plateau is a diverse ecological region that spans the Upper Sonoran Desert in Arizona to the alpine areas of laccolithic mountain ranges in southeastern Utah. This massive basin surrounded by highlands and filled with a myriad of plateaus covers an area of 130,000 square miles across portions of southeastern Utah, northern Arizona, northwestern New Mexico, and western Colorado. Although largely desert, this mile-high landscape is also home to the Colorado River, the principal waterway of the American Southwest. Hard and soft layers of rock battle for position in the serpentine canyons and mesa tops. The cornucopia of color and fantastical shapes found here are a product of the elements and passage of time.



Map by Grand Canyon Trust

NATURAL HISTORY

The underlying geology of this ancient land mass is at least 500 million years old. Drifting along as a portion of continental crust some 400 million years ago, the Colorado Plateau was covered by rising ocean waters. As the waters receded, deep sediment layers of different thickness were revealed. Further sedimentary material worked its way down from surrounding high country, and the wind deposited dust and volcanic ash from active volcanoes from the west and southwest. The crust sank under this tremendous weight. Time, pressure, and heat eventually solidified the deposits forming sedimentary and metamorphosed rock two to three miles thick.

When the surrounding geologic material began to move, uplifting formed the various mountain ranges on the continent, but sediment on the Colorado Plateau remained in place. Hot magma pushed up through the sedimentary layers and cooled into the mountain laccoliths of the Henry, La Sal, Sleeping Ute and Abajo mountain ranges. The tectonic forces sculpting the Sierra Nevada and the Rocky Mountains could only impress this area with shallow basins, low dome uplifts, and long, continuous folds called "reefs." The Colorado Plateau remains essentially motionless, slowly eroding and changing its face with the passage of time.

The Plateau presents some interesting contradictions and puzzles. Side canyons of the larger rivers serpentine their way down through the landscape as water and wind perpetually carve away at them. The varied sandstones including Chinle, Navajo, Wingate, Entrada, Mesa Verde and countless others, offer unique shapes and faces of rock. Alcoves, potholes, striations, bowls, basins, and deep canyons are all cut from these faces by the erosive actions of wind and water.

Within the sandstone layers are deposits of gypsum, potash and salt. Large seam deposits of coal, and fluid layers of oil and natural gas can be found in localized clusters throughout the region. Pockets of uranium and radium rich ores are folded into the layers. Red Halgaito shale, gray Mancos shale, gray limestone, and red and white Cedar Mesa sandstone confound the onlooker further. Throughout the area, you will likely be overwhelmed by the "hugeness" of it all.

CULTURAL HISTORY

The Colorado Plateau epitomizes the American Frontier. It is wild, massive and difficult to grasp all at once. The indigenous peoples of the Plateau likely recognized this, as did the early pioneers; it is working knowledge for the contemporary Native American and Euro-American populations. Pocketed by deep canyons, dotted with high, isolated mountain ranges, and subject to hot, dry summers, this region has more than once proven itself a challenge for human development.

Archaic Culture

The earliest human habitation of the American Southwest has been documented between 10,000 B.C. and 5,500 B.C., with the earliest cultural tradition known as the Lithic or Paleo-Indian. The Paleo-Indian stage is marked by big game hunting of mega-fauna such as bison and woolly mammoth. As big game became extinct or hunted out, the Archaic cultural stage evolved and became characterized by hunting and gathering adaptations of the Desert or Archaic Cultures in the Southwest.

For over 7,000 years, the specialized Archaic subsistence strategy consisted of annual migrations for seasonal vegetables, fruits, wild grains, nuts, berries, and smaller game such as mule deer, pronghorn antelope, big-horn sheep, and rabbits. Archaic peoples lived in caves, rock and brush shelters, and created distinctive arrowheads and spear points, sandals, stone food-processing tools, fur blankets, and netting. The Archaic on the Colorado Plateau are perhaps best recognized for their extensive rock art often consisting of large, elaborately decorated human-like figures.

Ancestral Pueblo

It is generally accepted that over time, cultural groups and traits diffusing northward from Mexico affected the indigenous Archaic population on the Colorado Plateau. As early agriculturalists, the people became semi-sedentary and began creating distinctive baskets by which the culture became known as "Basketmaker Anasazi." The more inclusive term "Ancestral Pueblo", often replaces "Anasazi" in respect for their descendants now living in Arizona and New Mexico. In the centuries before Christ, the Colorado Plateau Basketmakers grew maize (corn) and squash and lived in semi-subterranean pithouses.

After around 800 A.D. the people of the Colorado Plateau began living in organized villages, and eventually built large coursed masonry Pueblos by which the cultural tradition became labeled. Dry-land farming became widespread, with some evidence of irrigation. Pottery developed into a highly stylized, utilitarian art form. The construction of multi-story cliff dwellings with food storage systems (granaries), underground ceremonial chambers (kivas), and distinctive rock art marked the apex of this creative period.

The Ancestral Pueblo flourished on the northern Colorado Plateau until approximately 1300 A.D. when the people began a thorough migration south and eastward out of the region. Natural resource depletion, drought followed by floods, disease, and possible pressures by invading nomadic cultures have been cited by archaeologists as reasons for the exodus. Modern-day Hopi, Tewa, and Zuni cultures, claiming direct ancestry to the Ancestral Pueblo, contend that it was for traditional cultural reasons that the people exited the area for the high-deserts of Arizona and the river valleys of New Mexico.



Modern American Indian Cultures

Cultural evidence, from irrigation ditches to corn cobs and seeds, have helped archaeologists determine that thousands of Ancestral Pueblo inhabited the areas today known as Ute Mountain Tribal Park, Hovenweep and Mesa Verde National Parks, and Chaco Canyon. Other studies suggest that similar numbers were present at the same time in the Cedar Mesa/Grand Gulch country of southeast Utah, Monument Valley of northern Arizona, and the Dolores River drainage area to the north of Cortez, Colorado.

Between the 14th and 16th centuries other nomadic cultures from the west and the north, including the Paiute and Navajo peoples respectively, settled on the Colorado Plateau. Hidden in the canyons and mesas are countless ruins of stone and mud cities, alcove dwellings, pit houses, ceremonial pits (kivas), pottery fragments, middens, and granaries. They entered a region replete with evidence of a once abundant culture, and the Navajo named the vanished peoples “Anasazi,” sometimes translated as “ancient enemies.”

The residents of ancestral cultures established the basis for cultural traditions we witness today in much of the Hopi, Tewa, and Navajo communities. Specific skills such as adobe and rock masonry, weaving, and certain dryland farming techniques that were popular among the Ancestral Pueblo, have found their way into the modern lifestyles of the regional native peoples. With adaptations including sheep and cattle herding, the Paiute, Ute and Navajo have successfully survived and preserved their own traditions in the land of the ancients.

European Colonization

Over the 800 years that have elapsed since the Ancestral Pueblo's mysterious disappearance, there have been several attempts by “white men” to colonize the area. As early as 1539, Spanish explorers recorded contact with native populations in the Grand Canyon area. The 1540's journals of the Spanish explorer Coronado are riddled with references to encounters with natives in New Mexico. In the 1700's, Jesuit priests came into the region with the objective of converting local peoples. The Jesuits recorded hostilities between and among various native groups, which made the Catholic Church's conversion task a little easier.

The exploration of the Colorado River by John Wesley Powell in 1869 and 1872 helped stimulate North American interest in the region. With the settlement of New Mexico and Arizona by the “white people,” came increased tension and fighting among the native groups. Navajo raids on white settlers pushing into Navajo homelands were common. United States Army commanders fought back and eventually won, due to their military advantage. Kit Carson was sent to round up the Dineh (Navajo), and take them far away from their ancestral homeland, Dinétah, to Fort Sumner, New Mexico. Several years later they were allowed to return to Dinétah, which we currently know as the Navajo Reservation in northeast Arizona and southeast Utah.

In 1847, a group of Mormons in search of a new settlement area, entered Utah and pronounced it ideal for colonization. A Mormon settlement party entered the San Juan River basin in the fall of 1880. Possessing stout tools, sufficient supplies and some livestock, they built a community in the shelter of the redrock which is now Bluff, Utah. The region's population has grown based on extractive industries. Because of the large concentration of coal, oil, uranium, and natural gas in Arizona and southeastern Utah, and rich deposits of gold and silver in southwest Colorado and northwest New Mexico, this region has seen a constant cycle of “boom and bust” over the years.

ROCK ART

Rock art is a generic term referring to paintings (pictographs) and carvings (petroglyphs) on stone canvasses. This artistry is one of the earliest creations of humankind. Prehistoric paintings dating from 45,000 to 35,000 years ago have been found in caves and rock shelters in France and Australia. In the American Southwest, the earliest rock art is associated with the Archaic culture and ranges from abstracts and geometrics to representational life forms such as anthropomorphs (human-like) and zoomorphs (animal-like). Petroglyphs are predominant in this period, with isolated instances of both painted and pecked features.

Rock art of the Ancestral Pueblo is abundant on the Colorado Plateau, particularly along the San Juan River. Anthropomorphs and zoomorphs predominate, often shown in animated postures. Both petroglyphs and pictographs are common during this period. One major, noteworthy Basketmaker rock art type is the San Juan Anthropomorphic Style, named for its predominance along the San Juan River. The elaborately decorated, front-facing and formal figures sport masks, abstract elements around the ears and above the head, and feature arm, hand, leg and foot appendages.

Late Archaic rock art on the Colorado Plateau is world renowned for the Barrier Canyon Style anthropomorphs. This style features large, human-like, front-facing figures that are elaborately costumed and head dressed and are ceremonial or other-worldly in appearance.

Later rock art in the region includes realistic Paiute or Ute and Navajo depictions of horses, warriors, women and children, sun and star motifs, shields, and battle scenes. In one instance along the San Juan River, a historic shoot-out between Anglos and Utes is illustrated.

TERRAIN

The region we explore for this adventure is one of the most picturesque places in the world. The land is dominated by high mesas, and literally thousands of basins, washes, and canyons. Thick stands of pinon pine and juniper spot the canyon rims and mesas tops. A tangle of willow, cottonwood, and tamarisk carpet the bottomlands, washes, and riparian areas.

In the springtime, mesa tops will likely be spotted with snow. The north facing ditches and canyon slopes and edges can be slippery and muddy with spring melt-water. The normally dry physical environment is at its wettest this time of year. It's at this time that the canyon country comes into bloom, so tread lightly. You can expect to encounter water in the washes and waterfalls in the deep canyons.

In the summertime, the physical environment is quite dry and hot. Talus slopes tend to be quite loose and exposed rock slabs very warm. Washes, streambeds, and arroyos are usually empty and dry. The combination of cloudless skies, bright sun, and warm breezes can quickly cause dehydration, so seek shade whenever possible and keep an adequate supply of water on-hand at all times. Expect short, but intense thunderstorms during July and August afternoons. Always be on the alert for flash floods while venturing into these areas during the summer.