

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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New Mexico State Parks Offers Transportation Grants for Outdoor Classrooms

Santa Fe, NM – New Mexico State Parks invites schools and teachers to apply for transportation grants to take school children to State Parks during the 2013-14 school year. Applications are due by Sept. 27, 2013. This is the eighth year of the *Kids 'n Parks Transportation Grants*, a component of the highly successful New Mexico Outdoor Classroom Program.

“Hands-on, outdoor experiences are great ways to engage students and reinforce classroom learning,” said State Parks Deputy Director, Jerome Madrid. “This program has been very popular with teachers and students statewide and we are excited to provide these important grants.”

The State Parks Division has formed lasting partnerships with schools and teachers. Previous grant recipients are encouraged to apply again, and State Parks is also seeking first-time applicants who are willing to commit to participate in the Outdoor Classroom Program.

Outdoor Classroom Program trips must be to a New Mexico State Park; a list of parks is available at www.nmparks.com. The applicant must be a teacher or representative of a public or public-charter school within a New Mexico school district. The field trip must correlate to classroom study, meet one or more performance standards and be completed by the end of the 2013-14 school year.

The strongest applications are those that most clearly link classroom study with the proposed field trip. Teachers may plan one or more field trips, but cost will be a selection consideration.

“The Outdoor Classroom Program has reached over 134,124 students since its inception,” said Christy Tafoya, Education Manager for State Parks Division. “Teachers tell us that the Outdoor Classroom Program helps them to meet their goals and objectives for student academic achievement.”

The Kids 'n Parks Transportation Grant information and application will be available online at www.nmparks.com.

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Conditions are Right for Adventure at Your New Mexico State Parks!

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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