

# NAVAJO NATION TRAIL GUIDE



## FEATURING

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE  
FOUR CORNERS MONUMENT  
TWIN FALLS // CARRIZO MTN  
BECLABITO COMMUNITY  
MONUMENT VALLEY  
CHUSKA RIM ROUTE  
RAINBOW BRIDGE  
MUSEUM TRAIL  
SLOT CANYON  
CAMP ASAAYI  
WHITE HOUSE  
AREA CAMPGROUNDS  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SITES  
NAVAJO PARKS RACE SERIES  
TOUR DE REZ RACE SERIES  
& MUCH MORE





A kindergartner at Red Mesa once replied to my question about why we should exercise outside with a simple yet emphatic response: "Because it's fun!" he exclaimed. Indeed, it is. While our reply may be a bit more nuanced than the 5-year old, the fun of outdoor rec is likely what draws us in and keeps us at it. For most us, there are also plenty of other reasons we get out to exercise and explore: the health benefits, social connections, adrenaline rush, personal fitness, the drive to compete and the chance to experience nature, among them.

We hope this Navajo Nation Trail Guide will serve you well in your adventures. For the record, any and all parts of this guide may be copied and shared with anyone who doesn't have their own. Please, help us spread our love of the amazing lands and awesome trails and routes of Dine' Bikeyah!

If you have comments or suggestions for the next edition, or simply need to request some additional copies in your community, school, church or wellness center, please feel free to contact us at 928.429.0345, or at [chuskaman@yahoo.com](mailto:chuskaman@yahoo.com). Hope to see you on the trail soon!

**Tom Riggbach**  
For the Navajo Trails Task Force



"My mountain biking journey all started in 2015 with the Paradise Loop ride in Shonto, AZ to celebrate my 41st birthday. 4 years later and with well over a dozen races completed, (top 5 finishes, other "Masters Champ" wins) I'm Impressed and grateful to be part of the Navajo Yes biking community. The future looks promising with Tom and his crew and I'll see you at the next race."

- Gerald Kady, TDR Cup Series Master's Champion



"The trails at Four Corners are a great way to explore the park. They are really popular with our local families and visitors. People love to run and hike the at community events and races throughout the year."

- Karen Yazzie, Four Corners Monument Park Manager



"I love backpacking the Rainbow Bridge. This place is one of the most beautiful spots in the world!"

- Kimberly Keith, Shonto, Arizona



"My sons been with Navajo Yes for a couple years now. He's been into a lot of activities and events. There is a lot of trails on the reservation which is good for our people. It would be nice to have trails setup to where people can stay for two to three days so people can do some sight seeing."

- Mary Bekay, Cove, Arizona



"Everything is mental strength, the little things are the key to where you want to be, to go a great distance."

- Gavyn Curley, Lechee, Arizona



"The Chuska Mountains are one the most unique landscapes on the Colorado Plateau - countless lakes, rocky peaks and cliff bands, old growth forests, stunning vistas of the deserts far below, and rough dirt roads linking it all together. Sheep camps underscore the area's long history as a summer refuge for families in the region, although those camps are relatively quiet nowadays. This is the perfect place to spend a few days traveling by bike, drinking spring water, and basking in the cool mountain air."

- Kurt Refsnider, Bikepackingroots.com

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# NAVAJO TRAIL RULES

THE LANDS ALONG THE TRAILS ARE NOT PUBLIC LANDS AND THERE ARE MANY SACRED SITES, SO PLEASE STAY ON THE TRAILS. THESE APPLY TO LOCAL RESIDENTS & VISITORS ALIKE.

Show courtesy to other trail-users at all times

Be respectful of local land-users, residents, sheepherders & livestock.

Pack it in, pack it out. Please do not leave any trash behind.

Pet-owners, please be respectful of other trail-users. Please clean up after your pet.

Bikers - please yield to walkers and runners.

Please obtain a Navajo backcountry use permit for overnight stays on Rainbow Trail, Chuska MTB Route & Little Colorado River Tribal Park.

Support our local businesses & stores that are on or near your trail route.

And finally and all encompassing, LEAVE NO TRACE of your passing through.



NAVAJO PARKS & RECREATION DEPT.  
P.O. Box 2520  
WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515  
(928) 871-6647



NavajoYES  
P.O. Box 1487  
TEEC NOS POS, AZ 86514  
(928) 429-0345

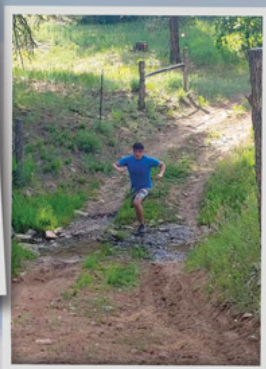
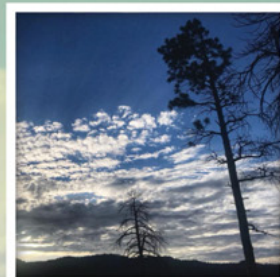
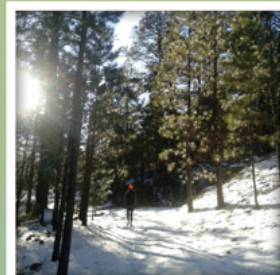




# CAMP ASAAYI TRAILS

NEW MEXICO

With a long history dating back to the early 1960's as a Scout camp, Camp Asaayi is one of the jewels of the tribal parks system. The Asaayi trails network includes the 2½ mile Camp View Loop trail, and the 1-mile roundtrip Lake View Trail (scheduled for completion in 2021). These trails include signage and benches throughout. At 7500+ feet, they offer a perfect getaway in the warm months and provide a venue for two weekends of trail racing each summer. The area also hosts the Asaayi Bike Race. This 23 mile road race takes riders along Route 12 north-bound towards Narbona Pass.



## NAVAJO PARKS RACE SERIES

ASAAYI MOUNTAIN RUN  
June @ Camp Asaayi

12 HOURS OF ASAAYI  
August @ Camp Asaayi





# WILDCAT TRAIL MONUMENT VALLEY

UTAH/ARIZONA

Wildcat Trail in Monument Valley Tribal Park has more trail users than any trail on the Navajo Nation. The four-mile loop is a stunning, challenging route around the West Mitten and gives hikers and runners – both locals and visitors – a taste of life in the Valley below the rim. The trail is also a popular segment of the MV Ultra each spring. The Park is also host to the Tour de Rez race series.



## NAVAJO PARK'S RACE SERIES

MV ULTRA  
TRAIL HALF-MARATHON  
1st Saturday of March

MV VETERANS MARATHON  
Saturday before Thanksgiving



# CHUSKA

## MTB ROUTE

The newly-designated Chuska Mountain Bike Route is a long-distance route running the length of the Chuska Mountains, primarily along the "spine" of the range. The route has been recognized by the 12 chapters that include a portion of the Chuska, as well as the Office of Navajo President, Navajo Parks & Recreation Dept., Navajo Fish & Wildlife Dept. and Vice President and the Navajo Division of Transportation.

The route runs 80 miles from Cove and Red Valley in the north to Camp Asaayi and Mexican Springs in the south. There are several points of access along the way, including Cove Chapter, Buffalo Pass, Toadlena, Narbona Pass, Camp Asaayi and Mexican Springs.

The route is dirt road and lightly-travelled doubletrack. The segment between Camp Asaayi and Narbona Pass (which passes by Whiskey Lake) is a popular area with local families looking for chiizh, good fishing and quiet camping. The five-mile segment from Narbona Pass to Berland Lake is equally popular with local fishers, though the route becomes very quiet north of Berland, and especially once it gets beyond Toadlena Lake.

The route offers riders route-finding posts, interpretive maps/signage, benches, ramadas and designated campsites along the way.

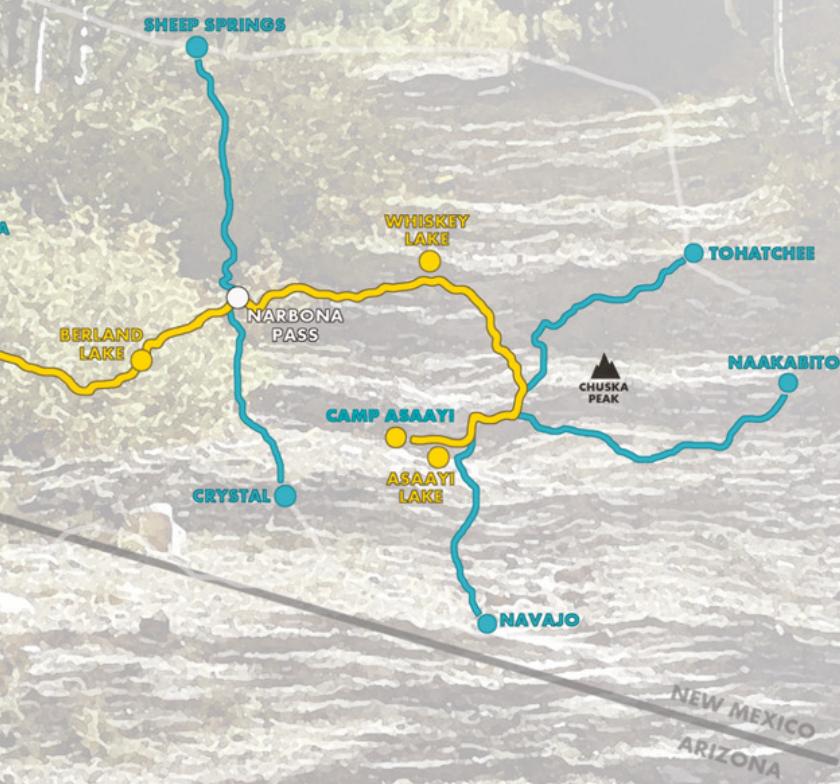
The area is a popular spot for bikers, anglers, hunters, campers, and gatherers of medical plants and pinons. There are many sporting events that occur along the route throughout the year, including the Narbona Pass Classic, Chuska Challenge Bike Festival, Asaayi Mountain Run, the 12 Hours of Asaayi and the Asaayi Bike Race.

You can contact Navajo Nation Parks and Recreation Department regarding overnight use permits, which are required if you plan to camp along the route. Their website contains a great deal of information that will be helpful in planning your trip: [www.navajonationparks.org](http://www.navajonationparks.org). You can also contact Parks at (928) 871-6647 for more details. You may also contact the folks at NavajoYES ([www.navajoyes.org](http://www.navajoyes.org)) at [chuskaman@yahoo.com](mailto:chuskaman@yahoo.com) if you have any additional questions about the route and the logistics of riding it.



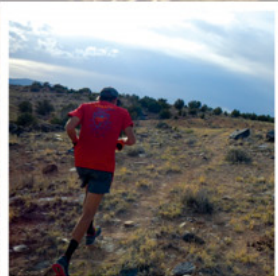


# SKA



**CHUSKA MTB  
FESTIVAL**



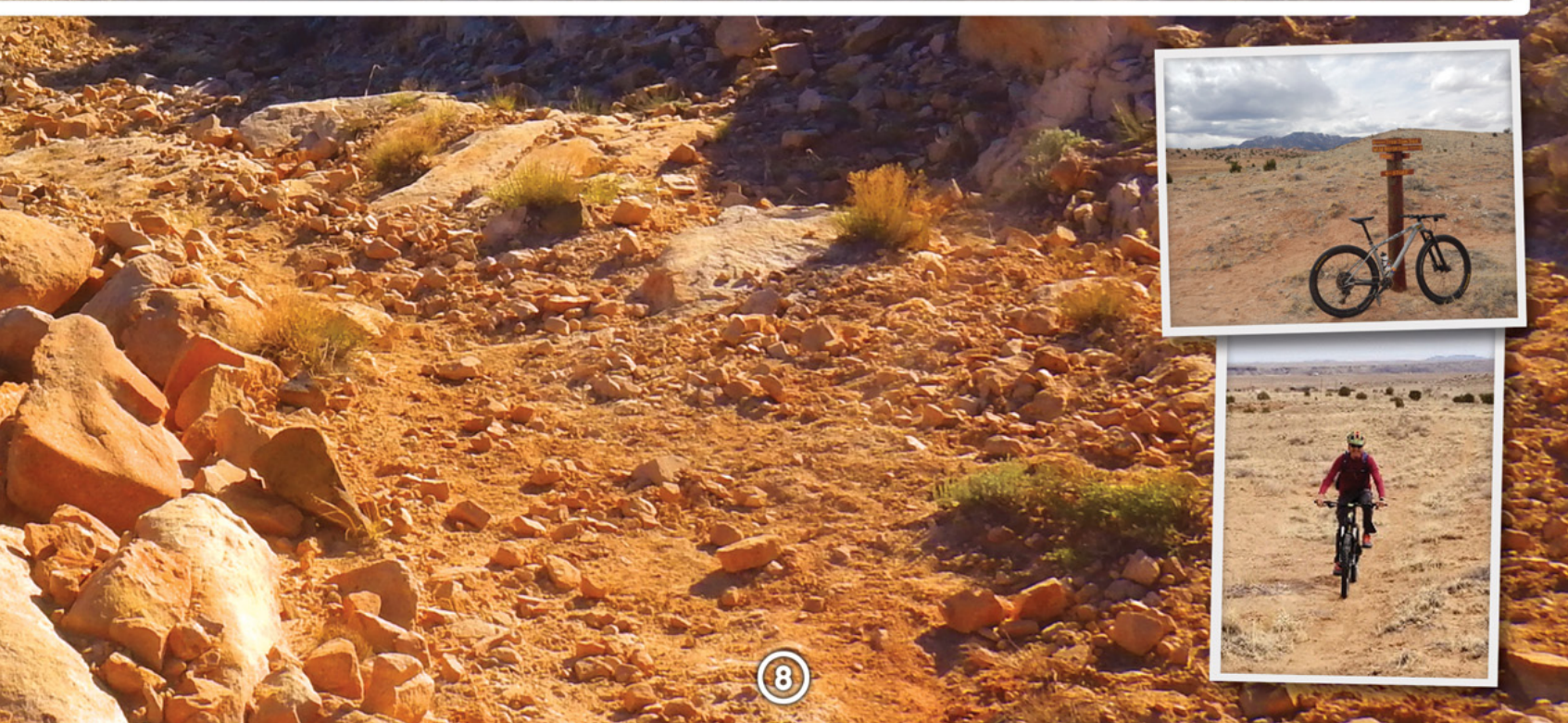
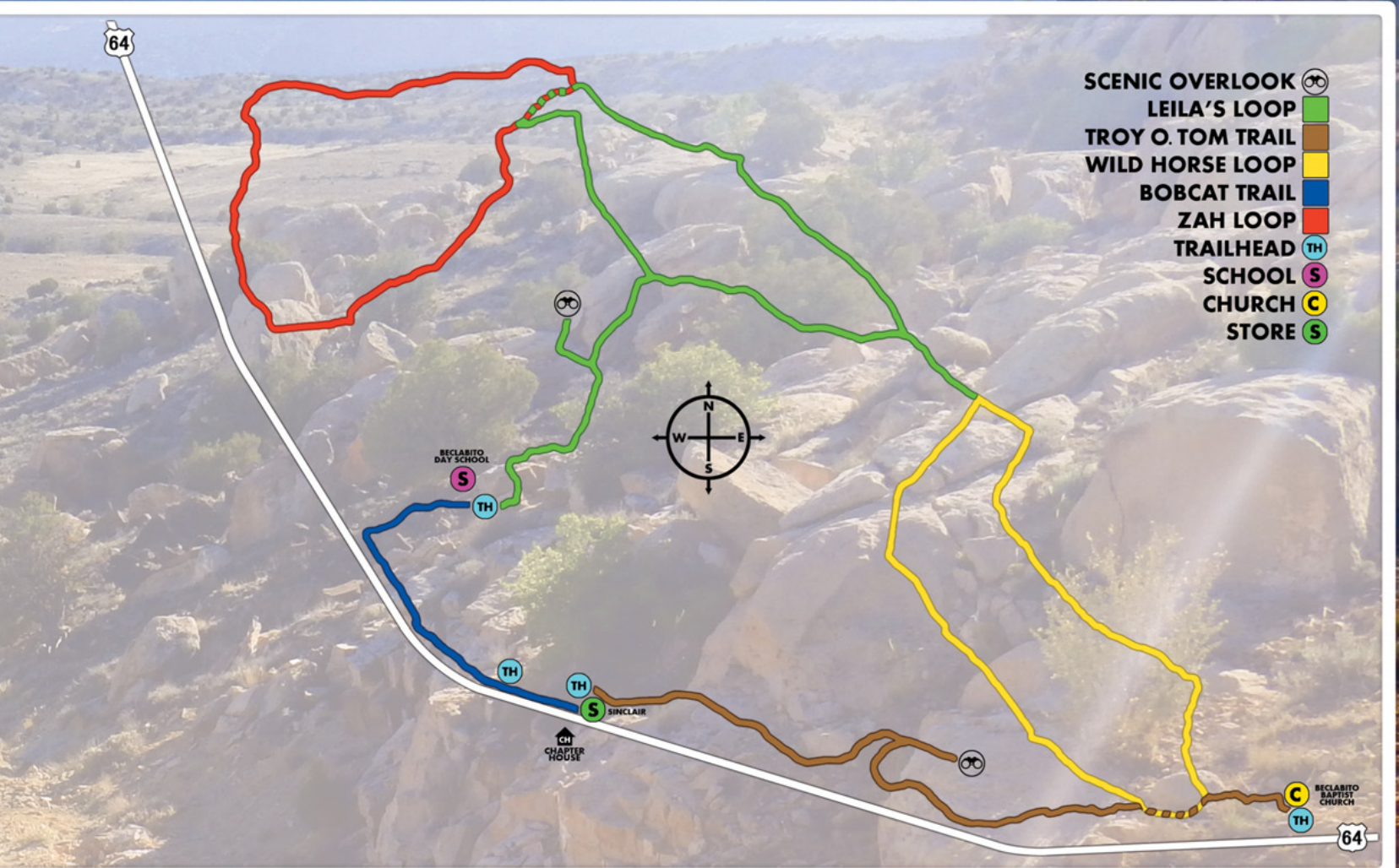


# BECLABITO COMMUNITY TRAIL SYSTEM

The Beclabito Trail System is a model for the Navajo Nation, as it presents some of the finest features and possibilities of trails on the Navajo Nation, while also tackling head-on some of the challenges that such trails may present. Beclabito is also a model of partnership, with the Beclabito Chapter, the nonprofit NavajoYES and Beclabito Baptist Church. The trail network currently has over 10 miles of singletrack trail for hiking, trail running and mountain biking, including trailheads developed with ramadas, picnic tables, interpretive signage, grills, composting toilets and benches. There is a one-mile segment that connects the local NHA housing area to Beclabito Day School, and two other sections of trail that utilize an NTUA utility right-of-way. There are trail posts and way-finding maps throughout the park.

Beclabito, New Mexico hosts singletrack bike races featuring unique, varied terrain and stunning views of the Carrizos, Shiprock, Dibe'nitsa and San Juan Mountains.







# RAINBOW

## BRIDGE

Backpacking and hiking are popular on these two stunning trails tucked away in the canyon country between Navajo Mountain and Lake Powell, on their way to Rainbow Bridge. The North Rainbow Trail is 15½ miles, with many good campsites and year-round water sources. The Rainbow Lodge Trail is 13½ rugged miles beginning from the old Rainbow Lodge on the west side of the mountain. The Rainbow Lodge Trail is dry for the first eight miles, and travels through scenic Cliff, Redbud and Bridge Canyons on its second half. Both trails are world-class adventures and traverse rigorous terrain, making awesome outings of both multi-day treks and day hikes. If you are backpacking to Rainbow Bridge, you can obtain a tribal backcountry use permit from Lake Powell Navajo Tribal Park at (928) 608-2808 or call Navajo Parks at (928) 871-6647.



"The strength of change, comes within the strength of our minds. Be your own strength."  
-Nealsa Curley







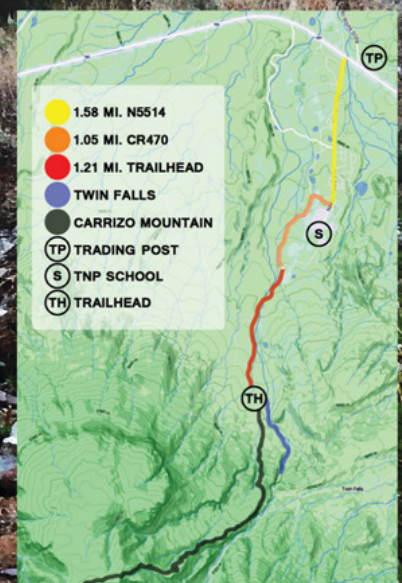
# TWIN FALLS

## CARRIZO MOUNTAIN

### TRAILS

The "T'iis waterfall" as it is commonly known as, is just a few miles west into the mountains from the little town of T'iis Nazbas (aka Teec Nos Pos). There are two falls, with the 125-foot lower falls the more commonly visited, often by school groups and local families. The waterfall, which flows year round, is 2½ miles from the school or just under two miles from the most common parking spot. There is a trailhead ramada, grill, benches and signage. commonly visited by school groups, local families & hikers from around the rez.

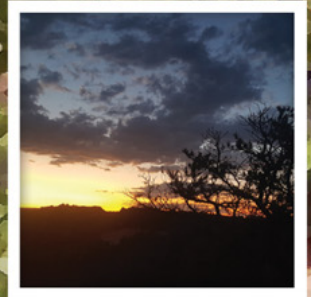
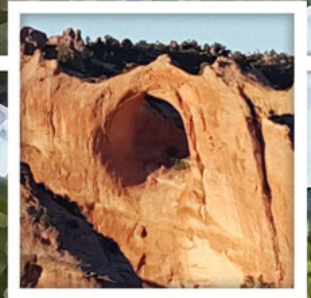
Alongside the Twin Falls Trailhead is the Carrizo Mountain trail which climbs over 2,000 ft. in five miles to the Carrizo high country. Around mile 2 climbers are treated to a panoramic view of the 4-corner states.





# NAVAJO MUSEUM TRAIL WINDOW ROCK

One of the most popular trails in Dine' Bikeyah is the Navajo Museum Trail, which is a system of trails in Window Rock with trailheads at the NN Museum parking lot and behind Navajo Fish & Wildlife office. This network includes over six miles of singletrack trails, popular with tribal workers, local families and tourists alike. The trail is a venue for many events and races throughout the year, including the Code Talker 29K and 10K during the Navajo Nation Fair.







NAVAJO PARKS  
**RACE SERIES**  
**CODE TALKER 29K/10K**  
Navajo Nation Fair weekend  
@ Window Rock, Arizona







# NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## SITES NEAR THE NAVAJO NATION



There are several National Park Service sites on and bordering the Navajo Nation. Most of the parks have some very fine trails for exploring, including the stunning White House Trail at Canyon de Chelly, three shorter routes at Navajo National Monument (near Shonto) and several trails, with more on the way, in Glen Canyon Recreation Area. Most of the parks also include well-placed campgrounds for those looking to make an overnight adventure of it.

### CANYON DE CHELLEY NATIONAL MONUMENT

### NAVAJO NATIONAL MONUMENT

### CHACO CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

### GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

### RAINBOW BRIDGE NATIONAL MONUMENT

### GRAND CANYON NATIONAL PARK

### HUBBELL TRADING POST NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

### BISTI WILDERNESS AREA DE-NA-ZIN WILDERNESS AREA

## WHITE HOUSE T R A I L CANYON DE CHELLEY

Canyon de Chelly National Monument is located near Chinle in the heart of the Navajo Nation. It is the home of White House Trail, which is a 3-mile round trip hike from the rim to the bottom of the canyon. The trail is well-maintained and very popular with both visitors and local users.





# CAMPGROUNDS

## AROUND THE NAVAJO NATION



**Mesa View Campground**  
**Canyon View Campground**  
Navajo National Monument

**Wheatfields Lake Campground**

**Lake Asaayi Campground**  
**Bowl Canyon Recreation Area**  
(eight miles south of Crystal, NM  
or 12 miles northeast of Navajo, NM)

**Cottonwood Campground**  
Canyon de Chelly National Monument

**Cameron Trading Post RV Park**

**Chaco Campground**  
Chaco Culture National Historic Site

**The View Campground**  
Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park

**Goulding's Campground**  
Oljeto, Utah

**Monument Valley**  
**KOA Campground**  
Oljeto, Utah

**Berland Lake Campsite**  
Chuska Mountains  
(5½ miles north of Narbona Pass)

**Whiskey Lake**  
Chuska Mountains  
(10 miles south of Narbona Pass)



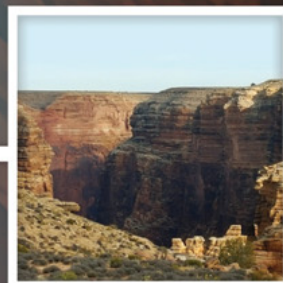


# LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE T R I B A L P A R K

Salt Trail Canyon and Horse Trail are two backcountry trails in the LCR Tribal Park that give trekkers a taste of the magical blue waters of the Little Colorado River. You may opt for a long day hike on these routes, or put together a multi-day itinerary in the gorge. For more details and permits, contact the park.

## NAVAJO PARKS RACE SERIES

LCR TRAIL RACES  
February @ Little Colorado  
River Gorge Tribal Park



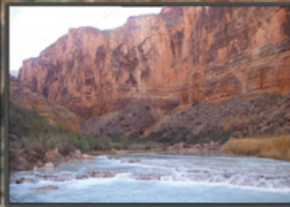




## Trails of the Little Colorado River Navajo Tribal Park



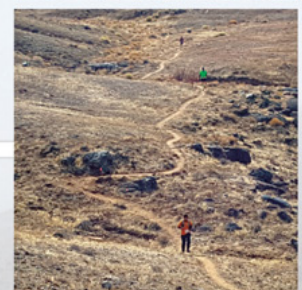
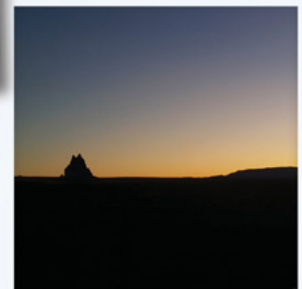
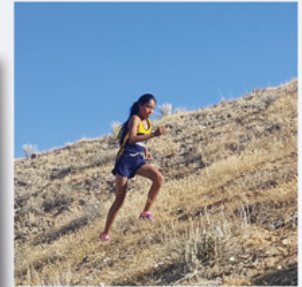
★ The LCR Tribal Park is home to some amazing backcountry trails, which may be done as day hikes or multi-day treks. All backcountry travel requires tribal parks permits. The Salt Trail is a rigorous and stunning four-mile trail that leads to the Little Colorado River. Blue Spring Trail, Eminence Break, Jack Ass Canyon and Shinuma Wash are other rugged, rewarding routes within the LCR Park. Please contact LCR park office at (928) 679-2303 or the Navajo Parks office in Window Rock at (928) 871-6647 for more information, backcountry guidelines and permits.



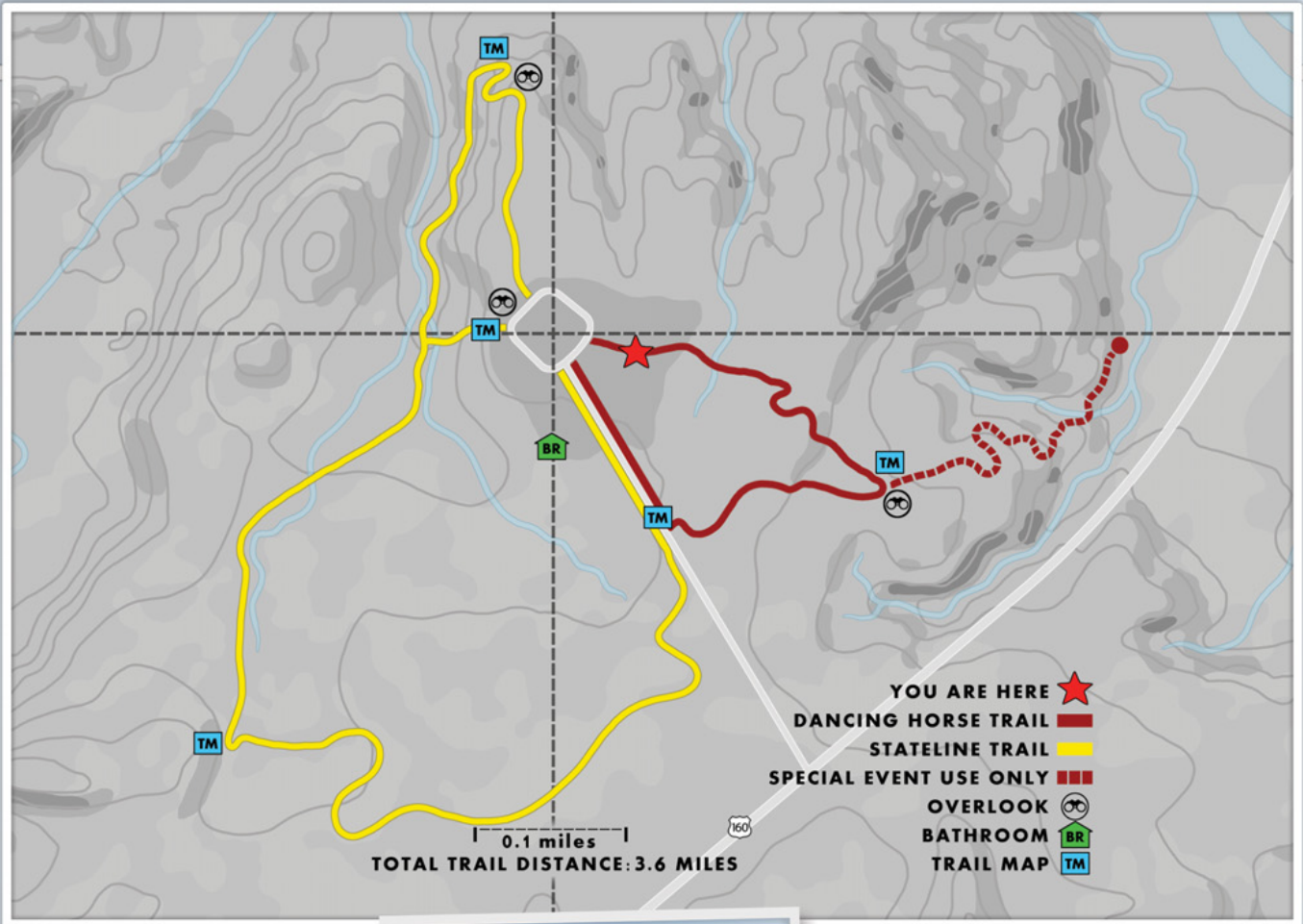


# FOUR CORNERS MONUMENT TRAILS

The multi state spirit of the Four Corners make it a popular place with visitors, but its well-developed trails appeal to local trail users, as well. Bring the whole family for a picnic, celebrate a birthday, visit the vendors and, of course, stretch out across four states! The Monument is open to community events throughout the year, and hosts the 4C Quad Keyah race series each winter.







NAVAJO PARKS  
**RACE SERIES**  
 FOUR CORNERS  
 QUAD KEYAH  
 1ST weekend OF DECEMBER  
 @ 4C MONUMENT





# WESTERN WILDLANDS ROUTE



PHOTOS: SAMUEL SCHLICHT

The Western Wildlands Route is a 3000+ mile mountain bike touring (Bikepacking) route of linked dirt roads and 4x4 tracks that traverse the West from Mexico to Canada. A segment of the Western Wildlands Route crosses the Navajo Nation, passing through the communities of Bitter Springs, Gap, and Cameron, continuing on to Grand Canyon. Although the route is not marked in anyway, there are maps and GPS tracks available. There are also online resources and "landscape guides" that riders may obtain before embarking on this route. For more information about bikepacking and the Western Wildlands Route, including the segment across the Navajo Nation. Visit [www.bikepackingroots.org](http://www.bikepackingroots.org)



## NAVAJO RAIL-TO-TRAIL ROUTE

The 80-mile route of the Black Mesa & Lake Powell Railroad was abandoned in 2019 after 45 years transporting coal from Black Mesa to the Navajo Generating Station just south of Page.

The line traveled on a bridge near Cow Springs Lake, past White Mesa Arch, through Kaibeto and the beautiful plateau country past LeChee Rock, with sweeping views of Lake Powell en route to NGS.

While the Navajo Nation is considering a variety of options for the rail line, one of the scenarios calls for a rail to trail conversion for the line. The Navajo Trails Task Force and many of the local communities are calling for the Nation to consider the rail-trail option, and its mutual benefits of community wellness and economic benefit. This project will be in the discussion and planning stages for a while, so share your voice and advocate for Navajo Nation rail-trail!





**MORE**

# COMMUNITY TRAILS

## THROUGHOUT THE NAVAJO NATION

There are many other trails of note on the Navajo Nation. You should plan to stop by the chapter house or call ahead if you are interested in visiting these trails.

### **SLOT CANYONS - ANTELOPE CANYON & WATERHOLES CANYON**

These hikes on the northern rez are unique experiences in stunning canyon country. Exploring the other-worldly slot canyons of Antelope Canyon and Waterholes Canyon, just on the outside of Page. Both of these Navajo Nation parks require a guide from one of the park's tour operators.

### **NAATSISAAN NATURE TRAIL**

This is a challenging and scenic one-mile hiking trail located at Navajo Mountain Chapter House. The trails begins right out of the parking lot of the chapter house, so stop in or call them at (928) 672-2915.

### **CAMERON COMMUNITY TRAIL**

This half-mile walking path at Cameron Chapter House was created by the chapter and Tuba City Health Promotion in 2019, and includes fitness stations.

### **SAGE TRAIL**

This is a very tranquil two-mile hiking and running trail through the pinon and juniper forest on the outskirts of the Tsaile campus of Dine' College. The campus is located at just over 7100 feet elevation, so consider what that means for the weather and your lungs on your hike or run.

### **COVE COMMUNITY TRAIL**

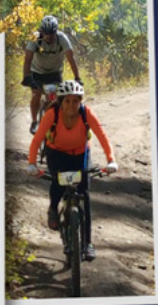
Two miles of scenic hiking, running and biking in the foothills of the northern Chuskas. This is a singletrack route that connects with jeep trails that access the mountains above Cove. Some of these routes are public access, so stop by the chapter house at (928) 653-5806 for more information.

### **TUBA CITY OLD AIRPORT TRAIL**

This is a popular open area with local runners/walkers, located above town with great views, including Dook'o'osliid. The Old Airport area hosts the Tuba City Half Marathon & Bike Race each spring. You can contact the chapter house for more info at (928) 283-3285 or ask just about anyone in town where the "old airport" is located.

There are several other local trail projects in the works, including Steamboat Community Trail, Shonto Bear Rock Trail and Dilkon Community Trails





# TOUR DE REZ

## CUP SERIES



The Tour de Rez Cup is a five-race points series that includes a variety of terrains, distance and surfaces at venues throughout the Navajo Nation. Tom Preller of Page and Bernadine Greyeyes of Monument Valley are the 2019 champions of the series.

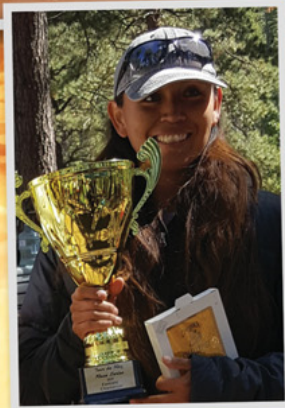
Beclabito, New Mexico hosts a singletrack race that features stunning views of the Carrizos, Shiprock, Dibe'nitsa and San Juan Mountains. The route is open to riders throughout the year.

Hashkeniinii was a legend in the western reservation during the Long Walk era and we honor his legacy with this stunning 50-mile road race: the Hashkeniinii Bike Race.

Late June's Monument Valley Bike Race is a fast, short dirt-road race through the heart of MV Navajo Tribal Park. The race is 13 of the fastest miles ever in one of the most breath-taking parks in the west.

The Asaayi Bike Race is a 20-mile paved race from Camp Asaayi to the summit of Narbona Pass.

First ridden in 1995, the Chuska Challenge is the oldest bike event on the Nation. The fall classic includes races, bike tours, kid events and live music in one stellar weekend in the rez highcountry.





# NAVAJO PARKS RACE SERIES



The Navajo Parks Race Series began in 2015 as a means of celebrating the wonders of the Navajo Tribal Parks, while providing local runners and visitors with some unique running experiences. The series now includes nine races spread out across the Navajo Nation throughout the year. The series includes trail races, marathons, half marathons, ultras, 10K/5K, kids marathons as well as community fun runs.

## LCR TRAIL RACES

Early February @ Little Colorado Gorge Tribal Park

## MONUMENT VALLEY ULTRA

1st Saturday of March @ Monument Valley Tribal Park

## SHIPROCK MARATHON

1st Saturday of May @ Shiprock, New Mexico

## ASAAYI MOUNTAIN RUNS

June @ Camp Asaayi, Arizona

## 12 HOURS OF ASAAYI

June @ Camp Assayi, Arizona

## CODE TALKER 29K/10K

NN Fair weekend @ Window Rock, Arizona

## NAATISAAN TRAIL ULTRA

Last Saturday of October @ Navajo Mountain, UT

## MV VETERANS MARATHON

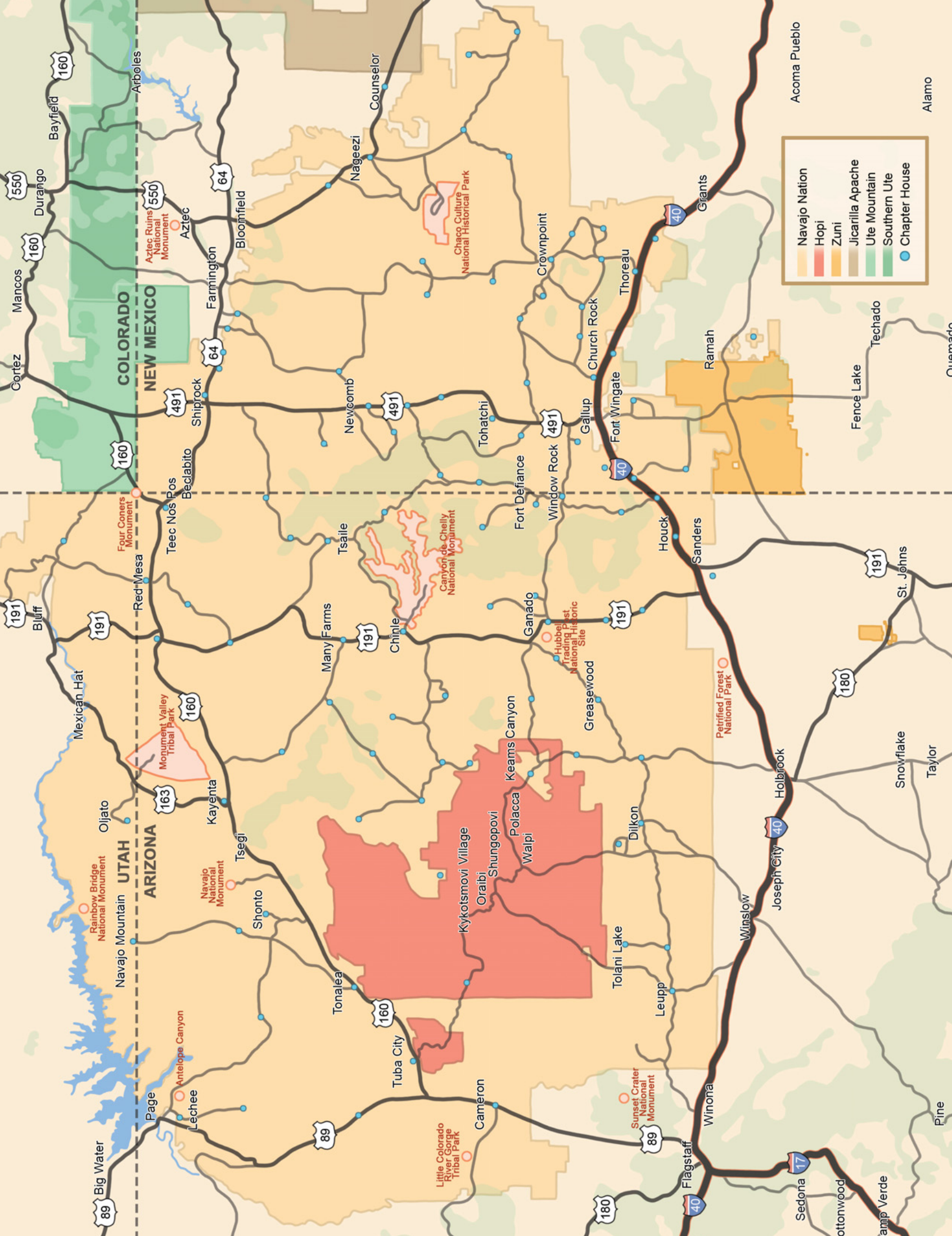
Saturday before Thanksgiving @ Monument Valley, AZ

## 4 CORNERS QUAD KEYAH

First week of December @ Four Corners Monument







Navajo Nation	●
Hopi	●
Zuni	●
Jicarilla Apache	●
Ute Mountain	●
Southern Ute	●
Chapter House	●