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**Generations Bond Aboard Verde Canyon Railroad**

(Clarkdale, AZ) - As the summer season winds down in Verde Canyon, **Grandparent’s Day** isthe ideal time for a railroad excursion through this extraordinary wilderness. On Sunday, September 9, essay-winning kids from all over Arizona will celebrate this holiday with first-class rides for them and their favorite elders. The overriding theme for the essays is “Spending Time with Grandpa and Grandma.” This year a record 377 Arizona school children submitted essays, from which a full train car of winners was chosen.

Ranging from kindergarten to eighth grade, the winners were selected based on originality. One child wrote that he and his Poppy were “nature study buddies and total Arizona enthusiasts.” Another described her Nana as “so funky, cool, generous and loving.” There was also this apology, “Sorry it’s over 50 words. I can’t take anything out. I have plenty more to say too.” We can’t wait to hear it!

“We know from the essays received that, above all, families treasure spending time together,” says marketing director Teresa Propeck. “That makes all of our passengers winners!”

The entire family will enjoy this fun multi-generational day together, Grandma and Grandpa, Mom and Dad and all of the kids. The day starts with a visit to the John Bell Museum set in a 1940’s boxcar near the depot, where rare FP7 engine photos and artifacts from mining and railroad history are displayed. Aboard the train everyone embraces the day with a lung-shattering scream as the train plunges into the depths of a 680-foot long tunnel.

Only two hours from Phoenix and 25 minutes from Sedona, Verde Canyon Railroad is the perfect Arizona day-trip, or if you plan to stay over, ask about our Room, Ride and Meal packages. Most trains depart at 1 p.m. and return at 5 p.m. every day except Tuesday. Reservations are highly recommended. Call 800.293.7245 or book online at verdecanyonrr.com.

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It’s not the destination, it’s the journey