



2131 N First St Flagstaff, AZ 86004 Phone: 928.773.7921 Fax: 928.774.8941
office@gcyouth.org www.gcyouth.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tory Syracuse
development@gcyouth.org
928-773-7921

Grand Canyon Youth Goes Virtual with *River Tales: An Evening of Adventure Storytelling*

October 20, 2020

Flagstaff, AZ -- Grand Canyon Youth will hold its annual fundraising event virtually this year on the evening of November 7. *River Tales: An Evening of Adventure Storytelling* will feature authors Annette McGivney and Christa Sadler, as well as Grand Canyon Youth alumni. Stories will focus on the theme of adventure in the outdoors.

According to Emma Wharton, Executive Director of Grand Canyon Youth, "We are excited to feature well-known authors as well as provide a forum for new storytellers with this event. We're aiming to provide connection and inspiration that viewers can enjoy from the comfort of their homes during this challenging year."

Grand Canyon Youth (GCY) is a Flagstaff-based nonprofit organization that provides educational outdoor experiences for young people from Northern Arizona and beyond. GCY cancelled all expeditions and moved to virtual programming in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As GCY looks downstream towards 2021, "Our staff is working hard on creative solutions to the current challenges," said Wharton. "We are looking forward to once again providing the connections to nature and community that young people need more than ever right now."

Funds raised during *River Tales* will help sustain GCY during this uncertain time, and support planning for a return to river operations that serve youth. This year, *River Tales* is replacing GCY's long-standing annual silent auction and film festival, *River & Reels*. Wharton hopes that the 600+ people who typically attend that event will tune in and donate. "We know people look forward to our Rivers & Reels event every year, and while this is certainly different, we're hopeful that our community will respond to this new format with enthusiasm and generosity."

River Tales is free; however, advance registration is required in order to receive the private link to the livestream, and donations are encouraged. More information and registration are available at gcyouth.org/rivertales.