

Toyota Awards Partners \$5,000

September, 2015



Fourth Graders at Kanab Elementary

KANAB, UT – Recently, Toyota Motor Sales, USA and the National Environmental Education Foundation, also known as NEEF, announced a \$5,000 grant award to local nonprofit organization Grand Staircase Escalante Partners.

Grand Staircase Escalante Partners (Partners) was founded in 2004 as a friends group to support the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. The Partners help preserve and protect the 1.9 million-acre GSENM through four fundamental programs that depend on volunteer participation:

- Education-Partners' Frontier Science School is a curriculum-based education program for local schools, as well as resources and special projects.
- Site Stewards-Partners trains volunteers to monitor vulnerable archeological and paleontological sites on the Monument.
- Paleontology-In the lab as well as the field, Partners aids Monument scientists in the discovery and care of diverse fossils.
- Escalante River Watershed Project-Teaming up with local, regional, and federal stakeholders, Partners helps remove invasive species and restore the one-of-a-kind Escalante River watershed.

Of the grant, Partners representative Jeff Muse says, "These funds will be used to develop an advanced cadre of volunteers with increased training and commitment for duties in citizen science, education and relationship building among rural communities."

In addition to this grant, Partners was just awarded an additional \$4000 through their *Hands On The Land* program. This funding will allow Frontier Science School to provide classroom based lessons to elementary students on how fossils can be used to "read the land" both on the Monument and in their own backyards.