
ACADEMIC PACKET

Earning High School Elective Credit for walking the ANASAZI Trail

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Introduction

My name is Carley Nelson and I am the Anasazi Education and Research Coordinator. I am here to help guide the educational process with you and your Young Walker. We call your child Young Walker because they are young in their walking.

I know from experience that the walking you and your Young Walker are starting can be one of adventure and significant change of heart. My charge is to walk with you and your Young Walker, to help learning grow naturally out of the Anasazi Walking. We call these teachings and primitive skills “The Gatherings of the Anasazi Way.”

Walking among creation provides many opportunities to make askings, listenings, and learnings—Mother Earth is indeed a good teacher. Each Young Walker receives path books throughout their walking to document these learnings. In these booklets, they read, record observations of the natural world, and develop new awakenings.

Trail Walkers review the path books, teach primitive skills, and set goals for the upcoming week. These Trail Walkers also participate in the program, completing the Walking curriculum themselves, ever-ready to facilitate in-the-moment learning at any time during the week.

When a Young Walker finishes the walking he or she packages the story of their walking into an Anasazi Portfolio which can be submitted to our partners Blueprint Education for High School elective credit. The process is simple, but it is important to follow the steps outlined in this packet. I am eager to walk together, and remember that I am here to help every step of the way.

I am Olive Leaf, Morning Dew and I have spoken.

Simple Process

- **Review the Academic Packet** – This packet is designed to help you make this process simple. After you review this packet, you will have a better idea if these credits will work for you in your situation.
- **Have your school contact Blueprint Education**– A representative from Blueprint Education will be able to educate your guidance counselor about Anasazi. Due to the unique nature of the partnership between Blueprint Education and Anasazi, it is best that a Blueprint Education representative explain the arrangement so as to help your school determine if the credits available through Anasazi curriculum will be accepted. **There is no advantage in registering and paying for credits that will not help your child with their schooling.**
- **DON'T register for the credits until the booklets and the portfolio are complete.**
–Although the curriculum is an integral part of the Anasazi Walking, some choose not to participate. Because our focus is on the heart, I would encourage you not to allow education to be a point of contention as you and your YoungWalker seek a new beginning together. We have the luxury of waiting until everything is complete before we register with Blueprint.
- **Register** – Register with Blueprint directly online or on the phone. Once you register, there is a 30 day window for the coursework to be graded and returned.
<https://www.blueprinteducation.org/anasazi/>
- **Submit Coursework** – Once your YoungWalker is off the trail, it is very important to keep everything in a safe place until their portfolio is complete. You have **one year** to complete the portfolio and turn it in. Mail the entire portfolio to Carley Nelson at the address below. We will verify that everything is complete and pass it along to Blueprint:

Anasazi Foundation
% Carley Nelson
1424 S. Stapley Drive
Mesa, AZ 85204
- **Receive Transcripts** – After the coursework and portfolio are recorded at Blueprint, you will receive 2 copies of the transcript. One copy is for your reference; one copy **is to remain sealed**, only to be opened by a school official. Upon registration, if you provide the name and address of the school to which you would like an official transcript sent, Blueprint will send it directly to them. **Anasazi does not keep transcripts or Path books on file.**



Dear Educators,

The intent and purpose of this letter is to familiarize you with Anasazi Foundation and its educational curriculum.

Anasazi Foundation is a non-profit (501c3) behavioral healthcare provider that utilizes remote outdoor settings for the treatment and care of youth and young adults. It is accredited nationally by the Joint Commission and licensed by the Arizona State Department of Health Services.

www.anasazi.org Our educational curriculum is provided through Blueprint Education, which is accredited through the North Central Association and the Commission of International and Trans-Regional Accreditation. www.blueprinteducation.org

Each day on the ANASAZI Trail provides new learning experiences, both interpersonal and academic. Staff members are present 24 hours a day, offering their assistance and expertise, and I also visit the trail to teach, monitor the progress, and set goals. Each participant is given a series of booklets to help in the learning process. Upon completion of the program, we encourage each student to package their experience in a portfolio of creative work. If the student completes all the components of our academic curriculum, the student may attain elective credits in: Physical Education, Experiential Communication, and Leadership & Self-Reliance. An explanation of these credits is provided in the enclosed educational packet.

If you have any questions regarding our program, I would enjoy speaking with you at any time.

All my best,

Carey Nelson
Anasazi Research and Education Coordinator
carley@anasazi.org
(360)-601-8830

Carley Nelson: Carley@anasazi.org

High School Credit for Young Walkers

Academic Program Overview

Anasazi Foundation's outdoor program has been esteemed for its educational benefits. Young Walkers can earn 2.5 high school elective credits through the completion of three courses for an excursion of 49 days or more. This is particularly meaningful for students' academic needs to remediate, accelerate, and graduate from high school.

Blueprint Education offers the following elective credits upon the completion of Anasazi curriculum:

1. Physical Education (0.5 Credit)
2. Experiential Communications (1 Credit)
3. Leadership & Self-Reliance (1 Credit)

Each area is treated experientially and evaluated through verbal and written exercises. The experiential vehicle of living and walking on the land helps enhance the student's ability to retain the information learned for use in subsequent academic settings.

Anasazi curriculum is based on time-tested learning methods and traditional academic content. The Anasazi trail staff are committed to developing well-rounded students who master the fundamentals in academic subjects and develop higher order reasoning, problem solving, analytical, and communications skills. The curriculum also is useful in developing good character. The curriculum is developed to engage the student in a holistic, coordinated and creative environment which tests mental, physical and emotional responses to a myriad of academic and real-life challenges. In addition, the curriculum teaches students about virtues like forgiveness, optimism and gratefulness.

Blueprint Education Partnership

Since 1969 when the company first offered correspondence courses to migrant worker families in Maricopa County, AZ, Blueprint Education has continued to provide flexible opportunities, tools and choices that empower students to take ownership of their learning. Blueprint Education is a non-profit organization and is fully accredited by AdvancED. Blueprint Education currently serves the education community through brick and mortar charter schools an online charter school, both full and part time online private schools and alternative education. Blueprint Education is thrilled to partner with Anasazi to offer credit based on the learning experiences in the outdoor setting.

Registration

To register, please contact:

Bridget Svorinic
Program Liaison
bridgets@blueprinteducation.org
Phone: 800-426-4952

Carley Nelson: Carley@anasazi.org

***IMPORTANT:** Do not register with Blueprint until the coursework and portfolio are complete.

Course Descriptions

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (0.5 credit, 60+ hours): YoungWalkers (students) hone and coordinate their fine motor skills in the Making of Primitive Fire with a bow drill several times a week. They also complete a 7-week Walking (backpacking trip), where they learn and practice how to help their body perform at optimum levels, negotiate difficult terrain and overcome challenges, increasing their physical, mental, and emotional endurance. Nurses and TrailWalkers (course facilitators) monitor progress weekly, provide instruction, and help YoungWalkers set goals for continual improvement. The Anasazi PE course is aligned to the national NASPE standards.

EXPERIENTIAL COMMUNICATION (1 credit, 120+ hours): With the goal of giving relationships a new beginning, YoungWalkers use letter writing, poetry, expressional art activities, Sittings (one-on-one instruction with TrailWalkers), Ponderings, Speakings (oral presentations), and BadgerStone Councils (group process therapy) to practice understanding others and positively communicating feelings and intentions to peers, parents, and ANASAZI Staff. At the end of the ANASAZI Walking, YoungWalkers compile a record of the experience and share it in a portfolio which includes a written report and one of the following activities: a video documentary, photo journal, sculpture or other piece of art, newspaper article, or group presentation.

LEADERSHIP & SELF RELIANCE (1 credit, 120+ hours): YoungWalkers (students) complete a series of tasks designed to increase their confidence, self-reliance, and personal awareness. TrailWalkers (course facilitators) coach the YoungWalkers through Sittings, Steppings (one-on-one instruction), and Councils (group process) on how to use their confidence, self-reliance, and personal awareness to concern themselves with others and to help them Walk as WE (build community) and to Walk Forward (make good and moral decisions). The specific tasks of the course include successfully designing menus and meals that are nutritionally complete, caring for personal and group gear, practicing personal hygiene, and utilizing primitive survival skills to keep themselves and others safe and comfortable. At the completion of the Anasazi Walking, YoungWalkers complete a service project for their community. The Anasazi Youth Leadership course is aligned to the national NASET Youth Leadership and Development standards.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does it cost?

The cost is \$99 per 0.5 credit. The courses are intended to be offered together in a bundle, but you may enroll your child in the physical education course alone if you wish. Payment arrangements should be made directly with Blueprint, and enrollment will be finalized once payment is made.

Can these classes take the place of Core Classes?

Generally speaking, no; Blueprint offers these courses for elective credit. Although some families have made special arrangements with their counselors or school districts for special substitutions or exceptions, the courses are designed and delivered for elective credit.

Can my child complete homework from their high school while on the Anasazi Trail?

No. Our mission is to prepare families to turn their hearts towards each other and to begin anew. Removing ourselves from distractions – including traditional homework.

Can all school work be completed while on the Anasazi Trail?

No. Students must complete a portfolio to share their Anasazi story. This is only possible after returning home.

When is the transcript issued?

A transcript is issued after the completed curriculum packet is received, and graded. You should receive a transcript within 30 days of submission. We may be able to expedite the process if there are special circumstances.

Does Anasazi offer other courses?

Not at this time, however, Blueprint Education offers students a complete high school curriculum with many options. Please visit the website for more information:

<https://www.blueprinteducation.org/anasazi/>

Who do I contact if I have questions?

For information regarding Anasazi walking books, portfolio, what education looks like on the trail, or about the process of earning elective credits for the Anasazi Walking, contact Carley Nelson at Anasazi.

If you have specific questions about registration, accreditation, or application of the credits to your school, contact Bridget Svorinic at Blueprint Education (Our partner who actually offers the credits). If you are curious if your school will accept the credits offered from Blueprint, contact your school guidance counselor and provide them with this packet.

Accreditation



Blueprint Education and the Anasazi Foundation have built a unique educational relationship that provides a benefit to students. Students enroll in Blueprint Education's standards-based courses to earn course credit from an accredited distance learning school. Courses are aligned to national and state academic standards to meet accreditation requirements. Blueprint Education provides the official transcript to the Anasazi Foundation upon completion of the course work.

Blueprint Education is accredited through AdvancED. AdvancED is dedicated to advancing excellence in education worldwide. The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement (NCA CASI), Northwest Accreditation Commission (NWAC) and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS CASI) are accreditation divisions of AdvancED.

Blueprint Education's curriculum meets the high quality standards for sound educational programs of all the accreditation associations and commissions.

This accreditation covers Blueprint Education educational courses in all six North American accrediting regions as well as internationally.

The Blueprint Education and the Anasazi Foundation educational relationship, based on high standards, ensures students that their course credit will be transferred successfully to their school of choice.

Portfolio

Your complete portfolio will contain the following elements:

- ◆ The 9 Walking Booklets (The RabbitStick Book, The Seven Path Books, and The DawnStar Book)
- ◆ One of the following
 - A 8-10 page essay resolving the prompt: My journey through the Seven Paths
 - Five, one-page short stories from your ANASAZI Walking that show a mix of unforgettable, meaningful, and humorous stories
- ◆ One of the following
 - A 3-7-minute video documentary about your ANASAZI Walking
 - A write up describing a 15-20-minute oral presentation on your ANASAZI Walking to a church, school, or peer group
 - An article for a local newspaper about your ANASAZI Walking
 - An artistic representation of your ANASAZI Walking (Drawing, Painting, Song, Sculpture, a photo journal, etc.)
- ◆ A write-up explaining the planning and execution of a 5-hour service project to benefit the family or community
- ◆ A list that explains the people or resources in the community that will help the Young Walker Walk Forward and a brief explanation of how they plan to make good use of those resources

Rubrics & Grading

- 0 = no effort
- 1 = Minimal effort or understanding
- 2 = Minimal effort but good understanding
- 3 = Good effort and understanding
- 4 = Exceptional effort and understanding

Service Project

- Explains how the service project idea was formed
 - Explains how the service project was carried out
 - Explains the outcomes of the service project
 - Is free of grammatical errors
 - Shows that the service performed was meaningful to the Young Walker and to others
- **Total/20 =** _

Community Resources

- Contains 10+ resources
 - Contains explanations of how the Young Walker plans to use the resources to help them Walk Forward (make good and moral decisions)
 - Is free of grammatical errors
- **Total/12 =** _

Essay or Short Stories

- Resolves the prompt “My Walking Through the Seven Paths” or each Short Story serves a productive purpose
 - Is engaging to read
 - Is free of grammatical errors
 - Is typed with size 12 or smaller font, double-spaced, and reasonable margins
 - Is of appropriate length, but free of fluff
- **Total/20 =** _

Sharing Your Story (Video Documentary, Oral Presentation, Newspaper Article, or Art)

- Demonstrates appropriate effort, length (when applicable)
 - Showcases creative abilities
 - Is tasteful
 - Is inspiring
 - Is free of grammatical/other errors
- **Total/20 =** _