



SABINO CANYON VOLUNTEER NATURALISTS

KINDERGARTEN & ELEMENTARY PROGRAM

Dear Principal:

Whether you are new to our Sabino Canyon Field trips or a regular who has brought students to our Kindergarten and Elementary programs over the years, we would like to take the opportunity to provide a little background, and explain how our programs connect to Arizona State Educational Standards.

The Sabino Canyon Kindergarten Program was developed 12 years ago. Approximately 21,000 Kindergarten students had a Sabino Canyon field trip in those twelve years. The program has introduced young people to the desert in which they live and promotes an interest in the environment.

The Kindergarten field trips are conducted three times a week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Each field trip lasts two hours. The program begins with a short puppet program which introduces the children to some Sabino Canyon animals and the terms we will be using, and explains how to be safe while enjoying their Sabino Canyon experience. After the puppet presentation, each group of children (maximum of 10 per group) is assigned a naturalist, with whom they will spend the rest of the visit. The four activities: Nature Walk, Geology, Mystery Box and Predator/Prey are explained in this packet along with the relevant education standards for science, life science, and reading/comprehension.

The Elementary Program has been in existence for more than 30 years and has also introduced thousands of students to their desert environment. The Elementary program conducts field trips 5 days a week and each trip lasts approximately 2 hours. Many teachers elect to stay in the Canyon after the program for picnic lunches.

There are six kits/topics for the teachers to choose from. The teachers choose which kit to be the focus of their field trip. Each of the kits is described in this packet along with how they are aligned with the appropriate Arizona State Standards.

If you are interested in learning more about our programs please visit our website to review the teacher materials at: www.scvntucson.org.

If you wish to bring your students on a field trip please call the SCVN scheduling line at (520) 751-4766. The scheduling for the 2009/2010 school years begins on August 1st of this year. There is **no** fee charged for these field trips.

I hope you will pass this information on to the teachers in your school.