



GREAT BASIN
NATIONAL PARK
— FOUNDATION —

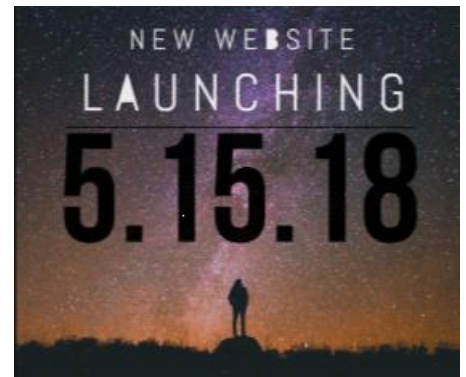
Reach for the Stars 2018



The *Reach for the Stars* (RFS) initiative is an education and outreach program of Great Basin National Park Foundation helping to further the mission of Great Basin National Park.

Envisioned when the Great Basin Observatory (GBO) was constructed in 2016, RFS expands the observatory's accessibility and helps to educate students, Park visitors and local communities about science and the importance of dark sky preservation.

In May 2018, RFS launched the GBO web portal. Through visiting www.greatbasinobservatory.org visitors can virtually tour the GBO, learn about dark sky preservation, view GBO images and research and more. Elementary and middle school educators can access over 20 activity based Next-Generation Science Standard and Utah Science Core Standard aligned lesson plans. Lessons have supporting videos, PowerPoints, editable Lab Sheets and interactive resources.



In 2018 RFS conducted presentations in 9 elementary classrooms, reaching 235 students. Pictured left is RFS intern Janzen Quinn doing “Playdough Planets” with 3rd grade students at Delta North Elementary in Utah. Some comments from teachers: “Thank you so much for coming to Delta and sharing with us. It was so fun to learn about night skies and do the activity with Play-Doh planets. We all had a great time.” “That was so fun! The kids loved it and learned a lot.”

To further the interpretive mission of Great Basin National Park, RFS is targeting education and outreach to the communities surrounding the Park boundary. These areas are large and sparsely populated. RFS is building relationships with local teachers and engaging them in the development of RFS programming. In 2018 RFS met with 54 local educators through 4 educator meetings.

In addition to doing outreach directly to schools, RFS has contacted Park visitors, adults and children through events. In 2018, RFS reached over 650 individuals at events in Great Basin National Park and over 50 people at a White Pine County STEM Fest. Great Basin National Park Foundation Board and Education and Outreach Committee members contributed 352 hours of volunteer time. Right: Education and Outreach Chair Dr. Briget Tyler Eastep shows GBO images to families at White Pine County STEMfest.





Reach for the Stars 2019



RFS has planned further steps to inspire students, Park visitors and the public to learn to enjoy the wonder and mystery of the natural world, develop a commitment to protecting dark skies, both near the Park and elsewhere, and be inspired to connect to their local environment.

In 2019 RFS will:

- Fund two Geoscientist-in-the-Park interns, allowing 1,200 additional Park visitors to attend a Park astronomy program.
- Perform classroom presentations that connect students to Great Basin National Park and dark sky preservation in 90% of the elementary and middle schools within the 2 counties bordering Great Basin National Park.
- Support “Star Parties” at local schools.
- Create “Star Boxes” for elementary and middle school teachers which contain all the consumable and non-consumable materials needed to teach interactive science and dark sky related lessons with their classroom, are standards aligned and grade appropriate.
- Help connect professors, undergraduates, graduate students, and researchers from the GBO’s four partnering universities (University of Nevada, Reno, Western Nevada College, Concordia University, Southern Utah University) to high school teachers, Great Basin National Park, and the GBO at the 2nd annual student Starfest symposium in Cedar City, Utah.
- Continue to add interactive, standard aligned lesson plans for educators to the GBO web portal.



Great Basin National Park Foundation is the official nonprofit partner of Great Basin National Park. The Foundation helps the Park to study, preserve and protect resources for future generations.

The Great Basin Observatory, built by the Foundation, is the first research-grade observatory located in a National Park. The GBO benefits students, scholars, teachers, Park visitors, and the public, and enables exploration into the fundamental questions of our universe. The location in Great Basin National Park underscores the need to preserve dark night skies as a Park resource.

The mission of *Reach for the Stars* is to offer multiple programs for Great Basin area K-12 students, our partner university's students, and support Great Basin National Park's education goals using our strategic resources, which include our Observatory partners, our dark skies and our research grade telescope.

Learn more:

www.greatbasinfoundation.org

www.greatbasinobservatory.org