



What to Expect

Local Environment, Climate, and Weather

Crow Canyon is located in the high desert, where deep sandstone canyons dissect pinyon-, juniper-, and sage-covered plains, all against the distant backdrop of the Rocky Mountains. The campus and excavation site are located at an elevation of 6200 feet.

The Colorado sun is strong (ultraviolet exposure increases about 4 percent for every 1000 feet above sea level), and the air is generally very dry. Late spring and early fall daytime temperatures can be quite variable, ranging from the 50s to the 80s; summer temperatures can rise into the 90s and occasionally reach triple digits. Nighttime temperatures are cooler and generally pleasant. Although it can rain any time, afternoon thunderstorms are most common in July and August.

The best precaution for anyone not accustomed to both the dry climate and the high elevation is to drink plenty of water. We recommend that program participants drink at least two quarts of water per day, every day, while here. In addition, pre-hydration—drinking plenty of water for a few days before leaving home—may help the body acclimate more quickly. Also, sunscreen is a must!

Campus

Crow Canyon's 170-acre campus, located just outside the town of Cortez, features a large meadow, pinyon- and juniper-covered hillsides, and spectacular views of Mesa Verde and the La Plata Mountains. A short nature trail winds through the woods. Buildings on campus include the lodge, Navajo-style "hogan" accommodations, and the Gates Archaeology Laboratory (the Gates Building), which houses classrooms and offices in addition to the lab (Gates Building hours are 7:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.). A small bathhouse is located adjacent to the campground in the meadow. Two learning centers—one a life-size replica of a seventh-century pithouse, the other of a twelfth-century pueblo—allow students to "experience" life in the ancient past.

In addition to hosting participants in Crow Canyon programs, our rural campus is also visited by a variety of wildlife, including deer, rabbits, marmots, birds, snakes, lizards, foxes, coyotes, and the occasional mountain lion.

Accommodations and Room Assignments

Students will stay in the hogans or in dorm rooms in the lodge. Both accommodations have bunk beds. The lodge has four bathroom/shower facilities, with three shower stalls in each upper-floor bath and two stalls in each lower-floor bath. If your group is staying in the hogans, there is a separate "super-hogan" with men's and women's bathrooms with four shower stalls in each. You may want to assign shower times (for example, morning or evening) to alleviate crowding.

Housing is assigned by Crow Canyon on the basis of the number of groups on campus, the numbers of students and chaperons in each group, and the facilities available. We will do our best to honor requests for the lodge or hogans but cannot guarantee specific accommodations.

Rooms have been set aside for chaperons; however, in some cases, chaperons may need to share quarters with students to save space and accommodate all groups. We cannot guarantee that chaperons will have accommodations to themselves, nor do we provide single-person accommodations.

Food

The Crow Canyon lodge offers a varied and delicious menu, served cafeteria-style in the lodge. Most special diets can be accommodated. Lemonade, water, iced tea, and fruit are available at all times. Off-campus lunches (for example, at the archaeological site and at Mesa Verde National Park) are served picnic-style.

Soft drinks, water, and juice are available from vending machines located behind the lodge. If you do not want students using the machines, you will need to set your own rules. Please decide what your policy on soft drinks will be, and let students know the policy before your arrival.

You may choose to bring your own snacks, such as fruit or microwave popcorn. If you allow students to bring their own snacks, you need to collect all snacks and store them in the kitchen in a space that will be assigned to you.

Food and drinks (other than water) are **NOT** permitted in any lodge room or hogan at any time!

Laundry Facilities

There are no laundry facilities on campus. You and your students should pack enough clothing to last the duration of your stay.

Keeping the Rooms and Campus Clean

Housekeeping will vacuum your rooms and clean the dining room and restrooms every day, but students and chaperons can help by keeping their rooms and the restrooms picked up and the dining room tables cleaned. Outside, we ask that you help keep the grounds tidy by picking up any litter you see. Please tell the front desk staff person immediately if you see any problems with the facilities.

Daily Schedule, Curfew

Breakfast	7:30–8:15 a.m.	Morning activity	8:30 a.m.–noon
Lunch	noon–12:45 p.m.	Afternoon activity	1:30–about 4:30 p.m.*
Dinner	5:30–6:15 p.m.	Evening program begins	6:30 p.m.

All campus meals are served cafeteria-style in the lodge. Lunches in the field are served picnic-style.

*The end time varies somewhat, depending on the day's activities.

Your visit to Crow Canyon will include days that start early in the morning and are full of activity. To ensure that students are well rested, we ask that they be in their rooms and quiet by 9:30 p.m. and have lights out by 10 p.m. (quiet time is in effect until 6 a.m.). Elementary schools may choose an earlier bedtime. **If there is another school group on campus, be sure to work with their chaperons regarding curfew arrangements.** Setting up a bedtime routine before your arrival—for example, showers followed by journal writing or storytelling—can help younger children settle down.

What About Computers?

Students are “unplugged” during their Crow Canyon experience; computers are **not** available for student use. One computer in the lobby of the Gates Building is available for adult use only. We ask users to limit their time on the computer to 15 minutes.

Chaperons may bring their personal laptop computers if they wish, but computers are not needed for the program. Crow Canyon has WIFI Internet service; the password may be obtained from the staff person at the front desk.

Cell Phones, Music Players, etc.

We encourage everyone to “unplug” and enjoy the quiet serenity of our campus. Students may bring electronic equipment, but they may not use cell phones, music players, or other similar devices during Crow Canyon activities. Be aware that we are unable to guarantee the security of such items in the rooms or elsewhere on campus.

Free Time

The chaperons are in charge during free time, which includes mealtimes and anytime students are not participating in structured Crow Canyon activities. Please be prepared to supervise and engage your students during these times. In the evening, free-time activities should be scheduled between 7:30 and 9:30.

Monitors and VCR/DVD players are available in the lodge library and in the Mesa Verde Room. We do not have television reception, but you may bring your own movies for evening viewing.

If you would like to request a specific space for a planned free-time activity, please talk to us before your arrival (see page 5 of the Program Arrangements Form in “Required Forms for Group Leader”). Be sure to leave rooms clean and move furniture back in place when you are done with your activities.

Crow Canyon has sports equipment (basketball and hoop, volleyball and net, soccer balls, and footballs) and indoor board games. Feel free to bring extra games and equipment if you have a large group. Please make sure students return equipment and games to their storage locations.

Campus Gift Shop

Crow Canyon’s small gift shop (open 4:30–6:30 p.m., Monday–Friday) carries a variety of reasonably priced gift items, including T-shirts, hats, jewelry, books, and posters. The shop also stocks toiletries, film, and postcards. All proceeds from shop sales help support Crow Canyon’s programs.

Areas Off-Limits to Students

Although most areas on campus are open to program participants, **students may enter the Gates Building, campground and bathhouse, Pithouse Learning Center, and Pueblo Learning Center only with adult supervision.** Students should stay away from the intern cabins (located on the hill behind the lodge) and should never enter hogans or lodge dorm rooms that are not theirs.

Smoking

Adult smoking is prohibited on campus except in the designated smoking area, located at the picnic table behind the lodge. Smoking by minors is prohibited.