

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center
Parent and Student Information Packet



Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are delighted that your child will be coming to visit us at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center with his/her school. This program is an extraordinary opportunity for your child to learn about archaeology while working side-by-side with professional archaeologists and educators engaged in the Center's ongoing investigations into the ancestral Puebloan people of the Mesa Verde region. It will be a memorable experience!

Please review the information provided in this packet with your child. A gear list and information about Crow Canyon are provided to help you prepare your child for their visit. If you have questions or require additional information, call the Enrollment Specialist at 970.564.4346 or 800.422.8975, ext. 146.

We look forward to having your child join us at the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center for this very special program.

Sincerely,

THE CROW CANYON STAFF

About Crow Canyon

The Crow Canyon Archaeological Center is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to archaeological research, education, and collaboration with Native Americans. Since 1983, we have offered the public the opportunity to participate in professional archaeological research that examines ancestral Puebloan history and culture. Our education curriculum integrates many subject areas, including science, social studies, history, math, environmental science, and geography. Through participation in experience-based activities that promote critical thinking and reflection, students gain a basic understanding of culture, history, human interaction with the environment, the scientific process, archaeology, and the importance of site preservation.

The Education Mission

Crow Canyon engages learners of all ages in an inclusive and dynamic study of human history and diversity. The staff works toward this goal by teaching about past and present cultures of the Southwest, investigating student learning, and communicating the Center's educational methods and theories to others. Our work is guided by a respect for, and is conducted in collaboration with, Native American people. Archaeology, education, and applied anthropology provide the academic foundation for Crow Canyon programs.

The Research Mission

Crow Canyon conducts long-term, multidisciplinary research into the ancestral Pueblos of the southwestern United States. Our research has two goals: (1) to understand the unique history of the ancestral Pueblo people and (2) to use this knowledge to gain a better understanding of human society and culture. In particular, our research focuses on the social, economic, and political dynamics of ancient Pueblo communities in the Mesa Verde region, up to and including their final migration from the area during the thirteenth century A.D.

The American Indian Initiatives Mission

Collaboration with Native American people on a wide variety of initiatives of mutual interest cross-cuts and augments the Center's research and education missions. The staff works closely with the Pueblo Advisory Group and other Native Americans to incorporate indigenous voices in our education curriculum, enrich the perspectives gained through our archaeological research, and initiate projects that are relevant to the concerns of Native American communities today.

Our Current Research Project

The Northern Chaco Outliers Project focuses on the Haynie site, an ancestral Pueblo village with two great houses located a short distance from Crow Canyon. The great and small houses at the Haynie site were part of the larger Lakeview community. Previous research during the 2016 field season suggests that the great houses were constructed above earlier architecture. Excavation at the Haynie site will seek to determine when the site was initially occupied, when it was depopulated, and how this related to other great houses located in the Lakeview community and the larger region. Data collected during the Northern Chaco Outliers Project will also allow us to contribute to a greater understanding of resource sustainability, the natural and cultural impacts of environmental downturns, ancient communities and regional systems, migration, and human/environment relationships.

What to Expect

Local Environment, Climate, and Weather

Crow Canyon is located in the high desert, where deep sandstone canyons dissect pinyon-, juniper-, and sage-covered plains, all against the distant backdrop of the Rocky Mountains. The campus and excavation site are located at an elevation of 6,200 feet. Your child will also take excursions to elevations ranging from 4,300 to 10,000 feet.

Sunscreen Is a Must!

Beautiful, sunny Cortez is at an elevation of 6200 feet. Ultraviolet exposure increases about four percent for every 1000 feet above sea level. You will need to protect your skin with sunscreen and appropriate clothing. The climate here is very dry with mostly sunny days.

Drink Lots of Water

The best precaution for anyone not accustomed to both the dry climate and the high elevation is drinking plenty of water. You may not feel like you are perspiring, but in this climate you are losing fluid through immediate evaporation. We strongly recommend that each participant drink at *least* two quarts of water per day, every day. Pre-hydration—drinking plenty of water for a few days prior to your trip—may help your body acclimate to these conditions much faster.

Light Jacket

Afternoon thunderstorms are common in late July and early August. The evenings are frequently cool, even in the summer months, so **a light jacket is important any time of the year**. In winter, we sometimes have heavy snow; however, mild weather with lots of sunshine is our specialty year-round!

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Avg. High	40	46	53	62	72	84	89	86	79	68	52	42
Avg. Low	13	18	24	31	39	47	55	53	45	34	24	15
Avg. Rain	1.2	0.9	1.1	0.9	1.0	0.4	1.1	1.5	1.1	0.5	0.9	1.2

Safety

Adult supervision during program activities is provided by the education staff, research staff members with whom participants work and teachers and chaperones who accompany the school; supervision at all other times is provided by teachers and school assigned chaperones.

Crow Canyon has formal protocols for responding to emergency situations, both on and off campus. Security cameras are located at the campus entrance and in various indoor and outdoor locations throughout the buildings and grounds. Participants practice a fire drill upon arrival. Selected staff members are Certified Emergency Medical Responders, and all staff are instructed in how to respond to nonmedical emergency situations.

Participants are transported by staff drivers in well-maintained vehicles, including school buses, minibuses, and 12-passenger vans. All our drivers participate in regular vehicle-safety training.

We encourage participants to explore our beautiful grounds, but they are required to adhere to our hiking safety rules, which include hiking in groups of three or more, restricting their hikes to the nature trail, and always notifying a chaperone of their whereabouts. Students should not hike at dawn or dusk, when wildlife are most active.

Though located in a rural setting, Crow Canyon is also just outside the town of Cortez (population 8,500), where a range of emergency services, including police, fire department, and medical, are available.

Free Time

Participants will have free time during their program to read, listen to music, hike, or just relax with friends. Crow Canyon also has a basketball hoop in the meadow and indoor and outdoor game equipment. The chaperones may conduct structured activities. Chaperones are in charge during free time, and participants are required to inform them of their whereabouts at all times.

Musical Devices

We encourage participants to take advantage of the quiet serenity of our campus and enjoy the sounds of nature! Participants are allowed to bring musical devices; however, the rooms do not lock, and we cannot guarantee the security of personal items, although we provide individual lockers to protect private property. We also ask that participants use earphones when listening to music on campus. None of these items may be used during scheduled activities.

Campus Gift Shop

Crow Canyon's small gift shop carries a variety of gift items, including books, T-shirts, and jewelry. The shop also stocks toiletries, film, and postcards. All proceeds from shop sales support Crow Canyon's programs.

Smoking

Colorado state law prohibits the sale of tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18. Because the majority of participants in our school programs are under 18, Crow Canyon does not permit smoking or other use of tobacco products by any participants in these programs.

Campus Life

Crow Canyon's beautiful, 170-acre campus features a large meadow, pinyon- and juniper- covered hillsides, and spectacular views of Mesa Verde and the La Plata Mountains. A short nature trail winds through the woods. We think of the campus as a "living museum," which participants in all of our programs are welcome to explore and enjoy (please see the section on hiking safety). Buildings on campus include the lodge and the Gates Archaeology Laboratory (the "Gates Building"), which houses classrooms and offices in addition to the lab.

Home Away From Home

School group students share accommodations in our cabins, constructed in 2015; chaperones stay in nearby rooms and provide supervision. The cabins are coed, but individual rooms are not; your child's roommates will be other participants of the same sex.

- All rooms are equipped with bunk beds; students must bring their own bedding and towels.
- Bathrooms (with showers) are located down the hall.
- Food and drinks (except for water) are not permitted in the cabins at any time.
 - Students must keep their rooms neat at all times, with gear properly stowed, so that custodial staff can sweep the floors daily.

The Daily Schedule

A typical weekday at Crow Canyon begins with breakfast at 7:30 a.m., followed by a morning program from 9:00 a.m. to noon. Lunch is from noon until 1:30 p.m. Afternoon programs run from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Dinner is served at 5:30 p.m., and evening programs begin at 6:30 p.m. Quiet time is from 9:30 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Lights out at 10:00 p.m.

Staying in Touch

Parents

Please call 970.565.8975, ext. 0, if you need to reach your child while he or she is at Crow Canyon. Crow Canyon's phone is answered by a staff member between 7:30 a.m. and 10:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. We will take a message and deliver it to your child or a chaperone. After hours Monday through Friday, please dial extension 167 to reach the Certified Emergency Medical Responder. On weekends, call 970.749.5134 to reach a staff member on-call.

Of course, parents may also call their children on their personal cell phones, but cell phone use is not allowed during instructional activities.

Students

Students may use their personal cell phones to call home. If a student does not have a cell phone, they may use the phone located at the front desk to call home.

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Medical Information

Student Illness or Injury

A Certified Emergency Medical Responder is on duty 24 hours a day. In addition, most Crow Canyon staff members hold First Aid cards and can attend to minor injuries. If a child should become ill or suffer a serious injury, the Certified Emergency Medical Responder will assess the situation and take appropriate action.

The campus and excavation site are located within 10 minutes of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and a fully equipped hospital with 24-hour emergency room facilities. Dr. Whitney Pack, a local physician, provides attending- physician coverage for Crow Canyon programs and can be consulted for less serious illnesses and injuries.

A chaperone must be present while a child is being assessed and on visits to the doctor or hospital emergency room. A copy of the child's medical form will be sent along with the child. Parents or guardians are financially responsible for medical services and/or supplies in the event of an illness or injury. The medical office will bill the child's parents/guardians or their insurance company.

Medications

With the exception of inhalers, EpiPens®, and over-the-counter topical (skin) preparations all medications will be turned in to chaperones. Crow Canyon will not be responsible for administering medications for school groups.

Local Medical Contact Information

The following numbers are provided for your convenience.

Physician

Dr. Whitney Pack
925 S. Broadway STE 232
Cortez, CO 81321
970.875.6406

City Market Pharmacy

508 E. Main Street
Cortez, CO 81321
970.565.6466

Walgreens Pharmacy

1671 E. Main Street
Cortez, CO 81321
970.564.9165

Hospital

Southwest Memorial Hospital
1311 N. Mildred Road
Cortez, CO 81321
970.565.6666

Walmart Pharmacy

1835 E. Main Street
Cortez, CO 81321
970.565.7038

CAMPUS RULES

Help Us Keep the Campus Clean and Beautiful

Walk on the sidewalks and paths, not on the grass or in the gardens.
Clean up after yourself in your room, the dining room, the classrooms, and the restrooms. Don't litter: place trash in the trash containers and cans in the can-recycling containers.
Put all game equipment away after you use it.
Don't throw anything into the pond or irrigation ditches.

Dining Rules

Seconds are OK, but take only as much food as you can eat, and eat all the food you take.
Help keep the dining room clean by wiping tables and seats after eating.
Scrape your dishes and put them in the tubs for washing.
Never take food or drinks (except water) into your room.

Building Rules

Walk quietly inside all buildings, so as not to disturb people who are working.
Enter the Gates Building only with a chaperone.
Enter the Pithouse Learning Center and Pueblo Learning Center only with a chaperone.

Be Respectful of Others

Give your full attention to the educators.
Play only in the meadow and other areas designated for playing.
Don't go into anyone else's quarters unless given permission by a teacher/chaperone.
Stay away from all tents, cabins, and Hogan's.
Do not use profanity or act in a disrespectful manner toward others. Honor the campus quiet times from 9:30 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.
Be in your room with the lights out by 10:00 p.m.

Hiking Do's and Don'ts

Stay within fence lines and the edge of the meadow.
Always hike in a group of at least three other people.
If you should become lost, stay where you are...we'll come find you.
Protect all the plants, animals, and fish that depend on this fragile environment—observe, but don't disturb!

Trips Away from Campus

Wear a seatbelt, if provided, while riding in a Crow Canyon vehicle. Stay in your seat at all times when traveling. Maintain quiet conversation in vehicles.

Treat Archaeological Sites and Artifacts with Respect

Do not damage or destroy any part of the archaeological record. Handle all artifacts carefully.

Do not remove any artifact from its context without authorization from Crow Canyon staff.

Gear List

Comfort is Key!

Students should bring the following gear for their program. There are no laundry facilities on campus, so be sure your child brings enough clothes to last the week.

Bedding and Towels (don't forget these!)

- ☐ Sleeping bag; or twin sheets/blankets
- ☐ Pillow (if desired)
- ☐ Towel and washcloth

Clothing

- ☐ Jeans/pants
- ☐ T-shirts
- ☐ Long sleeve shirts
- ☐ Socks and underwear
- ☐ Pajamas or other sleepwear
- ☐ Sweatshirt
- ☐ Jacket
- ☐ Rain gear
- ☐ Comfortable walking shoes (Closed-toe)

Personal

- ☐ Toiletries (soap, shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrush, hairbrush)
- ☐ Personal Medications (**These must be listed on the medical form and be in their original containers!**)

Required Gear

- ☐ One- 1 quart water bottles
- ☐ Sunscreen (minimum SPF 15)
- ☐ Sunglasses
- ☐ Hat

Suggested Gear

- ☐ Flashlight
- ☐ Pencil, pen, notebook