



**NO BARRIERS**

## LEADING THE WAY: GRAND CANYON

In the summer of 2019, a group of 20 teenagers will be selected to receive scholarships for a once-in-a-lifetime leadership adventure: Grand Canyon. 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 who 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 2 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 13 - 24, 2019

**Student Program Fee and Scholarship**

Cost to participants is \$750. The Natural Sound & Night Skies Division (NSNSD) is providing significant funding for program participants including the cost of airfare. Participants should anticipate paying or fundraising for: other associated travel costs (e.g. bag fees, minor traveling alone fees, etc.), meals while traveling to and from Phoenix and personal gear items.

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 2019 to help prepare for the expedition. Each conference call will have 1-2 hours of necessary homework to be completed in advance.

**Phase 2: Expedition**

- 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.
- Make a "No Barriers Pledge" incorporating what you learned into meaningful action in your daily life.

**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.

**Learn More and Apply Now!**

<https://www.nobarriersyouth.org/learning-afar/leading-way-grand-canyon/>

**Early Application Deadline:** December 15, 2018

**Final Application Deadline:** January 15, 2019

Leading the Way is a program of No Barriers Youth which is part of the nonprofit No Barriers USA. The Leading the Way program was developed in partnership with world-renowned blind adventurer 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.



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



U.S. Department of the Interior



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