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**PINK JEEP TOURS R.O.C.K.S.
OAK CREEK SCHOOL 4TH GRADERS**

Sedona, AZ-- Pink Jeep Tours (PJT) announced that twenty-six fourth-grade students from Oak Creek School in Cornville, along with teachers and chaperones, participated in the company's R.O.C.K.S. program today. R.O.C.K.S. (Reinforcing Our Children's Knowledge of Sedona) is a cultural excursion that combines the thrill of an off-road adventure with fun and educational activities that encourage a love of nature and a respect for fragile eco-systems and ruins.

"Our guides developed this program in conjunction with fourth grade curriculums that include geology and Native American history," says Leslie McLean, R.O.C.K.S. Program Coordinator. "The children receive activity packets filled with stories, a coloring contest, engaging educational material, safety information, games, gifts, and an eco-ranger certificate."

Based on educational fundamentals found in "*Sharing Nature with Children*" by Joseph Cornell, the tour takes the students to the Honanki Heritage Site, a cliff dwelling and rock art site where Sinaguans, ancestors of the Hopi, lived from AD1100 to 1300. The children tour the ruins and play interpretive games with the guides. "This is a hands-on learning experience for the children," says Gala Little, 4th/5th grade teacher at Oak Creek School, "and it comes at the same time that we're studying the tribes of Arizona and how they used rocks to make tools and prepare food."



"Honanki is a very special classroom for local children on several levels," says Cindy Brennan, a PJT interpretive guide. "First, it's a tactile experience that allows them to engage individually in subjective interpretation of what the artwork means. Secondly, there's the shock value of comparing their lives with those of the American Indian children who were learning how to cook, hunt, and even marry at the same age as the students are now. It was not an easy life."

This is the R.O.C.K.S. program third year. Pink Jeep Tours covers all of the costs of the tours and invites different local schools on a rotating basis.

Pink Jeep Tours was founded in 1960 and has its corporate headquarters in Sedona, Arizona. Today, it has a corporate fleet of fifty-nine tour vehicles, serving visitors from around the world, and providing the premier adventure tours of Northern Arizona. It is the only Jeep tour company with National Association of Interpretation certified interpretive trainers and guides on its staff.

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