



Grand Canyon National Park
grca_educational_fee_waiver@nps.gov
Fee Operations (928)-638-7852



Grand Canyon National Park Educational Fee Waiver Application and Instructions

Planning Your Visit—Read this *before* completing and submitting waiver application

Transportation

- All vehicles entering the park under an educational fee waiver must have an approved copy in their possession at all times.
- There are no restrictions to the size and number of vehicles per group; however, groups should strive to limit the number of vehicles due to parking limitations throughout the park.
- Groups should be prepared to encounter traffic at entrance stations, busy parking areas, scenic overlooks, and other popular areas. It is best to arrive before 9:00 am or after 4:00 pm to avoid long wait times at the entrance.

Parking

- If your group plans to arrive in an oversized vehicle (Over 20 feet in length) please be aware that parking is limited to the following locations:
 - Lot 1—Grand Canyon Visitor Center (South Rim)
 - Lot B—Market Plaza, near park headquarters (South Rim)
 - Lot D—Backcountry Information Center (South Rim)
 - Watchtower Parking Lot (Desert View); Norton Court (North Rim)

Lodging

- Educational fee waivers do not waive fees associated with lodging or camping inside the park.
- There are multiple hotel lodging and camping options both inside and outside the park.

Limitations

- The North Rim is usually open from Mid-May to Mid-October.
- Group Sizes and Chaperone Limits
 - Group sizes should be limited to no more than 30 people total in one area at a time; if your group exceeds this size, please split into groups of 30 or less and rotate use of trails, overlooks, museums, historic areas, etc.
 - Chaperone limits are enforced as follows:
 - K-5th 1 adult to 5 students
 - 6th -12th 1 adult to 10 students
 - College/University 1 adult to 20 students

Ratios outside of these limits will be considered on a case-by-case basis.



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Fees

- Approved Educational Fee Waivers cover entrance fees only—not camping or backcountry permit fees. If your group is interested in camping, you may visit www.Recreation.gov and search for Mather Campground, Desert View Campground, or North Rim Campground group camping for details on how to make reservations.
- Additional adult chaperones outside of the ratios listed above will be charged an \$8 per person fee, valid for 7 days, upon entry.
- “America the Beautiful—National Parks and Federal Recreational Land Passes” (Annual and Lifetime Passes) will be honored as described on the back of the pass.

Important Hiking Information

- [Day Hiking - Grand Canyon National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#). Groups day hiking below the canyon rim should try to limit group size to 11 people only for extended day hikes, e.g., past Havasupai Garden. Groups of 12-30 people hiking past Havasupai Garden require an [Extended Day Hike Permit](#).
- It is not recommended to hike to the river and back in a day.
- Staying overnight in the canyon requires a backcountry permit.
- This fee waiver does not cover any other required permits.
- Remember to visit our website to keep tabs on our current conditions and trail closures: www.nps.gov/grca.

Additional Educational Options

- Groups who wish to enrich their educational outing should consider reaching out to Grand Canyon’s Education team for information about Ranger led programming or lesson plans. If you book a program with the educational team, they will give you a letter that covers your entrance and replaces needing a fee waiver.
- Please email nps_grca_education@nps.gov or visit <http://www.nps.gov/grca/learn/education>

Keep our park clean and healthy

- Not all trash receptacles are easy to place large amounts of trash or boxes into. Ensure you find proper disposal for all trash and keep our wildlife wild. Eating human food and or plastics are hazardous to wildlife.



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All groups seeking a waiver of fees for educational study are required to meet three criteria before such a waiver will be issued—eligibility, academic purpose, and relevancy of park resources or facilities.

Criteria #1—Eligibility

National or international applicants must prove they are a school or *bona fide* academic institution by submitting one of the following types of documentation as an attachment to this application:

- Proof of accreditation which could include an Accreditation or Recognition Letter from accrediting agency or a link to the accreditation website, listing the institution as accredited.
- A tax exemption letter clearly showing educational or scientific exemption (simply providing a Tax ID# is not sufficient)
- If you submit a fee waiver but don't have this documentation, we may consider the waiver on a case-by-case basis.

Please note, non-profit status is not an automatic qualifier for an educational fee waiver. As such, 501(c)(3) organizations must meet all 3 criteria to qualify for an educational fee waiver.

Criteria #2— Educational Purpose of the Visit

Applicants must provide a written statement confirming that the visit supports a specific curriculum for which academic credit is offered. Commercial enterprises cannot apply for fee waivers themselves, but their clients (educational groups) can apply.

Provide any of the following to meet these criteria:

- Clearly written statement on Page 5 of this application, indicating educational goals and type of credit students will receive for attending this trip.
 - Copy of College/University level syllabus.
 - State or National Educational Standards met by the visit.
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Criteria #3—Relevance of Park Resource or Facilities

Applicants must provide a clearly written statement on the fee waiver application identifying specific park resources/facilities that will be used during the visit to support the educational purpose of the visit, and how each relates to the educational goals/purpose of the visit. For example, if the class is studying geology, you may visit the Geology Museum or walk the Trail of Time.