

Planning a School Field Trip to Snow Canyon State Park



Overview

Naturalist-guided school field trips are free for county, charter, and private schools and are available to book throughout the school year. This field trip includes a seated lesson from a Naturalist, a hike on the Hidden Pinyon trail, and free time for lunch (lunch is not provided by the park). School Field Trips are limited to 70 students (teachers and chaperones not included in this total).

The Hidden Pinyon trail is 1.5 miles round trip and is rated as a moderate trail with deep sand, rocky terrain, and a rock chute (mini slot canyon). This trail highlights geological features and native plants in the park. Please advise parents and students to bring water bottles and dress appropriately for the weather.

Teachers and chaperones should be prepared to have an active role during the field trip. Depending on staffing, they may be in charge of leading students on the hike. We ask for a 10:1 student to teacher/chaperone ratio minimum.



What does a School Field Trip look like?

Our field trips are blocked as 3 hour long events. The first 2 hours are with the ranger participating in the hike and lesson. The last hour is for lunch, free time, and loading students onto the bus before departure.

Below is an example of our field trip timeline.

10:00am

Arrive to the Campground Day Use Picnic Area. Unload students and introduction on the lawn. Bathroom break.

10:15am

First Rotation Starts.
Group 1 sits on lawn for lesson, Group 2 starts hiking Hidden Pinyon.

11:00am

Group 2 returns to the Campground Day Use Picnic Area. Bathroom breaks.

11:15am

Second Rotation Starts.
Group 2 sits on lawn for lesson, Group 1 starts hiking Hidden Pinyon.

12:00pm

Group 1 returns to the Campground Day Use Picnic Area. Both groups sit on lawn for farewell.

12:15pm

Lunch and free time. Load students onto bus.

1:00pm

Depart to return to school.

What do the students learn about?

Our lessons are based on Utah Science and Engineering Education Standards (Utah SEEd Standards). When booking a field trip, teachers will have the option to choose which program best fits their classroom needs. Below are our available programs and associated standards.

Kinder-
garten

Who's Scary?
(Standard K.2.1 & K.2.2)

1st
Grade

Desert Thunderstorms
(Standard 1.2.1 & 1.2.2)

2nd
Grade

Desert Detectives
(Standard 2.2.1 & 2.2.2)

3rd
Grade

Animal Adaptations
(Standard 3.2.4 & 3.2.5)

4th
Grade

Fossil Finders
(Standards 4.1.3 & 4.1.4)

5th
Grade

Geology Whiz
(Standard 5.1.1 & 5.1.3)

6th
Grade

Our Solar System
(Standard 6.1.1 & 6.1.3)

When can I book a School Field Trip?

School Field Trip bookings open at the beginning of the semester. All visits must be scheduled a minimum of two weeks in advance. Visits occurring from April through May should be scheduled at least one month in advance.

Preferred visitation dates may not be available. Please be prepared to provide three alternative dates when filling out the request form.

Field Trip Date

Booking
Requests Open

Bookable Days

September 1st -
December 31st

August 15th

Wednesdays &
Thursdays

March 1st -
May 31st

January 1st

Tuesdays,
Wednesdays &
Thursdays

What if I don't get my preferred days?

Field Trip days can get booked quickly. If you are not able to get a date for a naturalist guided visit, please check out our Self-Guided or Recreational Visit options to get your students into the park!

Details to consider before requesting a field trip...

Buses

Please consider bus availability, time to load students, and drive time when selecting an arrival time.

As of the 2024/25 school year, Washington County Schools buses can be booked starting at 9:30am for field trips.

Dates

Preferred visitation dates may not be available. When filling out the School Field Trip Request form, you will need to list three visitation dates in order of preference. Visits between April and May fill up the quickest.

ADA Accommodations

Many educators will book field trips for their entire grade.

Please talk with the other teachers involved about any accommodations students may need. This can include physical (wheelchairs, crutches, low vision/blind, hard of hearing/deaf, etc.) or cognitive (personal aids, IEPs, etc.) accommodations. Field Trips to Snow Canyon are for everybody! There is a section in the request form to let the naturalist(s) know of any accommodations. You can also email crwinchester@utah.gov with further questions. The naturalist(s) will do their best to provide accommodations during the field trip.

Sounds Great! How do I book?

Before requesting to book a School Field Trip, please ensure that you have read all the information in this packet.

1. To book a School Field Trip, please use the link on the Educators tab of our website to complete the *School Field Trip Request Form*. This form helps the naturalist(s) understand the needs of your group and collect teacher contact information.
<https://stateparks.utah.gov/parks/snow-canyon/educators/>
2. After the naturalist(s) reviews your request, they will schedule your field trip date based on your request form. If none of your preferred dates are available, you will be emailed a scheduler to book another date that works for your group.
3. Once your date is booked, you will receive an email confirmation to the email listed on the request form and the option to add the event to your calendar.
4. Between the time you book and your scheduled trip date, you are more than welcome to email the naturalist with any questions or updates.
5. Approximately 1 week prior to the trip date, you will receive an email reminder with weather preparedness tips and any other updates needed for a smooth and fun field trip!