

# Oak Creek Canyon



## Manzanita Campground

is named for a plant you'll see here. **Manzanita** is Spanish for "little apple," describing the small berries that grow on the red-barked manzanita bushes from late spring to midsummer.



## Oak Creek begins at the confluence of Pumphouse Wash and Sterling Spring.

The road through Oak Creek Canyon descends 2,000 feet in 15 miles from the Oak Creek Vista to Uptown Sedona. A military map from 1864 labels the canyon as Cathedral Cañon, but five years later the present name was printed on another military map. Pioneers started building a wagon road through the canyon in 1887. Segments of the road were built, and re-routed, until a two-lane, paved road was completed in the mid-1930s.



## Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic

After the first Anglo homesteaders moved to Oak Creek Canyon in the late 1800s, their families soon expanded. The first school in the area, a one-room log cabin, was built near what is now the Manzanita Campground. Nearly all the children who attended were either Thompsons or Purtymans, the original Oak Creek homesteaders. This location was halfway between their

homes, making an equal three-mile walk for the children of each family. The schoolhouse opened in 1899, and Ellsworth Schnebly, Sedona Schnebly's brother-in-law, taught the first classes. School met for only half the year and Mr. Schnebly instructed the basics—reading, writing, and arithmetic. The school closed in the early 1900s, and most students went to school in Sedona.



**Sedona Miller**, for whom the town is named, married **T.C. Schnebly** in Missouri in 1897. They purchased 80 acres on Oak Creek in 1901 and moved here with their two children at the time.



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