

## VRVNO's Outdoor Science Fest Planned at Dead Horse Ranch State Park

If Arizona landscapes are classrooms of sorts, Dead Horse Ranch State Park is among the state's most impressive stages for science learning. Verde River Valley Nature Organization (VRVNO) celebrates the state's natural resources at Outdoor Science Fest, just one piece of the second annual Verde Valley wide SciTech Festival with Arizona SciTech Festival. This is a free event.



All are invited to enjoy the interactive demonstrations and discussions with a focus on experiential, outdoor learning. Featured topics include technology used for mapping, birding and wildlife applications. Make sure to pick up a VRVNO Passport at the welcoming table between the lagoons to enter the draw for first prize, a \$50 REI Outdoor Recreation Gear gift certificate and more!

A geocache scavenger hunt is planned as well as demonstrations on digital overlay mapping, thermal mapping and compass mapping techniques. A hang glider fly-in with model airplane reception and hang-glide simulator will complement the aerodynamics feature. Learn about birding with birding apps, scopes and other equipment.

Wilderness enthusiasts will enjoy the presentation brought to you by Arizona Watchable Wildlife Tourism Association. Specialists will be on hand to showcase tools and techniques for soil and water testing. Participants who want to try their hand at 'clay play,' will find local sources of clay for some hands-on manufacturing. And there is more!

VRVNO sends a big shout out to the Arizona SciTech coordinators and the local organizations contributing to the fun and learning at Outdoor Science Fest 2015: Friends of the Verde River Greenway, Verde Watershed Restoration Coalition, Verde Valley Land Preservation, The Nature Conservancy, Arizona Watchable Wildlife Tourism Association, Verde Natural Resource Conservation District, Arizona Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, Sedona Verde Valley Fly-Fishers Central Arizona Modelers, remote



control airplane club, Sedona Recycles, Northern Arizona Audubon Society, University of Arizona Range Rocks, and Clay Play with Yavapai College Arts Department.

Outdoor Science Fest takes place March 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. between the lagoons of Cottonwood's Dead Horse Ranch State Park.

VRVNO enjoys the outreach to community, visitors and youth, extending their mission to provide recreational, education, and nature tourism opportunities that support stewardship of the Verde River Valley.

The Verde River Valley Nature Organization is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) supported by volunteers, sponsors and grants relating to the organization's vision and mission. VRVNO's website is [www.vervno.org](http://www.vervno.org). In April, look for the four-day Verde Valley Birding and Nature Festival that includes a Student Field Trip day with local schools and an all-ages Family Nature Fest. Find out more at [www.birdyverde.org](http://www.birdyverde.org).