



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Southern Nevada District  
Red Rock/Sloan Field Office  
4701 N. Torrey Pines Drive  
Las Vegas, NV 89130  
<http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.1.html>

In Reply Refer To:  
8367 (NVS0200)

Dear Future Field Trip Applicant,

Thank you for considering using Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area (NCA) in your school curriculum for this year. Enclosed is information about field trips at Red Rock Canyon NCA and how to schedule them.

Applications for programs will be accepted from September 1- April 1. Busses are scheduled one per trail per day and you are responsible for scheduling transportation. Space is limited so please apply early.

Transportation grants are available from Friends of Red Rock Canyon and only for teachers who have completed the Explore the Great Outdoors teacher workshop. Transportation grants are limited and an application and information must be obtained by contacting the Friends of Red Rock Canyon at [www.FriendsOfRedRockCanyon.org](http://www.FriendsOfRedRockCanyon.org) or you may call (702) 515-5360.

If you have any questions or need additional information on the next Explore the Great Outdoors teacher workshop or the application process, please call Kate Sorom at (702) 515-5353. We look forward to meeting you and your group.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Mark Spencer*

Mark Spencer  
Field Manager  
Red Rock/Sloan Field Office



## 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 UNLV. 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.

### ❖ 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. ***The Visitor Center can accommodate only one bus or 60 students at a time.*** Classes and groups must call at least three weeks in advance to reserve space and time in the Visitor Center and on the Children's Discovery Trail.
- Call 515-5350 between 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM for reservations and information.
- Teachers will receive a pre-visit packet in the mail when reservations are made. The packet will include a copy of the Children's Discovery Trail Booklet.
- For teachers to lead self-guided trail programs, completion of the Explore the Great Outdoors (EGO) Teacher's Workshop Part 1 is ***required***.

### ❖ 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 of water per person is recommended.
- A checklist of suggested personal items for each student is included in the pre-visit packet.
- Cell phone coverage is very spotty to non-existent; it is better in higher elevations. To save battery power, we advise visitors to turn off cell phones while at the Conservation Area or bring a charger. 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. No water is available.
  - Red Spring is located two miles east of the Visitor Center on the Calico Basin Road off State Route 159.
  - Visitor Center
  - Willow Spring is located 7.5 miles from the Visitor Center and ½ mile from the Children's Discovery Trail on the Scenic Drive.



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- Red Rock Dedication Overlook 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. 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. If students are playing in the restrooms, please assign a chaperone to supervise students.
  - Please encourage students to leave all restrooms in the same condition as they found them.
  - Pit toilets are available at the following locations in the NCA:
    - Sandstone Quarry: 3 miles from the Visitor Center on the Scenic Drive.
    - 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 Spring: 2 miles east of the Visitor Center on the Calico Basin Road off of State Route 159.
  
- ❖ **Elements Books and Gift Store**
  - We offer a variety of books written on the Mojave Desert and related themes for both children and adults.
  - Some inexpensive items (\$5.00 and under) that interest students are postcards, posters, bookmarks, pins, and patches. Our main focus is books and gifts relating to the region of the Mojave Desert and Red Rock Canyon.
  - Students may browse through the bookstore in groups no larger than five at a time with a chaperone present.
  - Please instruct students to ask for assistance when looking for a specific book title or subject. The staff will be glad to help!
  - Instruct students to form one line at the cash register.



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

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### ❖ On the Trail

- 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. Remind the students that they are there to observe with their eyes and not their hands.
- Make sure that students, teachers, and chaperones dress for the desert environments: hats and enclosed shoes for all seasons.
- 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 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, at least **one liter per person**.
- 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 flora and do not chase or attempt to capture the wildlife.
- Cell phone coverage is very spotty.
- Emergencies
  - Call 293-8998 or 911



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### ❖ More Information

- For more information, please explore the BLM website at these links:
  - <http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo.html>
  - [http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo/blm\\_programs/blm\\_special\\_areas/red\\_rock\\_nca.html](http://www.blm.gov/nv/st/en/fo/lvfo/blm_programs/blm_special_areas/red_rock_nca.html)
- 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>
- Searching Google, Bing, or Yahoo will also provide a large collection of ***UNOFFICIAL*** information on the Red Rock National Conservation Area, but please verify any information from these sites by calling the visitor center: (702) 515-5350



## Red Rock Canyon NCA Environmental Education Program Application Guidelines

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Groups wishing to schedule ranger led visitor center programs or teacher led trail programs must submit an environmental education program application form.

### ❖ **Self-guided trail programs/Teacher led**

- Completion of the Explore the Great Outdoors (EGO) teacher's workshop part 1 is **required** for teachers to lead self-guided trail programs.
- One certified EGO teacher per group is required.
- The Discovery Plaza is now open at the Visitor Center; if you would like to explore on your own please schedule an extra hour before or after the trail program and make prior arrangements with Red Rock Canyon Environmental Education Staff.

### ❖ **Ranger Led Programs**

- A certified EGO teacher is **not required** for ranger led visitor center programs.
- Visit our outdoor classroom. Through activities and hands-on learning, students can explore the natural and cultural wonders of the Mojave Desert in Red Rock Canyon.

Submission of an application form does not automatically guarantee selection for a field trip. If selected, you are responsible for arranging and paying for your own transportation.

### ❖ **Times**

- All Clark County School District buses cannot pick up earlier than 9 a.m. and must return no later than 1 p.m.
- All field trips are scheduled between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m.
- Only private buses will be accommodated for other times, if available.
- Blackout dates for field trips are found on the Interact Clark County Transportation Website for school district buses in August.

### ❖ **All trips: Application forms are accepted for ALL dates beginning September 1<sup>st</sup>.**

- Make sure you fill out the appropriate application form for the type of field trip you wish: **Teacher led** or **Ranger led**.
- Each group must submit an application form. More than one qualified teacher from the same school may submit application forms.
- Each fieldtrip is limited to 60 students and 1 bus at the location per date.
- One chaperone is required for every six students.
- Request for field trips will be processed in the order that they are received.
- Teachers will be contacted to schedule programs during specific contact periods. Please leave relevant contact information on your request form for the contact week.
- Transportation Scholarships are available to eligible teachers/leaders.



## Red Rock Canyon NCA Environmental Education Program Application Guidelines

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### ❖ Fees

- There is no entrance or program charge for BLM approved educational groups.
- Groups which are not performing curriculum programming and have not received their BLM educational permit prior to coming to Red Rock Canyon are subject to entrance and use fees.
- Contact our Outdoor Recreation Planners if you have questions regarding your status. Kathy August 702-515-5138 or [KAugust@blm.gov](mailto:KAugust@blm.gov)



## Red Rock Canyon NCA Environmental Education Program Application Guidelines

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### Explore the Great Outdoors Teachers Workshops (EGO)

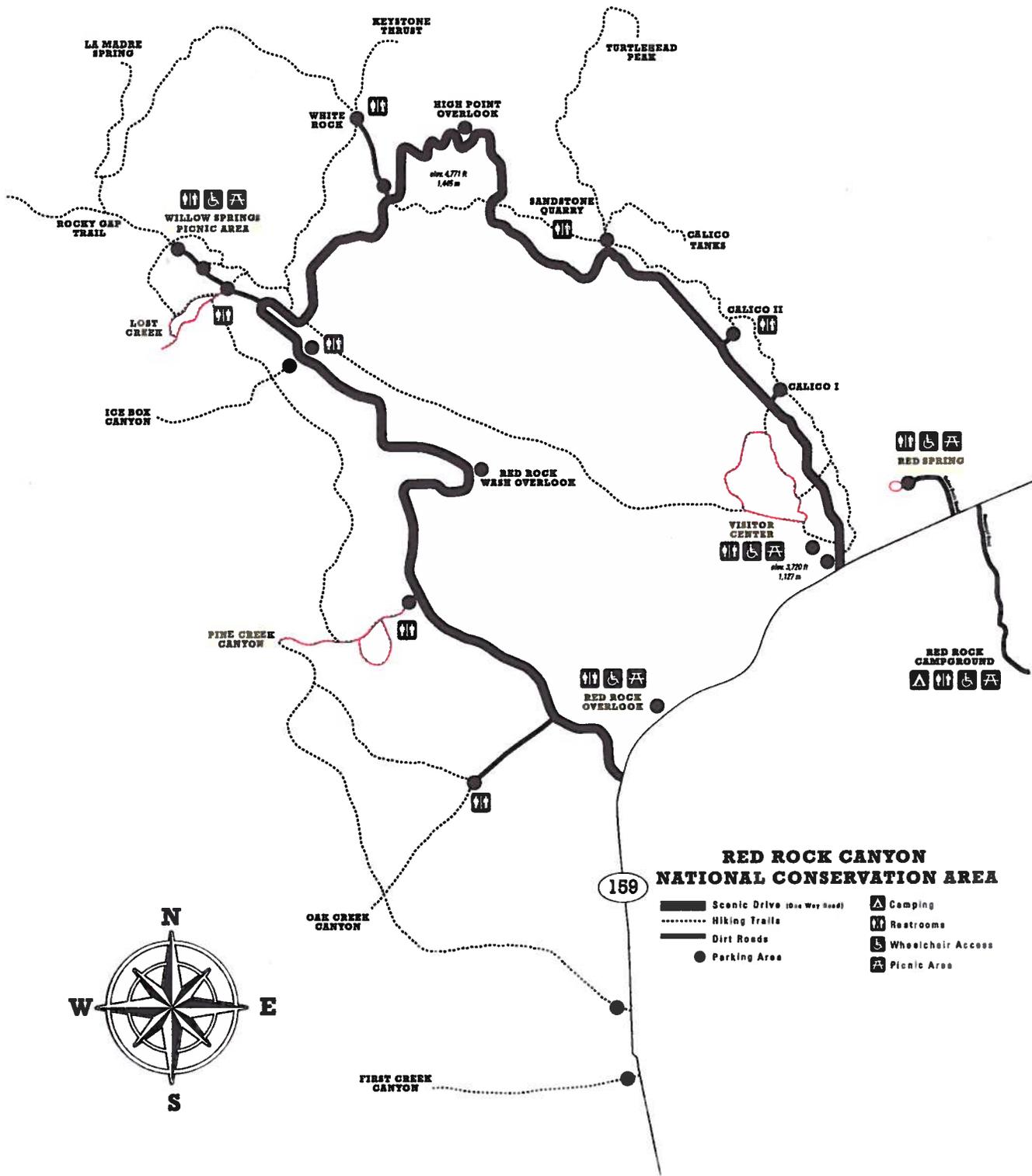
- Explore the Great Outdoors- Part 1 is a one day workshop designed for educators and children's group leaders to familiarize them with Red Rock Canyon NCA facilities, group logistics and present information about the natural and cultural resources of Red Rock Canyon NCA, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Mojave Desert.
- The workshop is 8 hours in length and is available for Professional Development Experience (PDE) for Clark County teachers K- 12.
  - Teacher's who wish to obtain PDE credit **MUST** sign up with the Clark County School District prior to attending.
  - Explore the Great Outdoors **IS REQUIRED** for institutions which bring groups to trails at Red Rock Canyon.
  - Explore the Great Outdoors **IS REQUIRED** for institutions which apply for the Friends of Red Rock Canyon Transportation Grant.
  - For more information and about this workshop and dates contact the Red Rock Canyon Visitor Center at 702-515-5350.

### ❖ What if I'm applying for a Transportation Grant?

- If you have already taken EGO-part 1 and are applying for a Friends of Red Rock Canyon Transportation Grant you will need to fill out ALL forms.
- Grant applications are only accepted during the specific times of **September 1 to April 1**
- Teachers must be available during specific contact periods to schedule programs.
- Teachers are responsible for
  - Submitting a receipt to the Friends of Red Rock Canyon NCA after their field trip to receive the reimbursement of their grant.

### ❖ For Transportation Grant Information contact:

- Friends of Red Rock Canyon 702-515-5360
- Box 97, Blue Diamond, NV 89004
- [www.FriendsOfRedRockCanyon.org](http://www.FriendsOfRedRockCanyon.org)



**RED ROCK CANYON NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA**

- Scenic Drive (104.4 Way Road)
- Hiking Trails
- Dirt Roads
- Parking Area
- Camping
- Restrooms
- Wheelchair Access
- Picnic Area



NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS

**WELCOME TO RED ROCK CANYON NCA**

**ENJOY YOUR VISIT**

**Student's Checklist**

-  Lunch and filled water container
-  Hat & Small day pack
-  Coat/Jacket depending on weather (Red Rock can be 10°F cooler than the Las Vegas valley)
-  Pencil & Note Paper
-  Closed toed shoes suitable for hiking i.e. sneakers/boots
-  Long pants (shorts are not recommended even in warm weather as we have plants that poke)
-  Name Tag



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