

The Virgin Islands Consortium

Local Fifth Graders Set To Visit And Learn About Buck Island As Project Promise Relaunches Ticket To Ride Program

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ST. CROIX -- Project Promise announced on Wednesday the re-launch of its *Ticket to Ride* (TTR) program, in conjunction with the National Park Service (NPS). Ticket to Ride is a program that provides transportation support, so students can get the chance to visit our national parks.

[This year, the program will afford fifth graders in the public school system an opportunity to visit the Buck Island Reef National Monument, one of the most pristine barrier coral reef systems in the Caribbean.

According to the release, Project Promise's Ticket to Ride program kicks off this week, and students will learn about the ecological significance of Buck Island, as well as its cultural history. The TTR program occurs over several days and begins with an in-school visit to provide students with information on the reef. Students will take a field trip to Buck Island on the second day, and the program will conclude with a post-park visit and activity at the students' schools on the final day.

The TTR program is being provided courtesy of Steve Kammerzelt of Big Beard's Adventure Tours who is sponsoring each trip. "We are extremely grateful to Steve and the Big Beard's team for their generosity with this project," remarked Project Promise founder and president Resa O'Reilly, according to the release. "Through their sponsorship, hundreds of local students will get to learn about one of the territory's national parks," concluded O'Reilly.

Project Promise also manages the *Every Kid In a Park* (EKIAP) program through its partnership with NPS, which allows fourth graders the opportunity to visit and learn about the Salt River Bay National Historic Site and Ecological Preserve, the release said. Since 2016, both programs under Project Promise have served more than nineteen hundred students.

Feature Image: Lew Muckle Elementary School students aboard Big Beards Adventure boat (Credit: Project Promise)