



Slide Rock State Park Awarded Leave No Trace Gold Standard Site Designation

DATE, 2025 Sedona, AZ: Leave No Trace recently announced the designation of Slide Rock State Park as a Leave No Trace Gold Standard Site, an honor awarded to sites that demonstrate excellence in implementing the Leave No Trace principles, which are essential in minimizing the impact of natural resources and ensuring a sustainable future for natural areas. Slide Rock State Park earned the recognition for its role as a leader in promoting responsible enjoyment in the outdoors, making it the first Arizona state park to do so.

The Gold Standard designation is Leave No Trace's highest standard of recognition. The designation honors sites and organizations that are exemplary models of Leave No Trace implementation, working to help preserve and protect our natural landscapes for generations to come.

"Leave No Trace is thrilled to announce Slide Rock State Park as a Gold Standard Site," said Dana Watts, Leave No Trace Executive Director. "Slide Rock State Park's hard work and dedication to protecting natural spaces means they are a leading force in the Leave No Trace movement and an example of how to implement education effectively."

To be designated as a Leave No Trace Gold Standard Site, locations must demonstrate that they meet the following criteria:

- Formally train staff and volunteers in Leave No Trace and outdoor ethics
- Successfully implement Leave No Trace outdoor skills, practices, and ethics into programs
- Provide education to the public through signage, educational materials, and online resources on how to reduce recreation impacts

"We are so honored to be recognized by Leave No Trace for our work to protect and conserve the park and the natural areas it encompasses," said Slide Rock State Park Manager Sam Axford. "Educating our visitors and working with our community partners has helped us ensure that this park will continue to be a beautiful natural area for generations to come."

About Leave No Trace

The Leave No Trace organization is a national nonprofit organization that protects the outdoors by empowering everyone through science, hands-on training, and simple guidelines. The Leave No Trace Gold Standard Site designation recognizes sites and organizations implementing the highest standard of onsite Leave No Trace education. For more information, visit: www.LNT.org.

About Slide Rock State Park

Slide Rock State Park, originally the Pendley Homestead, is a 43-acre historic apple farm located in Oak Creek Canyon. Frank L. Pendley, having arrived in the canyon in 1907, formally acquired the land under the Homestead Act in 1910. The site was also instrumental to the development of the tourism industry in Oak Creek Canyon. Today, the park offers picnic areas amid the lush vegetation, meandering trails through wildlife habitat and apple orchards, educational programs about the historic homestead, and of course the world-famous natural slide in Oak Creek. The park opened in 1987 and is one of more than 30 state parks in Arizona. To learn more, visit AZStateParks.com.