



Red Rock Canyon NCA Environmental Education Program

Human Impacts

Background:

Red Rock Canyon NCA was Nevada's first National Conservation Area, and the seventh in the US. Having originally been set aside as Recreation Lands in 1967, special legislation changed the status of Red Rock to an NCA in 1990 to protect the unique geological features, plants, and animals that can be found here.

NCA's are designed by Congress to conserve, protect, enhance, and manage public lands for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations. Throughout history people have interacted with the lands around them, and the impacts of people on the environment can be seen in both positive and negative ways. One of the purposes of designating Red Rock Canyon as an NCA was to protect it as much as possible from negative impacts, while providing positive impacts and creating an opportunity for current and future generations to use and enjoy the area.

Human impacts are import to all outdoor areas, not just NCA's. To lessen negative impacts, a set of ethics known as environmental ethics has been created. Ethics can be defined as a set of moral principles, where choice, judgment, and values meet. In other words, ethics are a system of guidelines that govern our behavior and what we do when no one is watching. Environmental ethics is a set of environmentally related principles that are guidelines for proper behavior in outdoor settings.

Education is important with environmental ethics, as many simply do not know the best practice for given outdoor situations. Likewise, environmental ethics can vary on the setting; while there are similarities, certain guidelines will be different in a city park than in a designated wilderness area, for example.

One way to educate students further about this is through service learning. Service learning combines formal, academic education with hands-on community service. It provides context to what students learn about and can help students develop lifelong commitment to service. Through service learning students will not only learn more about human impacts on our natural environments, but will be more likely to become the next stewards in protecting our public lands.

Suggested Activities:

K-2 grade	3-5 grade	6-8 grade	9-12 grade
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leave No Trace• The Lorax (K-5 version)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leave No Trace• The Lorax (K-5 version)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leave No Trace• The Lorax (6-12 version)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Leave No Trace• The Lorax (6-12 version)

All activities can be found on the Red Rock teacher resources website. While activities are designed for particular age groups, most can be adapted to fit your class age and needs. Activities can be completed on any of the four trails and include suggested locations for each.