

Set in Stone Education Programs

BLM

Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area



There are many ways for students to learn from Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area

Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area was established in 2002 and comprises 48,483 acres of public land that is set aside to preserve and protect the outstanding natural and cultural resources for present and future generations. Sloan Canyon is located South of Henderson in the heart of the Mojave Desert embodying beautiful black-hued peaks of the Northern McCullough Range. It is a premiere petroglyph site with over 400 rock art panels.

The goals of the Sloan Canyon Environmental Education Programs are to:

- Increase participation of all children in outdoor adventures.
- Promote stewardship of all public land.
- Encourage children to respect and protect their environment.
- Educate students about the Mojave Desert and the natural and cultural resources at Sloan Canyon.
- Improve the health and quality of life for children by encouraging them to be connected to nature.



Wildflowers at Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area

Ranger-Led Classroom Programs

Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area offers lessons taught in a classroom setting. All lessons use scientific inquiry approach and meet Nevada State Department of Education Standards. Please see program grade levels (K-5) and descriptions below.

K-1 Wildlife Watch

There is a diverse range of wildlife at Sloan Canyon which can be identified by their habitat, tracks, and the droppings that they leave behind. Students will learn that every animal has tracks that distinguish it from others. Students will become detectives and learn to identify various tracks and droppings from a variety of wildlife found at Sloan Canyon.
Meets science standards: N.2.A, N.2.A.1, N.2.A.2

K-1 Desert Discovery

The desert has unique characteristics and there is a diverse collection of plants and animals in the Mojave Desert. Students will be able to identify at least two desert plants, two desert animals, and two desert safety rules that apply to Sloan Canyon.
Meets science standards: N.2.A.1, L.2.C.3, L.2.D.1

2-3 Etched in Stone

Cultural resources like petroglyphs and pictographs are precious resources found at Sloan Canyon. Students will be able to tell the difference between petroglyphs and pictographs and possible reasons they were created. By creating their own pictograph designs on a calendar, students will use their imagination to interpret the meanings of several symbols. This classroom program contains group activities that are tailored to the students' grade level.
Meets science standards: N.2.A.1, N.2.A.3, N.2.B.2

2-3 Variety is the Spice of Life

Students will be able to differentiate desert animals using at least one physical characteristic and recognize three sensitive wildlife species at Sloan Canyon. The differences between mammals, birds, and reptiles will also be explored. The program will enable the students to identify characteristics of the desert and discover ways to help preserve the species that inhabit it.
Meets science standards: L.2.A.2, N.5.A.1, N.2.B.2

3 Tracking Wildlife

Every animal has tracks that distinguish it from others, and this program will enable students to become wildlife detectives - experts at identifying various tracks. Students will also learn the various adaptations that animals have made to the harsh desert environment.
Meets science standards: N.5.A.6, N.8.A.3, N.5.A.5

4-5 Powerful Petroglyphs and Pictographs

Students will learn the difference between petroglyphs and pictographs and possible reasons they were designed. By creating pictograph designs on a calendar, students will use their imagination to interpret the meanings of several symbols. The group activities in this classroom program are designed for 4th and 5th grade developmental levels.
Meets science standards: N.5.B.3, N.5.B.1, N.5.A.7

4-5 Sloan Sensitive Species

Students will learn to identify two plants, two animals, and two reptiles that are considered sensitive species at Sloan Canyon. The program also explains difference between a sensitive species, a threatened species, and an endangered species.
Meets science standards: N.5.B.3, N.5.A.5, N.5.A.1

4-5 Volcanoes at Sloan Canyon

Throughout history, various types of volcanoes have erupted at Sloan Canyon. During this program, students will learn about the different types of volcanoes, what makes them erupt, and what types of rocks they produce. Students will also identify at least three types of rocks found at Sloan Canyon.
Meets science standards: N.5.B.3, N.8.A.3, N.5.A.1

4-5 Revolving Reptiles

Students will be able to sort desert reptiles by at least one physical characteristic and name three common reptile species at Sloan Canyon. This program will teach the students about the types of reptiles such as lizards, tortoises, and venomous snakes. The characteristics of reptiles and their various lifecycles and adaptations will also be explored during the program.
Meets science standards: N.5.A.1, N.8.A.3, N.5.A.6



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Ranger-Led Programs

Bureau of Land Management staff from Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area are bringing a touch of the outdoors to the classrooms. Invite a park ranger to come to your classroom and help awaken scientific curiosity and have your students connect with their surroundings in the Mojave Desert. Reservations are made on a first come, first served basis. A minimum of two weeks advance notice is required for scheduling of all interpretive programs. The indoor programs are offered on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Durations of the programs vary.

How to Participate:

- Choose a classroom program for the grade level of the students.
- Fill out an application for the classroom program and submit it to Environmental Education Ranger for Sloan Canyon.
- A ranger will contact you through email or phone to confirm the date and time requested is available.

Contact Environmental Education Coordinator/Ranger for questions and copies of application forms. Call 702-515-5350 or visit us on the website at:

www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo/blm_programs/blm_special_areas/sloan_canyon_nca.html



Ranger-led classroom program



Road to Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area

Teacher-Led Sloan Canyon Geology Lessons

The Sloan Canyon geology trunk is designed to inspire teachers to bring the outdoors into their classrooms. It contains all of the materials necessary to teach introductory geology lessons to students from grades 5-8. It was created by a volcanologist from UNLV and the lessons are a valuable way to help teachers meet several of the Clark County School District Curriculum Standards. Teachers may check out the geology trunk for their classroom.

There are nine different lessons to choose from, and a teacher can choose to teach just one lesson or as many as can be accommodated within a one or two week period. Two weeks advance notice is required for scheduling of the traveling trunk. Availability is limited and on a first come, first served basis.



Geological features in Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area