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GSA TODAY

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Journeys of Discovery, Meetings of Minds: GSA Foundation Rendezvous

The GSA Foundation's mission is to develop and provide funds to support the goals and programs of GSA. The resources we secure for GSA impact students, scholars, practitioners, and research—but we do more than that. We also create community, connections, and belonging.

One way we accomplish this is through GSA Foundation Rendezvous field trips. In 2026, the GSA Foundation is hosting two opportunities for fun, adventure, and learning: Death Valley, California, from 29 March–3 April 2026, and Bryce Canyon, Utah, from 6–11 September 2026.

GSA Foundation Rendezvous are planned and led by GSA member volunteers who build appreciation of geoscience marvels by sharing their expertise and love of wild places. These volunteers work in tandem with GSA Foundation staff, who coordinate registration, logistics, meals, and transportation—all for a modest package rate. This leaves travelers free to immerse themselves in unhurried discovery.

Death Valley's gorgeous extremes must be seen to be believed, from Badwater Basin's below-sea-level salt flat expanses to Dante's View, with its panoramic views of the flats and the Panamint Range beyond. Voyagers will tour the mining district, explore the Dumont Dunes, and encounter uniquely adapted flora and fauna at the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge—and much more.

The Death Valley Rendezvous will be led by Dr. Darrel Cowan, Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington, who has researched Death Valley for many decades; and Dr. Stephen Wells, past GSA President, current GSA Foundation Vice Chair, and an expert in the park's geomorphology and paleohydrology. Thanks to their insights and enthusiasm, Rendezvous travelers will appreciate the geoscience that underpins Death Valley's otherworldly beauty. Reservations for the Death Valley Rendezvous are open now, with $1,000 deposits due 15 February.



Death Valley Rendezvous 2025

Our other 2026 Rendezvous will take guests to Bryce Canyon and the Western High Plateaus of Utah in September. Bryce Canyon's scarlet hoodoo rock formations are world-renowned for their majesty. Those who join us will experience this and other wonders—dining at the rim of Bryce Canyon, collecting marine fossils from the Cretaceous seaway, and exploring the paleoenvironments of Bryce's pink rocks.

The Bryce Canyon Rendezvous will be led by Dr. George Davis, former GSA President, current GSA Foundation Trustee, and Professor and Provost Emeritus at the University of Arizona, who has worked the Colorado Plateau for decades. Joining him will be Dr. Pete Rowley, whose mapping of the High Plateau Region is legendary, and Gayle Pollock, President & CEO of the Bryce Canyon Association and renowned Cretaceous stratigrapher and paleontologist. Their knowledge will illuminate the treasures of Bryce and make this a journey to remember.



Death Valley Rendezvous 2025



Some of Bryce Canyon's astonishing hoodoos

GSA Foundation Rendezvous are designed for everyone, geoscientists and enthusiasts alike. Those who join us have their sense of discovery renewed, gaining new appreciation of gorgeous landscapes, understanding more about the development of our planet, and making memories and friendships that will last a lifetime. Many past Rendezvous guests have been inspired to deepen their connections to both GSA and the GSA Foundation.

To learn more or make your reservations, please contact Sean O'Brien, PhD (+1 434-242-9552; sean.obrien@gsa-foundation.org) or Becky Priest Santavicca (+1-203-909-8333; becky.santavicca@gsa-foundation.org). We can't wait to see the world with you.

All donations make a difference. Please scan the QR code to make a gift now, or contact GSA Foundation Executive Director Sean O'Brien, PhD, at sean.obrien@gsa-foundation.org to learn about more ways to give. Gifts to the GSA Foundation are fully tax-deductible under U.S. law.

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