



## In-Class Curriculum for Local Schools

### Let Us Come To You!

Great Sand Dunes offers free in-class curriculum-based programs for San Luis Valley schools in fall and winter. Schedule one of the following programs or create your own and let the resources of your neighborhood National Park enrich your classroom.

Contact: [Melanie\\_Rawlins@nps.gov](mailto:Melanie_Rawlins@nps.gov), 719-378-6344 for more information.

### Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

All programs run 30 minutes.

#### **Our Changing Earth**

Students will explore maps and landforms of the San Luis Valley and the Great Sand Dunes. *(CDE Standards: Science 4.2, 4.3, Geography 1.1, 1.2, 3.1)*

#### **Habitat, Sweet Habitat**

Students will be introduced to the components of habitat (food, water, shelter, and space) and play a short game matching Great Sand Dunes wildlife to its appropriate habitat. *(CDE Standards: Science 3.1, 3.5)*

#### **History is a Mystery**

Students will learn how historians and archeologists solve mysteries by using the clues left behind by people long ago. The class will “excavate” its own trash can and put together a Great Sand Dunes archeology puzzle. *(CDE Standards: History 2.1, 2.2)*

#### **Reading With a Ranger**

Students will read stories about National Park Rangers and the jobs they do. *(CDE Standards: Reading 4.5, 4.6)*

### 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

All programs run 45 minutes.

#### **Water Planet**

Students will use various measuring tools to explore the dynamics of the water cycle and how it functions in the San Luis Valley and the Great Sand Dunes system. *(CDE Standards: Science 1.2, 2.4, 4.5, 4.6, Geography 3.2)*

#### **Animal Olympics**

Students will explore the specialized parts of Great Sand Dunes wildlife and how those parts help those animals survive in their chosen habitat. *(CDE Standards: Science 3.1, 3.4)*

#### **Layers in Time**

Students will learn the difference between *observation* and *inference* and how scientists use both to learn about the past. Students will perform a mini-excavation to reveal layers of artifacts buried in sand. *(CDE Standards: History 1.1, 2.1, 2.2)*

#### **Sand Dunes Poetry**

Students will construct simple poems and stories using the Great Sand Dunes as inspiration. *(CDE Standards: Reading 2.1, 2.3)*

### 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

All programs run 45 minutes.

#### **Rocks Rock!**

Students will conduct scientific investigations of properties of rocks and soil materials present in the Great Sand Dunes system. *(CDE Standards: Science 1.2, 1.3, 4.1)*

#### **The Key to Nature Study**

Students will use dichotomous keys to identify and classify the diverse trees, flowers, and mammals found at Great Sand Dunes. *(CDE Standards: Science 3.1.)*

#### **Living in the Past**

Students will tour the history of human settlement at Great Sand Dunes and the surrounding San Luis Valley – from pre-historic mammoth-hunters to Spanish exploration to early ranching to park establishment. *(CDE Standards: History 1.2, 2.3, 3.1, 4.2)*

#### **Land In Literature**

Students will read, analyze, and discuss passages in classic literature that examine the human relationship to land. *(CDE Standards: Reading 4.4, 4.5, 6.1, 6.2)*