

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### GRANDPARENTS DAY IS THE PERFECT TIME TO PLAN A ROAD SCHOLAR EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURE WITH THE GRANDCHILDREN

BOSTON (September 8, 2013) — John and Kay Nelson, 70, raised four children, now adults, and are now the proud grandparents to nine grandchildren. Upon turning 10 years old, each grandchild is the excited recipient of their first Road Scholar Intergenerational program, giving them the opportunity to spend quality time with their grandparents without their siblings or parents. To date, the Nelsons have taken four of their grandchildren on programs; the remaining five eagerly await their turn.

John, a retired Xerox executive, and Kay, a retired elementary school teacher, lived and worked in four different states while raising their four children. Six years ago, they retired and settled at Del Webb Sun City in Huntley, Ill., to care for nearby family members. Like many grandparents, some of their grandchildren live nearby, while others live several hours away. In efforts to get to know their grandchildren better, John came up with the idea of taking them on Road Scholar Intergenerational programs.

“We babysat for our grandchildren from time to time but we really wanted the opportunity to spend some quality time with them individually to get to know them and give them a chance to get to know us better,” Kay said. “John and I had enrolled in several International Road Scholar programs and were very impressed with the educational component and how well-organized everything was. We thought Road Scholar’s Intergenerational programs would be ideal for us and our grandchildren.”

When their first granddaughter turned 10 a few years ago, they selected a program on Prince Edward Island that centered on the book *Anne of Green Gables*. Kay says both her granddaughter and her daughter-in-law were nervous before the trip; however after some initial homesickness, their granddaughter loved the program. Additional Intergenerational programs took the Nelsons and their grandchildren to Williamsburg, Virginia and New York City.

“As a former teacher, I thought the Williamsburg program was one of the most educationally sound programs I’ve ever attended,” said Kay. “The excursions to Jamestown, Williamsburg and Yorktown, the activities, and the speakers just made history come alive for us and our granddaughter. We ask each grandchild to keep a journal and we do the same. At the end of the program, I make a scrapbook for them that they can share with their family and keep as a treasured memento of our time spent together. It’s such a special time for all of us.”

Kay offers this sage advice for grandparents who want to travel solo with their grandchildren: “Road Scholar’s catalogs are rich with information and we found the descriptions to be very accurate. For any grandparent interested in taking their grandchild on an intergenerational Road Scholar program, I would suggest selecting programs that are of interest to both you and the grandchildren, working with their parents to arrange schedules, and having grandkids chronicle their trip. We have two years before our next grandchild turns 10. We can’t wait!”

To learn more about Road Scholar's Intergenerational programs, please visit [www.road scholar.org/intergenerational](http://www.road scholar.org/intergenerational).

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Road Scholar educational adventures are created by Elderhostel, the not-for-profit world leader in lifelong learning since 1975. To learn more, please visit our website at [www.road scholar.org/press](http://www.road scholar.org/press).