

ARCHAEOLOGY DAY PODCAST SCRIPT

Hi, I'm Ranger Patrick, and I'm here with Ranger Libby to talk about an exciting upcoming event later this month.

Hello, I'm Ranger Libby. March is Archaeology Month throughout the state of Arizona. Grand Canyon National Park will celebrate Archaeology Day on Saturday, March 28th.

Pat: So Libby, why do we celebrate Archaeology Day at Grand Canyon?

Native people have lived in the Grand Canyon area for thousands of years and have left behind clues about their lives. The oldest artifacts are from the Paleo-Indian period and are nearly 12,000 years old. Did you know that Grand Canyon has over 4300 archaeological resources with nearly 4% of the park surveyed? This gives us just a glimpse into the vast extent of human history of the area.

Pat: So what will be happening at Grand Canyon for Archaeology Day?

Hands on activities for all ages will take place at Canyon View Visitor Center from 11 am to 4 pm on March 28th. Join a ranger to make a split-twig figurine, similar to artifacts that have been found throughout remote caves of Grand Canyon. These split twig figurines are similar to the shape of a deer or perhaps a bighorn sheep and are thought to be a hunting talisman. You could also make a pinch pot out of clay and compare your work to thousand year old pots which were used for cooking, serving or storing food. Obtaining and preparing food used to take a lot more time for people of the past than it does for us today. If you want to pretend to be a modern archaeologist, you can participate in the artifact sifting activity. When you find bits of evidence, perhaps you can discover what they are and what they were used for.

Pat: What else is happening to celebrate Archaeology Day?

There will be a special evening ranger program with park archaeologist Ian Hough. Ian will be giving an illustrated program about the people of Grand Canyon's past and he will be available to answer questions. The evening program takes place at 7:30 pm at the Shrine of Ages Auditorium which is on the Village shuttle bus route near Parking Lot A.

Pat: So Libby, do you have any final thoughts for our listeners?

As visitors take part in these activities, we hope they will reflect on how Grand Canyon has been and remains a homeland and a sacred place to a number of American Indian cultures and it offers us an opportunity to consider the powerful and spiritual ties between people and this amazing place. Grand Canyon National Park preserves not only spectacular scenery but also a connection to our human heritage.