

# Influencer to Face Charges for Hitting Golf Ball Into the Grand Canyon

## VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Face (Verb) /feɪs/ to have a difficult situation as a possible outcome  
Example: The boxer is facing his worst opponent after the controversy.
2. Canyon (Noun) /'kænjən/ a large valley with very steep sides  
Example: The Grand Canyon is one of the top attractions tourists love visiting the most.
3. Charge (Noun) /tʃɑːrdʒ/ an official accusation that someone has done something illegal  
Example: The man is facing 10 counts of murder charges.
4. Rim (Noun) /rɪm/ the upper or outside edge of something that has a circular or curved shape  
Example: The bartender puts salt around the rim of the glass of margarita.
5. Endanger (Verb) /ɪn'deɪndʒər/ to put someone or something in danger or at risk of being harmed, damaged, etc.  
Example: We should never endanger the animals in the wild..
6. Incident (Noun) /'ɪnsɪdənt/ an event, especially one that is unpleasant or dangerous  
Example: She reported the incident to the police right after it happened.



A social media influencer is facing criminal charges after posting a video of herself hitting a golf ball into the Grand Canyon. American influencer Katie Sigmond posted the video to her TikTok account, which showed her hitting a ball near Mather Point at the canyon's popular south rim. The video also appears to show the golf club breaking and flying into the canyon as she hits the ball. Sigmond has almost 7 million followers on TikTok, where she has a number of videos of herself playing golf.

The Grand Canyon video has since been deleted, but it was seen by the US National Park Service (NPS). The NPS posted an image from the video on the Grand Canyon National Park Facebook page with the comment, "Do we really need to say, 'don't hit golf balls into the

Grand Canyon?" The NPS went on to say that Sigmond had been contacted and would be charged. The post also reminded people of the dangers of this type of activity, saying, "Throwing objects over the rim of the canyon is not only illegal but can also endanger hikers and wildlife who may be below."

The Grand Canyon is located in northern Arizona, and continues into parts of Nevada, Utah and Colorado. It receives as many as 6 million visitors every year, and it's a popular place for hiking. Its deepest part is about 1,830 meters down, and it is up to 29 kilometers wide. Previous incidents of people throwing things from canyons and cliffs in other parts of the US have been deadly. In 2007, a climber at Leg Lake in Wyoming was killed when a hiker threw a large rock over a cliff edge 90 meters above him.

## **DISCUSSION**

1. Do you follow any influencers on social media?
2. Do you think you'd enjoy working as an influencer?
3. Are you into hiking? If so, what are the best hikes you've done?
4. Are there any popular places for hiking near where you live?
5. What parts of your country would you recommend to nature-loving tourists?