

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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## News Release

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### **New Mexico State Parks Division Offers Seventh Year of Transportation Grants for Outdoor Classrooms**

SANTA FE, NM – The New Mexico State Parks Division invites schools and teachers to apply for transportation grants to take school children to State Parks during the 2012/2013 school year. This is the seventh year of the *Kids 'n Parks Transportation Grants*, a component of the highly successful New Mexico Outdoor Classroom Program. Applications are due by Sept. 21.

“Students and teachers have given state parks an “A” grade for the Outdoor Classroom Program,” said State Parks Division Director Tommy Mutz. “It is a great way for the kids of New Mexico to have meaningful, hands-on learning experiences in a state park.”

The State Parks Division has formed lasting partnerships with schools and teachers, and the programs provided at parks re-enforce classroom learning. Previous grant recipients are encouraged to apply again, as well as teachers at other grade levels from those same schools. State Parks Division is also seeking first-time applicants who are willing to make a commitment to participate in the Outdoor Classroom Program. The application is available online at [www.nmparks.com](http://www.nmparks.com).

Outdoor Classroom Program trips must be to a New Mexico State Park; a list of parks is available at [www.nmparks.com](http://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 2012/13 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 119,300 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.”



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*Short Trips, Long Memories: Your Best Recreation Value Close to Home*

*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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