



A CELEBRATION OF THE NPS CENTENNIAL

**NO BARRIERS**  
YOUTH

## LEADING THE WAY: GRAND CANYON SOUND ACADEMY

Did you know the National Park Service turns 100 on August 25, 2016? In celebration, a group of 20 teenagers will be selected to receive scholarships for a once-in-a-lifetime leadership adventure: Grand Canyon Sound Academy. Over the course of 12 days, students will journey into the heart of Grand Canyon, learning about the importance of natural sounds, participating in meaningful science, learning about career opportunities with the National Park Service, and honing their leadership strengths. At the end of this transformative expedition, students emerge as leaders ready to face personal and global barriers with passion and perseverance and inspired and equipped to be the next generation of ambassadors for the National Park Service. This Leading the Way program is designed for students are blind, visually impaired or fully-sighted.

- **RAFT THE COLORADO RIVER & EXPLORE SIDE CANYONS BY FOOT**
- **CONNECT WITH NATURE, WITH OTHERS AND WITH YOURSELF**
- **TRANSCEND REAL AND PERCEIVED BARRIERS**

The desert Southwest never fails to awe and inspire those who take the time to discover its riches. The first 3 days of this expedition are spent camping near the rim of Grand Canyon. Here, students build community, practice camping and hiking skills, engage with NPS staff and volunteers, conduct service projects, and learn the methods they'll use for natural sound research. The next 8 days are spent rafting the world-renowned Colorado River. This once-in-a-lifetime experience promises thrilling adventure, meaningful reflection, amazing connection with others and nature, and the opportunity to experience "What's within you is stronger than what's in your way." While on river, students help facilitate learning through student-driven projects and work with NPS scientists on the importance of appreciating and studying natural sounds. There's no better place to contemplate your place in the universe than under the desert sky's magnificent canvas of stars. **NO ONE COMES HOME UNCHANGED.**



**Expedition Dates: July 24-August 4, 2016**

**Student Program Fee and Scholarship**

In celebration of the National Park Service's 100th birthday, the Natural Sounds and Night Skies Division is providing generous scholarship support. Youth participants will only be responsible for paying or fundraising a \$300 No Barriers program fee + travel costs to/from Phoenix, AZ. In exchange for the generous scholarship support, participants will be expected to complete the following scholarship requirements:

**Phase 1: Thoughtful Preparation**

- Participate in 3-5 preparatory conference calls in the spring of 2016 to help prepare for the expedition. Each conference call will have 1-2 hours of necessary homework to be completed in advance.
- Visit the National Park Service unit closest to your home and conduct research about its features and significance (historical, ecological, or cultural).

**Phase 2: Expedition**

- Present for 5-10 minutes to the group about park service unit you visited and researched.
- Participate in science and service activities.

**Phase 3: Meaningful Return**

- Submit a "letter of impact" describing how the program impacted you to be shared with NPS for use in Centennial celebrations.
- Be a National Park Service Ambassador! Give a presentation summarizing your experience, the importance of natural sounds, and the importance of national parks EITHER in person to an audience of at least 30 or digitally (via YouTube) with a minimum of 50 views.
- Make a "No Barriers Pledge" incorporating what you learned into meaningful action in your daily life.



*No Barriers Youth is a proud partner of Grand Canyon Youth [www.gcyouth.org](http://www.gcyouth.org)*

**Group Make-Up**

- 20 students ages 15-19 from around the U.S. half of whom are blind or visually impaired, half of whom are sighted.
- Leadership team of No Barriers Youth Expedition Leader(s), river guides, scientists, NPS staff and facilitators from partnering organizations.

**Eligibility**

- Open to blind, visually impaired or fully-sighted youth ages 15-19 at time of expedition
- Ideal participants demonstrate leadership skills and potential, academic merit, an interest in pursuing education outside of the classroom, and an interest in the natural world. No prior outdoor experience is required.

**Apply today!** [nobarriersusa.wufoo.com/forms/2016-leading-the-way-grand-canyon-sound-academy/](http://nobarriersusa.wufoo.com/forms/2016-leading-the-way-grand-canyon-sound-academy/)

**Early application deadline: December 4, 2015**

**Late application deadline: January 8, 2016**

**Learn more:** [nobarriersyouth.org/programs/leading\\_the\\_way/](http://nobarriersyouth.org/programs/leading_the_way/)

Leading the Way is a program of No Barriers Youth which is part of the broader nonprofit No Barriers USA. The Leading the Way program was developed in partnership with world-renowned blind mountaineer and No Barriers Board Member Erik Weihenmayer in 2006. These unlikely teams of students embark on extraordinary journeys and along the way become strong teams ready to tackle whatever challenges may come. Leading the Way has been featured on ABC Nightline, World News Tonight, Travel Channel, and CBS Sunday Morning.



*The National Park Service and No Barriers Youth work together to promote appreciation of natural and cultural soundscapes.*

*National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior*





# NO BARRIERS YOUTH

## No Barriers USA

No Barriers Youth is part of a broader nonprofit organization, No Barriers USA, which provides transformative experiences for more than just students. By providing expeditions, retreats, events and tools that empower people to embrace a No Barriers Life, all of our programs help people discover the potential that lies within themselves and the world. No Barriers serves a variety of populations and is always expanding our program offerings to serve more people. In addition to No Barriers Youth, we currently have programs dedicated to serving veterans and their families through No Barriers Warriors, programs designed specifically for women through No Barriers Women, leadership development programming for businesses and corporations, and a series of different festivals and events, the capstone being the No Barriers Summit. [www.NoBarriersUSA.org](http://www.NoBarriersUSA.org)

The mission of No Barriers is to unleash the potential of the human spirit. Through transformative experiences, tools and inspiration, we help people embark on a quest to contribute their absolute best to the world. In the process, we foster a community of curious, brave and collaborative explorers who are determined to live the No Barriers Life.

## The No Barriers Life

The No Barriers Life Elements are the common thread through every No Barriers experience. The elements are brought to life through facilitation by our team of exceptional Expedition Leaders. The elements include:

## No Barriers Youth

No Barriers Youth has been using transformative travel to change the lives of students and their educators since 2003 (previously known as Global Explorers). No Barriers Youth has a continuum of ways for schools, educators and students to engage in our programming, including multi-year school partnerships, online curricula, the NBY Expedition program, short-term local retreats, one-day events, and on-site school-based activities.

NBY Expeditions provide transformative experiences in some of our planet's most inspiring classrooms that stretch comfort zones, inspire possibilities, and ignite action. We inspire and equip middle and high school youth and their educators to live a No Barriers Life through a educational three-phased travel program. Much more than just cool trips, our program provides a comprehensive approach to interdisciplinary experiential education through:

**Phase One:** Thoughtful preparation

**Phase Two:** Transformative expedition

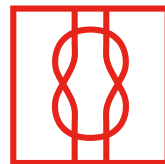
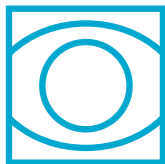
**Phase Three:** Meaningful action

Activities on NBY expeditions vary by destination, but each itinerary includes these common elements: self-awareness & team development activities, structured reflection, student-driven learning, activities that foster connection to place, a focus on interconnectedness of systems, exposure to people/ways of life different than your own, service projects, stretching comfort zones, and FUN!

[www.NoBarriersYouth.org](http://www.NoBarriersYouth.org) // [NBYExpeditions@NoBarriersUSA.org](mailto:NBYExpeditions@NoBarriersUSA.org)

### VISION

DEFINE A PURPOSE THAT INSPIRES YOU TO GIVE YOUR BEST BACK TO THE WORLD



### ROPE TEAM

COLLABORATE AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS TO BUILD STRONG COMMUNITIES

### REACH

MOVE BEYOND YOUR COMFORT ZONE TO GROW AND REACH GOALS



### ALCHEMY

HARNESS LIFE EXPERIENCE INTO OPTIMISM

### PIONEER

PERSEVERE THROUGH CHALLENGES TO INNOVATE



### ELEVATE

IMPACT THE WORLD AS A LEADER WHO SERVES