



# Leading the Way 2015 Science in the Grand Canyon

An adventure for blind, visually impaired, and sighted students

One of the seven natural wonders of the world, Grand Canyon is an ideal setting to explore science, culture, leadership, and to listen to nature. In partnership with Grand Canyon Youth, the United States Geological Survey (USGS), and the National Park Service Natural Sounds Program, this opportunity brings together teens who are blind, visually impaired, and sighted for the adventure of a life time. Though a specific skill-set is not required to be eligible for the program, a general appreciation of and interest in science is required.

The first 3 days of this program will be spent on dry land in Northern Arizona. Here, you will build community with your team members, camping skills, and engage in science and service projects. You'll spend the next 8 days on the upper half of the world-renowned Colorado River, where your team will raft exhilarating whitewater, float through calm stretches, and journey by foot through slot canyons.



[www.gcyouth.org](http://www.gcyouth.org)

Rafting the Grand Canyon is a coveted journey with limited permits. Our partnership with Grand Canyon Youth makes it possible for 10-12 Leading the Way participants to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

## LEAD

STEP OUTSIDE YOUR COMFORT ZONE AND LEARN TO EMBRACE A NO BARRIERS MINDSET.

## LEARN

EXPLORE NEW CULTURES, ENGAGE IN COMMUNITY SERVICE AND HARNESS BARRIERS TO UNLEASH YOUR POTENTIAL.

## LIVE

EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF TRAVEL AND DISCOVER THE POWER YOU HAVE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD.

## Program Highlights

- Study Grand Canyon soundscapes and perform research for the National Park Service and the United States Geological Survey every day.
- Raft the Colorado River, hike beautiful canyon rims, and sleep under the stars on sandy beaches.
- Listen to the sounds of everything around you, learn about Grand Canyon geology, and be inspired to unleash the potential of the human spirit.
- Challenge yourself to examine your own leadership strengths and weaknesses, and craft your own personal vision for living a life of purpose and meaning.

This No Barriers Youth 9-month program in partnership with Grand Canyon Youth is designed to show what's in you is stronger than what's in your way. Our mission is to unleash the potential of the human spirit by providing life-changing travel experiences for students and educators of all abilities and backgrounds. Our Leading the Way program was developed in partnership with world-renowned adventurer Erik Weihenmayer. In 2001, Weihenmayer became the only blind man in history to reach the summit of the world's highest peak - Mount Everest. Leading the Way has been featured on ABC Nightline, World News Tonight, Travel Channel, and CBS Sunday Morning.

## ..... How to Apply

### WHO?

Students 15-19 years old at the time of the expedition who are blind, visually impaired, or sighted

### WHEN?

**Applications are due February 1** and available : [http://nobarriersyouth.org/programs/leading\\_the\\_way/](http://nobarriersyouth.org/programs/leading_the_way/)

### HOW MUCH?

Program Fee: \$2075+ airfare to Phoenix, AZ. Each participant will receive a scholarship from the National Park Service Natural Sounds Program to reduce the price to **\$1,225 + airfare**. In exchange, you become an ambassador and provide presentations about what you have learned.

## ..... Timeline

### February 1, 2015:

Application deadline

### Spring 2015:

4 team conference calls  
**July 13-24, 2015:** Expedition to the Grand Canyon

**Fall 2015:** Conduct a Natural Sounds Awareness Project and tell your story!



# Leading the Way: Science in the Grand Canyon - Details

Leading the Way Science in the Grand Canyon is an unparalleled educational adventure. On this No Barriers Youth 9-month program in partnership with Grand Canyon Youth, the USGS, and the NPS Natural Sounds Program, you'll dive into field science, community service, and immersive experiences that will empower you and change your life forever!

## Before you travel ...

A trip of a lifetime requires thoughtful preparation. You'll engage in team conference calls that cover topics such as scientific research, natural sounds, Southwest conservation issues, and learning how to harness adversities you face. Create awareness about your program throughout your community.

## While you travel ...

We value authentic, hands-on travel. You'll explore the rich cultural and natural diversity of the Grand Canyon while learning more about your own leadership style and how to craft a personal vision on how to live life fully.

## After you travel ...

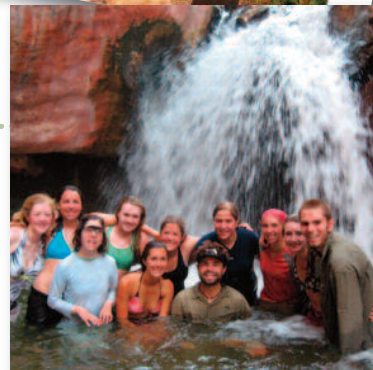
You'll harness the energy, knowledge, skills, and values you developed to carry out a natural sounds awareness project back home. Your message of inspiration will help break down barriers between those with and without disabilities.

## What's included in the price?

Your program fee of \$1,225 includes all expenses once you arrive in Phoenix, all meals, lodging, ground transfers, taxes, tips for guides and other services, No Barriers t-shirt, journal, basic travel insurance, preparatory curriculum, year-long support, on-site No Barriers Expedition Leader during travel, and professional river guides.

## Not Included:

Airfare to/from Phoenix, AZ; and any personal items.



## ..... Itinerary\*

### JULY 13-15

Travel to Phoenix, AZ then head up to the Flagstaff area for your pre-trip orientation and team-building retreat. Learn about science projects you'll do in the Canyon and practice working together in a mixed-ability group. Sighted students need not have previous experience working with blind or visually impaired individuals.

### JULY 16-23

Raft and explore the upper half of the Colorado River. Learn about life on the river, natural sounds, geology, desert ecology, and river folklore. Camp on the river banks and conduct science for both the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the National Park Service Natural Sounds Program.

### JULY 23-24

Hike out of the Grand Canyon via the Bright Angel Trail. This is a long, strenuous hike that will challenge you to employ your No Barriers Mindset! Once out of the canyon, enjoy a shower and overnight in a hotel in Flagstaff. Then, return to Phoenix and travel home.

\*Itinerary subject to change.

\*\*This is a physically demanding program that requires participants to be in good physical condition. The hike out of Grand Canyon is about 10 miles, up-hill in hot desert temperatures. Selected applicants will be required to submit a comprehensive health and medical packet with a doctor's sign-off. Blind/VI participants' Orientation and Mobility Instructors will be contacted to ensure this program is a good fit for each participant.

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