



Global Explorers

PSD G&T Canyon Skies: U.S. Southwest Program Highlights

- 📍 Explore your unique talents, develop a personal vision for your future and learn the communication, collaboration, and critical thinking skills you need to succeed.
- 📍 Develop strong relationships with fellow gifted and talented students in the Poudre School District.
- 📍 Warm yourself by a campfire as you visualize ancient tales recounted by a Navajo storyteller and flute player under the endless stars of Canyon de Chelly.
- 📍 Enjoy a true escape as you raft the San Juan River, embrace the mystical power of the desert and conduct important research on the impact of sound on the environment.
- 📍 Explore hidden and mysterious cliff dwellings and learn how their original inhabitants faced conservation issues similar to those we face today.
- 📍 Learn about potential future careers in vibrant fields including: media, travel, conservation, education and scientific research.

Program Description

This exciting program, developed by Global Explorers for PSD Gifted and Talented students, explores youth leadership against the backdrop of the stunning Southwestern United States. On this journey, PSD G&T students raft the San Juan River, travel to spectacular National Monuments, and conduct service on the Navajo Nation, the largest Native American reservation in the country. There's no better place to contemplate our place in the universe than under the desert skies, gazing at a magnificent array of stars. Much more than just a trip, this program includes challenging preparatory coursework conducted by Global Explorers and a service leadership project upon the students' return. PSD G&T staff and Global Explorers staff support participating students throughout the experience.

www.globalexplorers.org/news/PSDCanyonSkies



*"The day was challenging, but I kept feeling that I made it one step farther than I ever thought I could before."
- Allie, Student Explorer*

Pre-Travel Curriculum

- 📍 Desert ecology, sound research and Southwest conservation issues.
- 📍 Leadership skills, service learning and responsible travel knowledge.
- 📍 Navajo culture and Spanish, Native American and U.S. history.



Program Itinerary

**This tentative itinerary is subject to change.*

May 30

Depart Fort Collins for Durango. Tonight we stay in a motel.

May 31

We spend our first morning at the spectacular Mesa Verde National Park and then head to Chinle, Arizona – gateway to Canyon de Chelly National Monument. At night, we settle into the rustic and beautiful Spider Rock Campground. If time permits, we may explore the rim of the canyon before nightfall.

June 1

Before we hike down into the dramatic red rock walls of Canyon de Chelly, a Navajo Park Ranger introduces us to the challenges of protecting an area that's been inhabited by humans for over 5,000 years. Our resting spot is a campground next to the Antelope House ruins in the heart of the canyon. Tonight, we are captivated by fireside Navajo storytelling and music as we gaze at the stars above.

June 2

Today we engage in a service project that will help the residents of Canyon de Chelly who will call this place home for years to come. We may help clear the area of invasive species or assist Canyon elders with a special project. We then drive to Sand Island, our put-in site on the San Juan River and enjoy the dramatic desert surroundings. Tonight we camp at Sand Island.

June 3-5

We begin our river voyage on one of the most spectacular rivers in America, the San Juan. As we float along the river we join our nonprofit partner, Grand Canyon Youth, in an exploration of ecology, water management and conservation. Tonight, we camp on the river banks under the desert sky. On the second and third days of our river expedition, we explore the impact of sound on the environment using scientific techniques designed by the National Park Service. We paddle, swim, float and meander through the red rock walls along the river.

June 6

Today we spend our last morning on the river and then return to Durango and stay in a motel.

June 7 Head home



Grand Canyon Youth is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Flagstaff, Arizona. Their mission is to give youth an experiential education along the rivers and canyons of the Southwest in an effort to promote environmental awareness, community involvement, personal growth, and teamwork among people with diverse backgrounds.

The PSD Gifted & Talented Canyon Skies program is proudly sponsored in part by the Bohemian Foundation.

Program Details

Who's Eligible?

Gifted and talented students in 8- 9th grades within the Poudre School District. (Students must have an Advanced Learning Plan).

Dates: May 30-June 7, 2011

Expedition Length: 9 days

What's Included:

All travel and lodging expenses, tips, guides, and pre- and post-trip support.

What's Not Included:

Personal items.

Group Size:

Group size will be between 15 and 20 students depending on number of applications received.

Accommodations:

Students camp at sites with varying levels of facilities. The river portion of the expedition is a wilderness experience with no facilities. Food is prepared by local guides and clean drinking water is always available.

To Apply or Learn More:

Visit www.globalexplorers.org/news/PSDCanyonSkies or email shannon@globalexplorers.org for a print version.

We are also seeking PSD Educators to serve as group leaders on the expedition. Visit our website to learn more.

Application Deadline: November 15, 2010

Scholarships and Pricing:

There are scholarships available for those experiencing financial hardship. To apply for a scholarship, simply complete the financial aid section of the application and submit a copy of your family's most recent 1040 tax form. Scholarship participants will be responsible for paying or fundraising \$200 and non-scholarship participants, \$1,100.



WHAT WE TEACH

EXPLORE YOUR WORLD

Scientific Curiosity & Competence: Students develop a curiosity towards the natural world and understand the complexity of interrelationships between human and environmental systems.

Cultural Curiosity & Competence: Students build curiosity, respect and tolerance for different ways of life and experience our connectedness with people around the world.

Career Exposure & Leaders that Inspire: Students learn about the motivating factors behind career choices made by a diverse group of professionals and develop ideas about fulfilling careers for themselves.

Service Knowledge: Students explore the meaning of service-learning and civic responsibility and navigate the challenges of working with communities to identify and evaluate needs.

DISCOVER THE LEADER WITHIN

Self-Awareness: Students explore the ways they see themselves, others, the world and their place in it.

Communication: Students learn to listen, to appreciate diverse perspectives and to improve their peer-to-peer communication skills.

Collaboration: Students learn about creating a shared vision and utilizing the skills of all team members.

Critical Thinking Skills: Students practice problem solving, analysis, logic and reflecting on the big picture using systems thinking.

Self-Direction: Students explore their personal passions, adaptability, sense of responsibility and personal vision.

Information Literacy: Students investigate various forms of knowledge acquisition, source discernment and management of complex information to deepen the quality of their analyses.

Our Mission is to inspire responsible global citizenship by providing life-changing travel experiences for students and educators of all abilities and backgrounds.

Our unique educational model equips students to explore science and culture for a deeper understanding of the world, to discover their personal interests and to tackle community issues with passion and wisdom.

INSPIRE CHANGE

Appreciation for Life: Students deepen their appreciation for the opportunities they have in life and recognize that there are many ways to make a difference in the world.

Take Action: Students take action and engage in service before, during and after their Global Explorers expedition.

Service Attitude: Students develop confidence in their ability to inspire change and demonstrate an ongoing willingness to spend time bettering communities at home and abroad.

“I not only gained academic knowledge, but also learned about the importance of an open mind and an open heart, the power of smiling at a stranger and so much more. Global Explorers is a family that gives young adults incredible opportunities and teaches life skills that make us all better people.”

- Laura, Student Explorer

