



GRAND OPENING
The Trail of Time at Grand Canyon
Symposium Announcement: October 13-15, 2010
“New Approaches to Geoscience Education in the National Park System”

Grand Canyon National Park announces the opening of the Trail of Time Geoscience Exhibition. We invite you to the opening of the Exhibition and an accompanying workshop on the *New Approaches to Geoscience Education in the National Park System*. This event will be held in conjunction with Earth Science Week.

Understanding Earth (the science of Geology) is ever more important as human societies flourish on our planet of limited resources. Education and research on deep time, Earth’s record of climate and environmental change, natural resources, and the interactions of humans in the Earth system are urgent topics for both formal and informal science education and public science literacy. The National Park Service, a premier national resource for public science education, with support from the National Science Foundation, hosts this symposium to highlight and promote new approaches in effective geoscience education and interpretation.

Symposium organizers:

Karl Karlstrom, Laura Crossey, and Ryan Crow, University of New Mexico
Steve Semken, Arizona State University
Judy Bryan and Carl Bowman, Interpretation Division, Grand Canyon National Park
Deborah Perry, Selinda Research Associates
Mike Williams, University of Massachusetts.

Where: Grand Canyon National Park- South Rim, Shrine of the Ages Theater

When: October 13-15, 2010

Registration and Further Information: see <http://tot.unm.edu>

The Trail of Time is the world's largest geoscience exhibition at the world's grandest geologic landscape. It is a fully accessible interpretive walking timeline trail located between Grand Canyon Village and Yavapai Geology Museum that utilizes the unique vistas and rocks at Grand Canyon to help visitors ponder, explore, and understand the magnitude of geologic time and the stories encoded by Grand Canyon rocks and landscapes. Geologic time is immensely long; the 4.56-km-long trail is marked every meter, with 1 meter = 1 million years of our 4,560,000,000 year- long Earth history. Viewing tubes and interpretive materials help visitors connect the rocks visible in Grand Canyon to their place along the timeline. The Trail of Time is designed to engage visitors with culturally responsive and inclusive content, and is part of a research program aimed at understanding and helping improve public cognition of geologic time—the vital connection between human time scales and the million year heartbeat of the Earth.

