



**DESERT INSTITUTE**  
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL  
PARK ASSOCIATION

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# HOW TO IDENTIFY ANIMAL BURROWS

FIELD CLASS / FALL 2023

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Have you ever taken a walk and noticed a hole in the ground and wondered what animal made it? Holes abound in the desert as animals seek refuge from climatic extremes and predators, or hunt for food. Candice Weber will shed light on ground holes, elevated holes, divots, and mounds in this field class. In the classroom session, participants will learn how to identify holes and clues that can help discern which animals are living in which holes, and put their knowledge to the test in the field. Curious visitors as well as seasoned naturalists will enjoy peeking into the secret lives of these subterranean dwellers and discover who's behind all of that digging!

## MEETING LOCATION

[Black Rock Canyon Nature Center](#), 9800 Black Rock Canyon Road, Yucca Valley

## DATE and TIME

Sunday, September 17th, 9a to 1p

*Please arrive on time; we start classes promptly, and in the case of hikes or other classes on the go, we cannot wait for students who arrive late.*

## ACTIVITY LEVEL: EASY

Please contact us if you have questions about your ability to participate.

## EXPERIENCE REQUIRED

None

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- First aid and emergency supplies for the group

## WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Meals
- Lodging
- Transportation

## GET TO KNOW YOUR INSTRUCTOR: Candice Weber, M.A.

Candice Weber is an adjunct professor of natural resources at College of the Desert, teaching courses in Conservation and G.I.S., and leading students abroad to the cloud forests of Costa Rica. Raised in rural Ohio, she lived and worked in a sanctuary for rescued animals. She majored in environmental studies and has extensive experience working with animals of all kinds (wild and domestic), including many years as a zookeeper and animal trainer at the Living Desert, the Long Beach Aquarium, and other marine parks. For the past 15 years she has resided in the Coachella Valley and now considers the desert her home.

## PROGRAM AGENDA

Introduction followed by a short time in the field. Once we wind back down we will have a lecture and PowerPoint presentation and will resume field time.

## SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

Please make sure you check the weather ahead of time and dress accordingly. **All participants must complete the [health questionnaire and liability waiver](#) ahead of the program start date.**

## WHAT TO BRING

### The essentials for all field courses

- Water, between 3 and 4 liters per person for a full day outing
- Food and snacks, easily packed and eaten in the field, for the duration of your course
- Close-toed athletic shoes or hiking boots; no sandals, not even hiking sandals!
- Sun protection: hat, sunglasses, sunscreen; light-colored long-sleeved shirts are recommended and very effective on hot days
- Warm layers for cooler mornings/evenings (it can be surprisingly cold!)
- Backpack to carry food, water, and any personal items you need for the day
- Notebook and pencil are always good to have

### Recommended

- Camera
- Field guides
- Binoculars
- Small mirror for illuminating insides of holes

# FAQ

## WHO DO I CONTACT IF I AM RUNNING LATE?

Please call our main line: 760-819-4714 and if no one answers, please call the Desert Institute coordinator, Benny Lopez: 949-241-9693.

For classes meeting in the park, please take into consideration the time it will take to go through the entrance gate—on weekends after 9am, you may wait up to 45 minutes! (15-20 minutes is typical.) For afternoon activities, you will also want to allot time to park, as parking lots tend to be congested between 10am and 4p in the busy season. **There is no cell service in the park**, so please plan accordingly!

## WHAT IF I NEED TO CANCEL?

Desert Institute will provide a full refund if we are notified 14 days in advance. If we are notified less than 14 days in advance, we are unable to process refunds for any reason. (But we would like you to notify us if you are unable to attend.)

## DOES DESERT INSTITUTE CANCEL ACTIVITIES FOR WEATHER OR LOW ENROLLMENT?

Desert Institute runs classes rain or shine, with the exception of astrophotography classes, which require mostly clear skies in order to be successful. If we do not meet our minimum of 4 registered participants for any given activity, we will cancel the activity with 48+ hours notice. We recommend that you purchase travel insurance, as we are unable to reimburse for expenses you incur due to a canceled class, such as airfare and hotel.

## ARE THERE ANY THINGS I NEED TO DO TO PREPARE?

All participants must return the completed [health questionnaire and signed waiver](#) before the day of their activity. **Failure to do so will cancel your registration.** If your course enters Joshua Tree National Park, you must **download or print your park pass** ahead of the class, or you will pay the entrance fee at the gate, which is currently \$35 per vehicle.

## CAN I BRING MY KIDS? MY SPOUSE? PETS?

Only registered participants may attend Desert Institute activities unless noted in the activity description. If this is a kid-friendly activity, please make sure your child(ren) meets the age requirements. As much as we love our pets, we don't allow them in the field with any of our activities.