



IN REPLY REFER TO:

# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Mount Rainier National Park  
Tahoma Woods, Star Route  
Ashford, Washington 98304-9751

## EDUCATIONAL FEE WAIVER CRITERIA and APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

National Park Service (NPS) regulations allow school groups and other *bona fide* national and international educational institutions to obtain a waiver of park entrance fees, provided that the visit is for educational or scientific purposes, and the resources or facilities the group proposes to use support those purposes.

Educational fee waivers are not granted automatically. Applicant groups must show they qualify for the waiver. There are three criteria the group must meet to qualify for an educational fee waiver: eligibility, educational purpose, and relevance of park resources or facilities.

### 1. Eligibility

Applicants must prove they are a *bona fide* educational or scientific institution by presenting one of the following types of documentation:

- A statement confirming educational or scientific tax-exemption, from the IRS or the applicant's national, state, or local tax authority; or,
- A statement, from a bona fide educational institution meeting one of these eligibility standards, confirming that the group is visiting for the purpose of providing transferable educational credit based on a curriculum; or,
- A statement of accreditation, or recognition as an educational institution, from a qualified national, regional, state, or local authority for the applicant's location.

### 2. Educational Purpose of the Visit

Applicants must provide a written statement confirming that the visit supports a specific curriculum for which academic credit is offered. If the group is on a commercial tour, the applicant must state how the tour supports the curriculum.

### 3. Relevance of Park Resources or Facilities

Applicants must provide a written statement identifying the park resources and/or facilities that will be used to support the educational purpose of the visit, and how they are relevant to that purpose.

To apply for an educational fee waiver, complete the enclosed application and be sure to include the following:

1. Attach current, official documentation of recognition as an educational institution by a Federal, State or local government entity, or other evidence attesting to educational status (e.g. accreditation letter, tax exemption status).
2. A written statement confirming a direct relationship between the visit purpose and the use of the Park. The visit must be to study some aspect/resource specific to the Park. A general statement to the effect that the visit is for “educational purposes” is insufficient by itself. An explanation of what the educational purpose entails and how it is related to Park resources is required. (Course outlines, lesson plans, or a copy of the curriculum meet this requirement).
3. A written statement confirming that the visit supports a specific curriculum for which academic credit is offered.

Organizations that are generally considered service, civic or fraternal, e.g. Scouting, Rotary, Elks, etc. do not qualify for the education fee waiver unless the group meets the applicable criteria above.

Submit your application package at least 2 weeks in advance of the visit to:

Mount Rainier National Park  
Attn: Revenue and Fee Business Manager  
Tahoma Woods, Star Route  
Ashford, WA 98304  
TEL: (360) 569-2211, ext. 6004  
FAX: (360) 569-2174

If the application is approved, a copy of the application with an approval signature will be sent to you. Each vehicle must present a copy of the approved fee waiver at the park entrance station. Fees will not be waived for vehicles that do not have a copy of the waiver.



# Mount Rainier National Park Educational Fee Waiver Request

1. School Name: \_\_\_\_\_
2. School Address: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Contact/Group Leader: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_
5. Name of Entrance Station arriving at: Nisqually\_\_\_\_\_ Stevens Canyon\_\_\_\_\_ White River\_\_\_\_\_ Carbon River\_\_\_\_\_
6. Date of Entry: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Total Number in Party: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Vehicles: Buses \_\_\_\_\_ Vans \_\_\_\_\_ Autos \_\_\_\_\_
8. Eligibility: Attach current, written documentation confirming recognition as a bona fide educational or scientific institution (e.g., a statement of accreditation, or recognition as an educational institution, from a qualified national, regional, state, or local authority; or, a statement confirming educational or scientific tax-exemption from the IRS or the applicant's national, state, or local tax authority). (Note: it is insufficient to merely state or imply this recognition on official letterhead).
9. Educational Purpose of the Visit: Provide a written statement confirming that the visit supports a specific curriculum for which academic credit is offered.  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. Relevance of Park Resources or Facilities: Provide a written statement identifying the park resources and/or facilities that will be used to support the educational purpose of the visit, and how they are relevant to that purpose. Note: there must be a direct relationship between the visit purpose and the use of the Park. The visit must be to study some aspect/resource specific to the Park. A general statement to the effect that the visit is for "educational purposes" is insufficient by itself. An explanation of what the educational purpose entails and how it is related to Park resources is required. (Course outlines, lesson plans, or a copy of the curriculum may be attached).  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

I understand the Code of Federal Regulations allows fee waivers only for bona fide educational and/or scientific institutions that are using the park for educational purposes. I hereby certify that the above detailed trip meets these requirements and therefore request that fees be waived. Current official documentation of recognition as an educational or scientific institution is attached (i.e., accreditation letter, educational tax exemption letter, etc.).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature Title Date

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**National Park Service Approval:** (Note: this form must be approved by the NPS to be valid)

\_\_\_\_\_  
National Park Service Approval Signature Title Date

Present this form at the entrance station on the date of entry in order to have entrance fees waived.  
For further information, telephone (360) 569-2211, ext. 6003, or visit Mount Rainier National Park's Internet web site at:  
<http://www.nps.gov/mora>