



## Red Rock Canyon NCA Environmental Education Program Procedures and Safety

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### ❖ Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area General Information

- The Red Rock Canyon NCA is located 6 miles west of CC-215 on West Charleston Blvd, also known as State Route 159. It often takes 45 minutes to an hour to drive to Red Rock Canyon from the east side of Las Vegas. Please plan your drive time accordingly.
- The Scenic Drive is a 13-mile, one-way road, which begins and ends on State Route 159.
- The Lost Creek/Children's Discovery Trail is located at approximately mile 7 on the 13 mile Scenic Drive. Allow 20 minutes driving time from the Visitor Center.
- Due to the mountains at Red Rock Canyon, weather is variable and can be up to 10 degrees cooler than in the Las Vegas Valley.
- Cellular phone service is very limited to non-existent.

### ❖ Red Rock Hours and Reservations

- The Scenic Drive is open from 6:00 AM to dusk throughout the year. The Visitor Center is open daily from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
- Classes and groups must call at least three weeks in advance to reserve space and time in the Visitor Center and on our field trip trails.
- E-mail Kate Sorom at [KSorom@blm.gov](mailto:KSorom@blm.gov) or call 702-515-5353 between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM for reservations and information.
- Teachers will receive a confirmation e-mail when reservations are made.
- For teacher lead self-guided trail programs, completion of a teacher workshop Red Rock Canyon offers is ***required***. Current teacher workshops are:
  - Explore the Great Outdoors- Investigating Red Rock Canyon (PDE 2275)
  - Archaeology at Red Rock Canyon (PDE 3417)
  - Geology at Red Rock Canyon (PDE 3418)
  - Biology at Red Rock Canyon (PDE 3495)

### ❖ What to Bring

- There is no drinking water available on the 13-mile Scenic Drive, so groups should bring water bottles.
  - **A minimum of one (1) liter or two (2) 16.9 Fl. Oz. bottles of water per person is recommended.**
  - **Not frozen- The water does not melt fast enough to drink**
- A checklist of suggested personal items for each student is available on our web-site at [www.blm.gov/site-page/RRCNCA](http://www.blm.gov/site-page/RRCNCA) or by e-mail request.
- Cell phone coverage is very spotty to non-existent; it is better in higher elevations. To save battery power, we advise visitors to place their phones on airplane mode or turn off cell phones while at the Conservation Area. Cell phones will lose their charge quickly trying to find coverage.

### ❖ Picnicking/Eating

- There are four picnic areas in the Red Rock Canyon NCA. Pit toilets and picnic tables are available at each of these locations. Water is NOT available.
  - Red Spring Picnic Area is located two miles east of the Visitor Center on the Calico Basin Road off State Route 159.
  - Visitor Center Picnic Area is to the west of the Visitor Center complex.



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- Willow Spring Picnic Area is located 7.5 miles from the Visitor Center and ½ mile from the Children's Discovery Trail on the Scenic Drive.
- Red Rock Dedication Scenic Overlook is located two miles west of the Visitor Center on State Route 159.

### ❖ Visitor Center

- Keep students on developed paths and trails for their safety. Do not let students run through the vegetation located around the Visitor Center and Discovery Plaza Outside Museum, these areas are homes to our wild plants and animals such as rabbits and lizards.
- Keep students on the cement and soil trails.
- While inside the Visitor Center, please respect other visitors. Keep voices low. No running, games, or rough housing inside the Visitor Center.
- Treat equipment and supplies that are used at the Visitor Center just as you would treat any other expensive equipment used at school.
- All drinks and food should be left inside the bus. No food or drinks are allowed in the Visitor Center or Discovery Plaza this includes Gatorade, Juice Boxes, etc.
  - **The only EXCEPTION to this rule is water.**

### ❖ Restrooms

- Restrooms at the Visitor Center can handle four students at a time. Please assign a chaperone to supervise students.
- Pit toilets are available at the following locations in the NCA:
  - Lost Creek: 7 miles from the Visitor Center on the Scenic Drive.
  - Willow Spring: 7.5 miles from the Visitor Center on the Scenic Drive.
  - Pine Creek: 11 miles from the Visitor Center on the Scenic Drive.
  - Red Rock Dedication Overlook: Located on State Route 159 (Charleston Blvd), ¼ mile East of the Red Rock Scenic Drive Exit
  - Red Spring: 2 miles east of the Visitor Center on the Calico Basin Road off of State Route 159.
- No running water in the pit toilet, bring hand sanitizer and a spare toilet paper roll just in case the bathrooms run out. They are serviced every day in between 8am and 12pm.

### ❖ Elements Books and Gift Store for Teachers

- We offer a variety of books written on the Mojave Desert and related themes for both children and adults. All purchases are tax exempt and teachers receive a 10% discount with I.D.

### ❖ On the Trail

- Please explain Leave No Trace Principals to students and chaperons.  
<https://lnt.org/teach/teaching-resources>
- Students can take a free fun online class from [www.treadlightly.org/learn/online-courses/](http://www.treadlightly.org/learn/online-courses/) And receive a certificate they can print out.
- Please keep students on the designated paths and trails for their own safety and the safety of the plants and wildlife. Steep slopes and cliff edges are dangerous.
- Teachers should explain not only the fragile nature of the desert environment but also the danger of some plants and animals. They poke and bite if disturbed.
- Remind the students that they are visitors in the homes of our plants and animals and they are to observe with their eyes first before they use their hands.



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- Make sure that students, teachers, and chaperones dress for the desert environments: hats and enclosed shoes for all seasons. Pants are highly recommended even in the hotter season.
- Plan ahead with chaperones so that each of them is responsible for a set group of students and each group is kept together. Discuss safety and courtesy procedures with chaperones so that they are prepared to monitor student behavior.
- Please explain to students and chaperones that picking or collecting any natural or cultural feature is prohibited throughout the area. This includes rocks as well as dead or down material. Red Rock Canyon is a Conservation Area, and all things are protected by federal law.
- Do not allow the throwing or climbing of rocks nor the chasing or capturing of wildlife. Advise students and chaperones not to put feet or hands under rocks or into any openings or shadowed areas.
- Even the burros, which appear docile, can be dangerous, so view them from a distance and do not pet or feed.
- Temperatures often top 100°F at Red Rock Canyon during the Spring and Summer, so please make sure everyone brings water, a **minimum of one (1) liter or two (2) 16.9 Fl. Oz. bottles of water per person is recommended. NOT frozen!**
- Winter months are on average 30°F to 50°F so make sure students are prepared for cold weather.
- Encourage students to dispose of trash properly and encourage picking up any extra litter they may find along the trail. Some teachers have made this a contest, rewarding students who find the most trash with a sticker or a stamp.
- Washes are eroded areas that flood with fast moving water when it rains. Do not enter washes during or after a storm.
- A whistle is recommended for the teacher. Its sound carries further than a voice and can command immediate attention from students when necessary.
- Please do not let students run or play unsupervised while visiting Red Rock Canyon NCA.

### ❖ Dangerous Flora and Fauna

- We do have potentially dangerous flora and fauna (plants and animals) such as scorpions, rattlesnakes, desert recluse spiders, and Jimson Weed. Please remember not to collect or pick the plants or flowers and do not chase or attempt to capture the wildlife.
- Cell phone coverage is very spotty to non-existent.
- Emergencies
  - Call 293-8998 or 911

### ❖ More Information

- For more information, please explore the BLM website at these links:
  - [www.blm.gov](http://www.blm.gov)
- The Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association also provides information on the web.
  - <http://www.redrockcanyonlv.org/>
- The Friends of Red Rock Canyon also provides information on the web.
  - <http://friendsofredrockcanyon.org>
- Bird and hike by Dr. Jim Boone; Desert Ecologist
  - [www.BirdAndHike.com](http://www.BirdAndHike.com)
- Bureau of Land Management-Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area
  - Google "Red Rock Canyon BLM"



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- Searching Google, Bing, or Yahoo will also provide a large collection of **UNOFFICIAL** information on the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, but please verify any information from these sites by calling the visitor center: (702) 515-5350