

Discovery Student Adventures: Grand Canyon

By Isabelle Ebert
Raider Editor

This spring break, a very exciting thing happened to a small group of students: the Grand Canyon! That's right, thanks to Discovery Student Adventures, a group of Freeman Middle School students went on the exciting trip, along with an even smaller group from Williamsburg, Virginia.

Middle school teacher Donna Preble, who has been working with Discovery Student Adventures for about a year, arranged the trip. Along with this trip, she is leading a trip to Italy and Greece in about a year, and one to Washington D.C. next spring break.



Photo taken by Isabelle Ebert

The Saguaro Cactus is a very important plant in Arizona

"The trip was more amazing than I expected it to be," Preble said.

On day one, they arrived in an airport in Phoenix, Arizona and headed over to a hotel in Flagstaff nearby. They also explored the Lowell Observatory to learn about the science in astronomy and the history of this amazing facility.

The next day, the students embarked on an expedition to the Grand Canyon, where they walked down the "Ooh Aah" trail. During this, two field agents from the

Grand Canyon Field Institute talked about the formation of the Grand Canyon and some of the wildlife there.

"The Grand Canyon was breathtaking," Clara Poshusta, former Freeman student, said. "To see it in pictures is one thing, but we *actually* saw it in real life!"

On day three, the group headed down to Tucson to learn about the ancient Montezuma cliff dwellings. Later on, they arrived at the world

renowned Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum, which is not only a museum, but a zoo and an educational facility where the students learned more about the desert. That same day, students explored the Old Tucson Studios, which is a currently used location for making western movies.

Since this is also an educational trip, day four gave the chance for the group to assist the park rangers of the Saguaro National Park in a Saguaro cactus census project. Students measured the growth and health of the cactus by recording data, which became part of the permanent census.

After departing Tucson, they stopped in Oracle, home of the Biosphere 2. Biosphere 2 is a research facility that has five different environments inside of it. After learning about the science and history of this



Photo taken by Isabelle Ebert

The view from the top is absolutely breath-taking to see in person.

manmade object, the group made their way to the Saguaro Lake Guest Ranch, their home for the remainder of the trip. Here, they had dinner on the ranch and stayed in cabins.

On the last day of exploring, the students got their cowboy boots on and had a horseback riding adventure through the area surrounding the ranch.



Photo by Isabelle Ebert

One of the main areas of the Grand Canyon national park is the "Battleship."

"I loved horseback riding," said Poshusta. "It was probably my favorite part. Although, I don't think I really had one!"

Afterward, they stretched their legs and took a hike. Needing a relief from the heat, they took a fun kayaking trip. They ended the day with an around-the-campfire concert and the group's overview of the trip. They all had something to say about the trip, and were taken into consideration for the next group.

When asked what they saw on the trip, everyone said something, but the best response by far was Braylen Lasster's.

"I saw 17 people having a great time."

On the last day, they had a last breakfast at the ranch together, packed up, and headed to the airport after saying a sad good-bye.

If you are interested in joining Mrs. Preble for a future trip (Washington DC and Italy and Greece), please contact her at dpreble@freemansd.org.

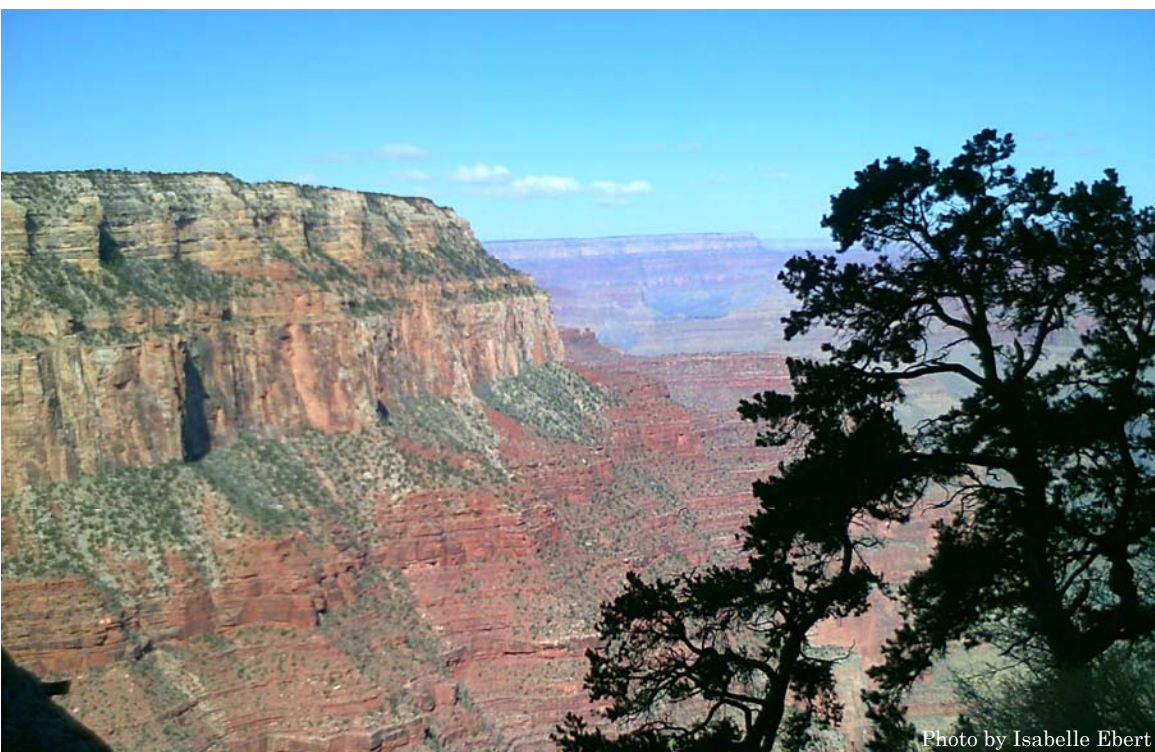


Photo by Isabelle Ebert

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Paging, unique opportunity for to gain understanding of legislative process

By Ali Tesch
Raider Editor

Since 1891, students from Washington State have participated in the page program. Pages participate in the legislative process and serve the State House of Representatives.

“Paging was a unique and educational opportunity,” said Freeman 8th grader Wyatt Grinner.

Pages have several duties, including passing out amendments during legislative sessions and running errands for representatives. Pages also participate in ceremonial tasks such as presenting the flags. Pages’ duties are varied and some tasks seem tedious but they are an important part of the legislative process.

“Sometimes you are overwhelmed with work and other times there’s nothing to do,” 8th grader Rosemary Pugh explained. “It just depends on the day.”

It is very important to wear comfortable shoes because pages work long days and do a lot of walking. Work hours begin by 7:45 am and end by 5:00 pm. During the day, pages are assigned several tasks and they attend page school for two hours.

Every day, pages spend two hours in page school learning about the legislative process. The goal is to help pages understand the legislative process and how vital it is. A certified teacher with some experience teaching social studies and civics and an assistant teacher teach these classes. Pages have the opportunity to write their own bills and present them.

Joshua Limes said

“After I wrote my own bill, I understood how much time writing a bill takes,” Joshua Limes explained.

This gave pages a hands-on learning experience. Their mock committees were recorded and are now stored in TVW archives. Pages are assigned homework, but they are given time outside of class to complete it.

There are some requirements for paging. First a page must at least the age of 14, and they cannot turn 17 the week they are paging. Second, Pages also must be sponsored by a current member of the House of Representatives. Last, Pages also need to have permission from their schools and a parent or guardian.

Paging is an educational opportunity that allows students to participate in the legislative process. The goal is to create a more universal understanding of the legislation process.



Photo courtesy of Wyatt Grinner

Since 1891 students from Washington state has participated in the legislative process by serving as house and senate pages.

Desirae Thosath: a talented musician



Photo courtesy of Desi Thosath

Thosath practices her flute at least a half hour

By Isabelle Ebert
Raider Editor

Desirae “Desi” Thosath, 13, has been playing the flute for about two and a half years now. After quitting the violin, she quickly picked up the flute.

“The violin wasn’t for me; I played it for two years,” Thosath explained. “My mom asked me what instrument I wanted to play instead, and I chose the flute. My aunt sent me an older one, and I began taking lessons from a teacher some friends recommended. So far I have owned four different flutes. In fact, I just got a new one!”

Last year, she was in the school band; however, this year she isn’t.

“I decided to ‘expand my horizons’, as my mom put it,” Thosath said.

For the first semester, she was a drama student, now she is taking Art II and photography.

“Next year I’m definitely taking band again” Thosath said. “I regret not taking it, even though I enjoyed my electives. But, I can’t enroll in Music fest, a competition, without being in a school band!”

Thosath represented Freeman in Music Fest last year, with Freeman pianist Caleb Hindman. She placed second for a solo she did, taking home a silver medal.

Another competition she did was Solo Ensemble, but she didn’t place.

Thosath used to not be the only musical child in the family. Her little sister Chloe, 11, used to play the piano and the harp.

Thosath also does Girls Scouts, gymnastics, soccer, church activities, and has fun with her family.

“I found out during one of my lessons that music is all from the heart,” Thosath said. “If you don’t want to play an instrument, you will never sound as good as someone who loves to practice and loves their instrument.”