GeoFORCE Texas students, including Pat Saucedo of Eagle Pass (from left), observe petroglyphs on the canyon walls of the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam in Arizona.

GeoFORCE students study in national parks

Over 200 family members and friends attended closing ceremonies for the GeoFORCE Texas 10th grade summer academy held June 10 in Uvalde’s Adult Activity Center.

The academy began on June 3 and included a week-long tour of various parks and geological sites of interest in Utah and Arizona including Zion National Park, Virgin River Canyon, Glen Canyon Dam, the Grand Canyon, Sunset Crate Volcano Monument and Wuptaki Ruins.

Representatives from Chevron and BP both outlined career opportunities to academy participants during presentations made at the Uvalde Holiday Inn on June 9 and 10.
Funding for summer academies is provided by industry sponsors Shell, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Chevron, BP, AT&T Foundation, Dominion, Halliburton, Marathon, Minerals Management Service, Schlumberger and Swift Energy Company.

A total of 40 students from high schools across Southwest Texas were selected in 2005 to be participants in the program designed to inspire students to pursue the geosciences. The University of Texas at Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences manages the GeoFORCE Texas Program in partnership with Southwest Texas Junior College.

Representing Eagle Pass were Issac Jimenez, Pat Saucedo, Debbie Duran, Andrea Rodriguez, Elsa Garza, Karen Trevino, Kaitlin Rodriguez, Oscar Fuentes and Natalia De Los Rellez.

Through week long summer academies featuring geology-based field trips, research projects and course work led by university professors, GeoFORCE Texas hopes to expose students to the geosciences in ways that motivate them to actively pursue geology as a future course of study.