



EDUCATION DIVISION

MNA EDUCATION CLASSES ENJOYING THE NORTHERN ARIZONA OUTDOORS. (MNA COLLECTIONS N27.2)

"...[T]o enhance the public's understanding..." is the purpose of MNA's Education

Division. The Education Division, officially begun in 1975, continues Mrs. Colton's original goals of interpreting the natural and cultural heritage of the Colorado Plateau by organizing public lectures, art classes, and activities to accompany exhibits. The initiation of the Education Division meant a sustained program of classes and events for adults and children. Today's classes include art and science programs, educational outings, workshops, and excursions onto the Colorado Plateau.

The Ventures program, originally called Expeditions, opens the northern Arizona and Colorado Plateau backcountry to those wishing to hike, bike, ride, and get close to nature. Led by scientists, historians, or writers, the programs include Colorado River raft trips, hikes in Canyon de Chelly, Navajo Mountain to Rainbow Bridge llama-supported journeys, Grand Canyon Rim-to-Rim

hikes, visits to Native American artists, and photographic excursions. These programs

attract people from all over the world who appreciate an intimate look at the Colorado Plateau.

Classes for both adults and children are part of the Discovery Program, offering titles like "Nature Walk at Marshall Lake," "Chavez Pass Archaeology," and "Roles of Hopi Women." Each summer, science day camps teach children about the biology, archaeology, geology, and ecology of the region with classes such as "Insect Safaris."

Since 1975, regional residents have served as MNA docents (a word that means "teacher"), leading hundreds of schoolchildren and other groups through the Museum yearly, and assisting with other MNA interpretive functions. The docent program has grown over the years, and now consists of two years of intensive training. Upon completion of the program, docents are well-versed in almost every aspect of the Colorado Plateau.