

How is climate change affecting our national parks?

Western National Parks Association (WNPA) and the Metropolitan Education Commission invite you to help give a voice to WNPA's mission by composing a compelling essay on the effects of climate change on our national parks.

The Metropolitan Education Commission is cosponsoring this year's essay contest. Comprised of 34 members, the Metropolitan Education Commission facilitates partnership and collaboration among education, business, service, and government agencies to promote education, advocate for educational policies that increase educational support and quality in Pima County, and empower K–12 students, teachers, and families.

WNPA helps make the national park experience possible for everyone. As a nonprofit partner of the National Park Service, WNPA supports parks across the West, developing products, services, and programs that enrich the visitor experience, understanding, and appreciation of national parks. Since 1938 WNPA has worked to connect new generations to parks in meaningful ways, all with one simple goal: create advocates who want to preserve and protect these special places for everyone, for all time.

As WNPA works to ensure national parks remain relevant to new generations and more diverse populations, we invite high school students across southern Arizona to compose a 500- to 750-word essay answering the following question: How is climate change affecting our national parks?

Consider these questions:

- In what ways is climate change affecting our national parks?
- What is the National Park Service already doing to combat this change?
- How can you and others assist in these efforts in your everyday lives? For example, how can you and others intentionally adapt your lifestyle to reduce your carbon footprint?
- How can science help parks manage climate change?
- Why do our national parks matter and why should we protect them?

Essays will be read and evaluated by a review committee. The top three essays will receive cash prizes of \$250 for first place, \$100 for second place, and \$50 for third place. Recognition of excellence will be announced at a special ceremony at 4 PM on Sunday, March 3, 2019, at The National Park Experience Pavilion at the Tucson Festival of Books. Selected submissions will be featured on the WNPA website, in the WNPA quarterly newsletter, and on WNPA social media. Prize-winning students may also be featured in a video produced by WNPA.

Nathaniel Brodie, a WNPA featured author at the 2019 Tucson Festival of Books, will present awards to the winning essay writers at a special ceremony during the festival. Brodie is an alumnus of the University of Arizona and the author of *Steel on Stone: Living and Working in the Grand Canyon*. His essays have appeared in a number of literary journals, magazines, and anthologies—including *High Desert Journal*, *Flyway*, *Hawk and Handsaw*, *Creative Nonfiction*, *High Country News*, *Terrain.org*, and the books *On Foot: Grand Canyon Backpacking Stories* (Vishnu Temple Press, 2014) and *Parallel Play: Responses to a Dry River* (University of Arizona Press, 2012). His essays have been nominated for Pushcart Prizes and selected for Notable Mention in *The Best American Essays 2013*.

Contest Rules

Participants must be in grades 9–12 (or homeschool equivalent) and reside or attend school in southern Arizona.

Limit one entry per student. Please do not submit duplicate essays.

Essay must be submitted via email or postmarked by January 15, 2019.

Participants must be available to read their essays and accept awards in Tucson, Arizona, at 4 PM on Sunday, March 3, 2019.

Entries must be the original work of the student and free of plagiarism. Quotations or copyrighted material used in the essay must be appropriately identified.

All entries will become the property of WNPA. WNPA will have the right to reproduce the essay or any portion thereof in any format or for any purpose, including but not limited to promotional, reference, or research.

Decisions of the judges are final.

WNPA reserves the right to cancel, modify, or delay the contest.

Format

Entries must:

- Be between 500 and 750 words.
- Include an essay title.
- Have one-inch margins.
- Be doubled spaced.
- Be typed in 12-point font.
- Be in Microsoft Word or a compatible format.

If you have questions about the contest, please call Caroline Lochner at 520-789-7325.

For more information about WNPA visit wnpa.org.

Entry Form

Your name and address:

Your email address and/or phone number:

The name and address of your school:

Your age and current grade level (or homeschool equivalent):

Signed parental consent (if under 18 years old):

_____ Date: _____

I certify that this submission is entirely my work. I understand that my entry will become the property of WNPA, and WNPA will have the right to use my entry however they choose, including but not limited to the right to reproduce the essay or any portion thereof in any format or for any purpose, including but not limited to promotional, reference, or research.

Signed and dated by student:

_____ Date: _____

Please mail your submission to:

Western National Parks Association
ATTN: Essay Contest
12880 N Vistoso Village Dr.
Tucson, AZ 85755

Or email your submission to:

caroline.lochner@wnpa.org
(Please use the word “essay” in the subject line of the email.)

If submitting electronically, you will receive an email confirming our receipt. If submitting by mail, you will receive a phone call confirming our receipt.

Resources for Entrants

You may want to look at the following National Park Service resources as you write your essay.

The Climate Change Response Program: www.nps.gov/orgs/ccrp/index.htm

The Science of Climate Change in National Parks video series:
www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/sciencevideos.htm

Other useful climate change resources from the National Park Service:
www.nps.gov/subjects/climatechange/resources.htm