

2019 UWC-USA Southwest Studies Trip Descriptions

Glimpses of Pueblo Cultures (15 students)

Through this trip, we hope to introduce you to some of the Native American Pueblo Cultures of Northern New Mexico. We will be visiting historic Chaco Canyon, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Acoma Pueblo and Sky City, and the Indian Pueblo Cultural Centre in Albuquerque. These visits will give us a glimpse of the art, architecture, history and mythology of the pueblos of New Mexico. In addition, we will also hike down Sandia Peak in Albuquerque on the picturesque La Luz trail, and understand not only the diverse ecosystems along this route but also the spiritual importance of Sandia Peak in many Native American belief systems. Lastly, we will be visiting the Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks on our way home, another historic and significant site in many Native American belief systems.



Grand Canyon National Park Backpacking (53 students)

Grand Canyon is... spectacular. It is one of the most breathtaking wilderness areas in USA. Whether on 4-, or 5-day backpacking trip in the Grand Canyon, you will build on the skills introduced during wilderness orientation, deepen connections with your fellow first-years, and experience the awe of a truly unique southwestern landscape. Grand Canyon can also be considered part of the wilderness leadership progression. The skills practiced will better prepare students for the 14-day wilderness leadership expedition.

People and Politics of the Southwest (12 students)

This trip provides an introduction to the cultures, history, and politics of the Southwest region, based in Phoenix, AZ. From ancient ruins to modern-day political issues, this trip's goal is to further students' knowledge of the region in which they will be spending two years by exploring the historical, political, and cultural context.

Rooted in Health (12 Students)

This Southwest Studies trip is designed to explore the following questions:

- How are health and wellness cross-cultural?
- What are the connections between freedom, geographic location, and the human body?

During this trip students will have the chance to talk to community members and organizations, get on the road and see inspiring parts of this corner of the U.S. while experiencing the healing techniques in the Southwest. Like other Southwest Studies trips, we also value community and want to grow together in our UWC-USA group.

"Visions of the Peaceful People" Traditions and Landscapes

This SWS trip travels to Arizona and Utah to provide students with the opportunity to experience Native American traditions and explore iconic landscapes. We will start the week at the Grand Canyon National Park (Hopi language: *Ongtupqa*; Navajo language: *Bidáá' Ha'azt'i' Tsékooh*). The park is celebrating its 100-year anniversary this year and we will enjoy a day of hiking along the canyon rim and learning about the ecology and history of this internationally renowned landscape. From the Grand Canyon we travel to Hopi Nation; home to the Hopi Tribe who are thought to have migrated to the region from Mexico around 500 B.C. and are recognized to have the longest authenticated history of settlement of a single area by any Native American Tribe in the United States. The Hopi people have a strong connection to the land and maintain a traditional calendar of ceremonies to honor the *katsinam* -- the immortal beings that bring rain, control other aspects of the natural world and society, and act as messengers between humans and the spirit world. During our stay in Hopi Nation we will be invited into traditional homes, farms and local artists studios and will travel with a local guide to a petroglyph site of over 12,000 symbols and rock carvings. We will then end the week in southern Utah, visiting Oljato-Monument Valley and possibly river rafting on the San Juan River.

Words and Images (16 Students)

This trip is designed to be a discovery of the importance of Art in the Native American, Hispanic, and Anglo cultures of Northern New Mexico. We will visit the landscapes which have inspired as well as artists' studios, galleries and museums. An important part of the trip will be the solo time for creating your own work – whether in words or images. No artistic talent or experience is needed; this is purely a personal discovery of your own voice through words or images.