

Rio Mesa Center is now the Bonderman Field Station at Rio Mesa!



Bonderman Field Station at Rio Mesa
THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

After successfully operating the Rio Mesa Center field station for several years under a lease agreement, the property at Rio Mesa was recently gifted to the University of Utah by philanthropist, David Bonderman. Mr. Bonderman is a supporter of environmental education and conservation and has gifted the property for the ongoing purpose of supporting research, education, and other academic pursuits that help to build understanding and appreciation of ecology, the environment, and human-environment interactions on the Colorado Plateau.

To recognize Mr. Bonderman's generosity, Rio Mesa Center has been renamed the Bonderman Field Station at Rio Mesa. The donation of the property at Rio Mesa represents a tremendous opportunity for scholars at the University of Utah and beyond. Renaming the station is one small way that the University is able to show its gratitude to Mr. Bonderman.

In addition to recognizing Mr. Bonderman, the new name also describes more accurately what the facility represents. The "Center" designation in the University context is typically associated with a facility or body of experts that study a particular field or sub-field. The Bonderman Field Station at Rio Mesa is quite the opposite. The station promotes multi-disciplinary research and learning, with opportunities for the natural and social sciences, humanities, arts, engineering, and campus service organizations. We are a field station that provides opportunity for experiences of many kinds in many fields of study, so the Center designation was not a good fit.

We have maintained Rio Mesa in the name because for many of our users and individuals in the community, Rio Mesa has become a place of significance and meaning. The **place** has meaning for them. The facilities, the people, and the administrative organization of the field station are distinct from location. To recognize those emotional ties to place, we have maintained Rio Mesa in our new name.

We look forward to moving ahead with our new identity as we continue to offer unique opportunities for outdoor education and research in the stunning red rocks of southeast Utah!



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Station at Rio Mesa*