

2019 Grand Canyon Centennial – 100th Birthday Celebration - Things to do at the Park



In case you haven't heard, Grand Canyon National Park is celebrating the [park's Centennial in 2019!](#)

The 100th birthday party on Founder's Day is being observed on February 26th, and there are many more events throughout the year and around the state. Here's the current list of only the events happening in the National Park that have been announced so far, as part of the Centennial Celebration.

But that's not all:

- This doesn't include many of the ongoing park events and activities, like Ranger-led walks and talks, plus much more - so check the [Grand Canyon National Park Calendar](#) for other programs and events throughout the year.
- Also remember to check the 2019 [Centennial Events page](#) for changes and additional events that may be posted later, throughout the year at the park and around Arizona.

At the end of the document, you'll find links to all the locations that are listed here. Just click on the link and calculate directions from your location.

Date(s) 2019	Times	Event	Location (map links below list)	Event Description
Now through September 8 th	Check for Hours	The Amazing Kolb Brothers Exhibit	Kolb Studio	Visit the Victorian home of the Kolb Brothers and learn about the men who created a lasting legacy of adventure, exploration, family love, and amazing Grand Canyon photography that will last as long as the Canyon itself.
FEBRUARY				
February 23	7:00 pm	Teddy Roosevelt: The Man in the Arena	Grand Canyon Visitor Center Theater	Award-winning actor, Derek Evans , brings to life the 26 th President of the United States, one of the most exciting and charismatic personalities in all of history.

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				This event is free and open to the public.
Feb 23-Mar 1	Evening	Centennial Week		Attend the National Park Centennial Week Evening Programs
February 26		Founder's Day Centennial Celebration	Grand Canyon Visitor Center Plaza	Everyone's invited to this celebratory event to kick off Grand Canyon's 100th Anniversary! This event is free and open to the public.
February 26	10:00 am – 4:00 pm	Founder's Day Centennial Celebration	Grand Canyon Visitor Center Plaza	Cultural Demonstrators - Join cultural demonstrators from Grand Canyon's traditionally associated tribes
February 26	10:00 am	Founder's Day Centennial Celebration	Grand Canyon Visitor Center Plaza	Flagstaff School District Choir - stop by for a concert
February 26	Noon	Founder's Day Centennial Celebration	Grand Canyon Visitor Center Plaza	Flagstaff School District Choir - stop by for a concert
February 26	1:00 pm	Founder's Day Centennial Celebration	Grand Canyon Visitor Center Plaza	Kickoff Ceremony - hear from Grand Canyon Conservancy and National Park Service staff.
February 26	2:00 pm	Founder's Day Centennial Celebration	Grand Canyon Visitor Center Plaza	No celebration is complete without Cake!

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MARCH				
Mar 1	Evening	Centennial Week		Attend the National Park Centennial Week Evening Programs – ends March 1
APRIL				
April 16	TBA	Naturalization Ceremony	Mather Amphitheater	<p>Grand Canyon National Park and the US Citizenship and Immigration Services Phoenix field office will be hosting a naturalization ceremony at Grand Canyon to welcome our newest citizens. On this day, select individuals will hear these words, “raise your right hand for the oath of citizenship.”</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>
April 18-20	18 th – 7-9 pm 19 – 20 th 8 am – 5 pm	Geoscience Symposium	<u>Shrine of the Ages</u>	<p>Grand Canyon is one of the world’s iconic geologic laboratories and has long–served as a centerpiece for geoscience education and science literacy. This symposium honors 100 years of geoscience education at Grand Canyon National Park and 150 years of Grand Canyon geology. The objective is to provide an update on research progress and on innovations in geoscience education that have taken place at Grand Canyon to promote a next century of geologic research and outreach in this iconic region. The symposium</p>

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				<p>is open to the public as well as the geoscience community.</p> <p>For more information contact Karl Karlstrom at kek1@unm.edu</p>
April 20	All Day Saturday	First Day of National Park Week	Park Entrance Fees are Waived	<p>Get ready to celebrate National Park Week 2019 from April 20 to 28! Parks across the country will host a variety of special programs and events. To kick off National Park Week, all <u>entrance fees are waived</u> on Saturday, April 20!</p> <p>There are also special days during the week to highlight the different ways you can enjoy your national parks.</p>
April 20	10am – 2pm	Earth Day Celebration	Grand Canyon Visitor Center Plaza	<p>Grand Canyon National Park will celebrate the 49th Anniversary of Earth Day with demonstrations, games, information on local and national environmental initiatives, and much more.</p> <p>All Earth Day activities are free of charge and open to the public.</p>
April 21-23	To Be Announc ed (TBA)	Preventative Search and Rescue (PSAR) Symposium	<u>Shrine of the Ages</u>	<p>Learn about the very important work <u>Grand Canyon PSAR Rangers</u> do on a daily basis to ensure visitors to Grand Canyon National Park have a fun and safe visit.</p> <p>More details to come.</p>

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MAY				
May 3	TBA	The Cowboy President Evening Program, Michael Blake	McKee Amphitheater	<p>Two-Emmy winner and historian Michael F. Blake will take you on a ride to learn all about the conservation president, Theodore Roosevelt. Come about the important role President Roosevelt played in helping create Grand Canyon National Park.</p> <p>This evening program is free and open to the public.</p>
May 10	TBA	Railroad Day and Transcontinental Sesquicentennial	TBD	<p>Come learn about the important role the railroad played in Grand Canyon history on the 150th anniversary of the transcontinental railroad.</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>
May 19	TBA	Pete McBride photo presentation "Grand Canyon: Between River and Rim"	Shrine of the Ages	<p>Award-winning photographer Pete McBride, named Adventurer of the Year by National Geographic in 2016, tells the story of his 750-plus-mile hike through the entire length of America's iconic national park in THE GRAND CANYON: BETWEEN RIVER AND RIM (published by Grand Canyon Conservancy).</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>

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May 19	1pm	Powell Sesquicente nnial Memorial Plaque Dedication	TBD	<p>A commemorative event celebrating the 150th anniversary of John Wesley Powell's famous 1869 expedition that marked the first significant geo-scientific survey of the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon.</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>
May 20	Evening	John W. Powell Evening Program, Michael Blake	McKee Amphitheater	<p>Two-Emmy winner and historian Michael F. Blake will take you on a ride to learn all about the John W. Powell and his adventure through Grand Canyon.</p> <p>This evening program is free and open to the public.</p>
May 31-June 1	TBA	Grand Canyon Wildlife Days	Grand Canyon Visitor Center Plaza	<p>Stop by and meet some of Arizona's grandest critters! This event provides opportunities for visitors to learn about the work of wildlife biologist and the unique wildlife that inhabit the Grand Canyon area.</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>
JUNE				
May 31-June 1		Grand Canyon Wildlife Days	Grand Canyon Visitor Center Plaza	<p>Stop by and meet some of Arizona's grandest critters! This event provides opportunities for visitors to learn about the work of wildlife biologist and the unique</p>

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				<p>wildlife that inhabit the Grand Canyon area.</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>
June 20-23	Overnight camping	AZ State Parks Family Campout	Mather Campground	<p>No camping experience? No problem! Join AZ State Parks staff and learn everything you need to know about camping and experience all the fun of being in the outdoors.</p> <p>Registration required, fills up fast! Watch for registration to be announced 1-2 months before the event.</p> <p>Visit www.azstateparks.com for details.</p>
June 22	10am – 4pm	Junior Ranger Day	Grand Canyon Visitor Center Plaza	<p>The Junior Ranger Program is a great way to explore national parks, get some cool swag, and maybe even a replica of a ranger hat! You'll also learn why national parks matter and how you can be a part of the team that helps keep parks healthy.</p> <p>We don't care what age you are—just come to “explore, learn, and protect” your national parks and become an official Grand Canyon Junior Ranger.</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>

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Date(s) 2019	Times	Event	Location (map links below list)	Event Description
June 22-29	9 AM - 5 PM	Centennial Summerfest	Grand Canyon Visitor Center Plaza	<p>Grand Canyon National Park will be celebrating its centennial with a summer festival bringing together park partners to showcase everything Arizona has to offer.</p> <p>Stop by the visitor center plaza to explore Arizona food and brews, see cultural demonstrations by tribes native to the canyon, and participate in fun activities that teach you more about this grand canyon!</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>
June 22-29	7 pm	<u>Grand Canyon Centennial Star Party</u>	Grand Canyon Visitor Center	<p>Due to its dark skies and clean air, Grand Canyon offers one of the best night sky observing sites in the United States.</p> <p>For eight days in June, park visitors and residents explore the wonders of the night sky on Grand Canyon National Park's South Rim with the <u>Tucson Amateur Astronomy Association</u> and on the North Rim with the <u>Saguaro Astronomy Club of Phoenix</u>.</p> <p>Amateur astronomers from across the country volunteer their expertise and offer free nightly astronomy programs and telescope viewing.</p>
JULY				

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July 4	3pm	Independence Day Parade & Celebration	Tusayan	<p>If you're visiting the park in the afternoon come join by the Tusayan's 4th of July parade and celebration. Stop by for food, music, raffles and more!</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>
July 16-17	Evenings	John Muir and Teddy Roosevelt Evening Program	McKee Amphitheater	<p>Come by and learn about two of the most important historical figures in park service history and learn about their trip to the Grand Canyon.</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>
AUGUST				
August 8-9	8:00 am – 8:00 pm	Native American Heritage Days	Various locations - North Rim of the Canyon	<p>This event celebrates the rich cultural diversity of the Colorado Plateau, the Arizona Strip, and the Grand Canyon.</p> <p>Stop by for special programs by tribal members and non-tribal members on a variety of subjects, ranging from ethno-botany to American Indian flute playing and dance.</p> <p><u>Programmed activities</u> will take place in various locations throughout the North Rim developed area.</p> <p>For additional information on Native American Heritage Days, please contact the North Rim</p>

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				<p>interpretive rangers at 928-638-7870.</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>
August 25	All day	National Park Service Founder's Day	Free Park Admission All Day	<p>Come experience the grandest of national parks! In honor of the National Park Service Founder's Day, Grand Canyon National Park will join National Parks around the country in providing visitors free entrance to Grand Canyon.</p> <p>From diverse wildlife and iconic landscapes, to vibrant culture and rich history, our National Park System has something for everyone.</p> <p>To see a list of all fee-free days in 2019 and for more information visit www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/fee-free-parks</p>
SEPTEMBER				
<p><i>Sep 7, 2019 – Jan 21, 2020</i></p> <p>As of Feb 2019, specific event details have</p>		<p><u>Grand Canyon Celebration of Art</u></p> <p>As of Feb 2019, specific event details have not</p>	<p><i>Various Location - South Rim</i></p>	<p><i>This event features artists from around the country who will engage in plein air (open air painting) demonstrations and an exhibition. Visitors will have the opportunity to watch the artists paint as they seek to represent the shifting light and shadow,</i></p>

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<p>not been announced.</p> <p><u>Check back at their site here for 2019 updates.</u></p>		<p><i>been announced.</i></p>		<p><i>amazing land forms, and vibrant colors of this vast landscape.</i></p> <p><i>Watch for updates and a list of participating artists here</i></p>
<p><i>Sampling from 2018 Events – 2019 Details TBD</i></p>	<p><i>4:00 - 6:00 pm</i></p>	<p><i>ARTIST DEMONSTRATIONS</i></p>	<p><i>Mather Point Amphitheater</i></p>	<p><i>This event features artists from around the country who will engage in plein air (open air) painting demonstrations and an exhibition.</i></p>
<p><i>Sampling from 2018 Events</i></p>	<p><i>5:30-7:30pm</i></p>	<p><i>Welcome Gathering</i></p>	<p><u>Verkamp's Visitor Center</u></p>	<p><i>Meet plein air artists and mingle with fellow event attendees. This event is free and open to the public.</i></p>
<p><i>Sampling from 2018 Events</i></p>	<p><i>8 – 10am</i></p>	<p><i>Quick Draw</i></p>	<p><i>Along the Rim between Verkamp's Visitor Center and Kolb Studio</i></p>	<p><i>Artists will have two hours to complete a painting of Grand Canyon. Viewers will be able to watch as blank canvases rapidly transform into stunning scenes.</i></p>
<p><i>Sampling from 2018 Events</i></p>	<p><i>11am to noon</i></p>	<p><i>Quick Draw Auction</i></p>	<p><i>Bright Angel Trailhead</i></p>	<p><i>Before the paint is dry go home with a work of art! Immediately following the Quick Draw, the paintings that have been created will be auctioned off to the public. Proceeds will go towards establishing a dedicated art venue at the South Rim.</i></p>
<p><i>Sampling from 2018 Events</i></p>	<p><i>11am – 1pm</i></p>	<p><i>Exhibition Grand Opening</i></p>	<p><i>Kolb Studio</i></p>	<p><i>Join us for the grand opening of the Celebration of Art exhibition. Each of the participating artists has painted a studio painting for Celebration of Art. These paintings will be exhibited along with the plein air work they paint during the event, and all works will be for sale. Proceeds will go towards a fund to establish a</i></p>

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Date(s) 2019	Times	Event	Location (map links below list)	Event Description
				<i>permanent art venue at the South Rim.</i>
September 28	TBD	Naturalization Ceremony	Mather Point	<p>Grand Canyon National Park and the US Citizenship and Immigration Services Phoenix field office will be hosting a naturalization ceremony at Grand Canyon to welcome our newest citizens. On this day, select individuals will hear these words, “raise your right hand for the oath of citizenship.”</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>
September 28	All day	Public Lands Day	Free Park Admission All Day	<p>Come experience the grandest of national parks! In honor of the National Public Lands Day, Grand Canyon National Park will join National Parks around the country in providing visitors free entrance to Grand Canyon. From diverse wildlife and iconic landscapes, to vibrant culture and rich history, our National Park System has something for everyone.</p> <p>To see a list of all fee-free days in 2019 and for more information visit https://www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/fee-free-parks.htm</p>
OCTOBER				

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Sep 7, 2019 – Jan 21, 2020		<p><u>Grand Canyon Celebration of Art</u></p> <p><i>As of Feb 2019, specific event details have not been announced.</i></p>	Various Location - South Rim	<p>This event features artists from around the country who will engage in plein air (open air painting) demonstrations and an exhibition. Visitors will have the opportunity to watch the artists paint as they seek to represent the shifting light and shadow, amazing land forms, and vibrant colors of this vast landscape.</p> <p><i>Watch for updates and a list of participating artists here</i></p>
October 12	All day	Fall Sustainability Fair	Grand Canyon Visitor Center	<p>Stop by the Grand Canyon Visitor Center for family friendly activities to learn about all the ways you can travel green and help preserve and protect Grand Canyon.</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>
NOVEMBER				
Sep 7, 2019 – Jan 21, 2020		<p><u>Grand Canyon Celebration of Art</u></p> <p><i>As of Feb 2019, specific event details have not been announced.</i></p>	Various Location - South Rim	<p>This event features artists from around the country who have created art pieces honoring the Grand Canyon as well as plein air (outdoor painting) works, as well as an exhibition and sale.</p> <p><i>Watch for updates and a list of participating artists here</i></p>

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November 5-7	TBD	Picture Yourself Here: Public Lands for All	<u>Shrine of the Ages</u>	<p>In honor of its centennial, Grand Canyon National Park will host an inclusivity training at the South Rim titled “Picture Yourself Here: Public Lands for All”.</p> <p>Join us for workshops, presentations and field trips designed to identify how public lands can be inclusive for all.</p> <p>More details to come.</p>
November 9-10	9 AM- 4 PM	Native American Heritage Month Celebration - Cultural Demonstrations	Grand Canyon Visitor Center	<p>Grand Canyon National Park will host a Native American Heritage Celebration with special presentations and demonstrations recognizing the many accomplishments, contributions, and sacrifices made by America's first people.</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>
November 9-10	7pm	Native American Heritage Month Celebration – Evening Program	Grand Canyon Visitor Center	<p>Grand Canyon National Park's extensive Native American histories make it an ideal place for the public to learn about, acknowledge, and appreciate Native American culture.</p> <p>This event is free and open to the public.</p>

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November 11	All day	Veteran's Day	Free Park Admission All Day	<p>Come experience the grandest of national parks! In honor of the Veteran's Day,</p> <p>Grand Canyon National Park will join National Parks around the country in providing visitors free entrance to Grand Canyon. From diverse wildlife and iconic landscapes, to vibrant culture and rich history, our National Park System has something for everyone.</p> <p>To see a list of all fee-free days in 2019 and for more information visit www.nps.gov/planyourvisit/fee-free-parks.</p>
Sep 7, 2019 – Jan 21, 2020		<u>Grand Canyon Celebration of Art</u>	Various Location - South Rim	<p>This event features artists from around the country who have created art pieces honoring the Grand Canyon as well as plein air (outdoor painting) works, as well as an exhibition and sale.</p> <p><i>Watch for updates and a list of participating artists here</i></p>
DECEMBER				
Sep 7, 2019 – Jan 21, 2020		<u>Grand Canyon Celebration of Art</u> <i>As of Feb 2019, specific event details have not</i>	Various Location - South Rim	<p>This event features artists from around the country who have created art pieces honoring the Grand Canyon as well as plein air (outdoor painting) works, as well as an exhibition and sale.</p> <p><i>Watch for updates and a list of participating artists here</i></p>

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		<i>been announced.</i>		
So much more too!				<p>Check the <u>Grand Canyon National Park Calendar</u> for other programs and events throughout the year at the park.</p> <p>Check the 2019 <u>Centennial Events page</u> for changes and additional events throughout the year at the park and around Arizona.</p>

Links to Map Location for each Venue:

- [Bright Angel Trailhead](#)
- [Desert View Watchtower](#)
- [El Tovar](#)
- [Grand Canyon Visitor Center](#)
- [Grand Canyon Visitor Center Theater](#)
- [Kolb Studio](#)
- [Mather Campground](#)
- [Mather Point](#)
- [McKee Amphitheater](#)
- [North Rim of the Canyon](#)
- [Shrine of the Ages](#)
- [Tusayan](#)
- [Verkamp's Visitor Center](#)