

In Partnership with the USDA Forest Service & the San Juan National Forest

Chimney Rock Press Release

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Chimney Rock Interpretive Association Announces 5th Annual Youth Workshops at Chimney Rock National Monument

July 22, 2025

Pagosa Springs, CO – The Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) is excited to announce the final Youth Workshop for the season, scheduled for July 22, offers elementary-aged children the chance to explore the rich history and natural beauty of this iconic landmark.

Led by mostly retired school teachers, the Youth Workshops are designed to provide children with a unique, hands-on experience at the monument while fostering their creativity and appreciation for nature. “We’re thrilled to be celebrating the fifth year of our Youth Workshops,” said Denise Fisk, CRIA volunteer. “The program continues to grow and provides an amazing opportunity for children to connect with nature, history, and the arts. We’re proud to offer a hands-on educational experience that’s led by such passionate and knowledgeable volunteers.”

This year’s workshops will feature a variety of engaging activities, such as rock wrapping, feather art, printmaking, weaving in the round, creating a clay ocarina, and learning how to make a nature journal. The day kicks off with a "hike with a theme," allowing participants to learn about the natural and cultural significance of Chimney Rock while exploring its breathtaking landscapes. After lunch, children will immerse themselves in activities that tie into the theme of the day, ensuring both fun and education go hand-in-hand.

Parents have shared how much their children have enjoyed these workshops over the years. One parent commented, “This was the 4th year my daughter has attended and she is still just as excited as the first.” Another said, “My son looks forward to these fun learning workshops! I also enjoy a few minutes for myself! Thank you for all the knowledge, and I hope my son can be a part of this experience next year.”

The workshops are open to elementary-aged children, and parent volunteers are always welcome to join in the fun and learning. “She is always excited about the activities. The facilitators are warm and welcoming. The education provided has been great fuel for her mind and follows her interests,” said one parent about their child’s experience. Another shared, “I love that this incorporates the outdoors, history, and geology. The volunteers are wonderful, and I am glad our

son could be involved. Good value also.”

CRIA encourages parents to register early. Call 970-731-7133 or go to chimneyrockco.org for more information and to secure a spot for your child. Don’t miss out on this incredible opportunity for your child to experience Chimney Rock National Monument in a way that’s both fun and educational.

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA) and the San Juan National Forest of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, are working in partnership to preserve and develop educational opportunities about the significant archaeological, cultural, geological and biological resources at Chimney Rock National Monument. CRIA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit volunteer association and receives no funding from the US Government.

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