

For Immediate Release



Rock Art Researchers to Gather in Grand Junction, CO

Where: The Double Tree Inn, Grand Junction, CO

When: June 1 – 4, 2018

Who: American Rock Art Research Association

Registration and conference information: <https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conference-Info>

Contacts: Conference Coordinators:
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Grand Junction, CO—The American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) is pleased to convene its 2018 rock art symposium June 1 – 4 at the Double Tree Inn in Grand Junction, Colorado. ARARA is America’s preeminent rock art organization, whose members explore the many facets of rock art – the study of prehistoric markings found on stone in natural landscape settings. The yearly conference attracts scholars from around the country and internationally, who come together to share research, images and ideas about rock art traditions from the Americas and beyond.

The conference is open to all—professional archaeologists, avocationalists, and the interested public alike. Students in particular are welcome. Student attendees receive free registration, and student presenters receive a stipend to attend.

With a rich abundance and diversity of rock art sites nearby, Grand Junction is an ideal location for hosting this important annual research conference. Western Colorado is the transition zone between Ancestral Puebloan and Fremont cultures. Within an easy driving distance of Grand Junction there is rock art from each of those cultures and also much older Barrier Canyon and younger Ute rock art. Grand Junction itself sits in the Grand Valley, at the junction of the Gunnison and Colorado (formerly called the Grand) Rivers. At 4500' elevation, it is at the transition zone between sagebrush desert and pinyon-juniper forest. To the immediate south of the city and valley are the towering red rock cliffs of the Colorado National Monument while to the east the skyline is dominated by 10,000' high Grand Mesa, often identified as the largest flattop mountain in North America.

Presentations on current rock art research form the centerpiece of the meeting (June 2 and 3). The research presentations kick off the morning of June 2 with a session dedicated to the rock art of Colorado and then expand to cover rock art in other parts of the U.S. and the world. Details of the agenda can be accessed as we get closer to the conference time at <https://arara.wildapricot.org/Conference-Info>. Other special cultural activities are planned throughout the conference, including social events and vendor offerings of rock art related merchandise.

For those who register for the conference, ARARA offers two days of guided field trips on (June 1 and 4) to a variety of intriguing area rock art sites. Attendees discover the richness of the local rock art heritage while enjoying the spectacular Colorado and Utah countryside. Trips will include such sites as Canyon Pintado, which contains hundreds of archeological sites and was also on the route used by the Dominguez-Escalante expedition. We are also close to Se-go Canyon, an outstanding rock art site in Utah with a combination of Ute, Fremont, and Barrier Canyon panels.

All are invited to attend the 2018 ARARA conference in Grand Junction to share the latest information and research into the fascinating ancient images from the past.

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