



DESERT INSTITUTE
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL
PARK ASSOCIATION

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55922 Twentynine Palms Highway,
Yucca Valley, 92284

DESERT EXPLORER 101 FOR YOUTH & FAMILIES

FIELD CLASS / SPRING 2024 / INSTRUCTOR: JUSTIN LENZI & BENAZIR ERDAHL

SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Join us on Skull Rock Discovery trail for a fun and educational journey through time. We will learn about the igneous rock formations, desert plants and wildlife, and adaptations that help living things survive in this environment. The one mile hike will be mostly flat and easy for most hikers. There will be many places to stop and explore. We will play a couple of games and tell stories about the park. Content and activities will be accessible to elementary, middle, and high school students. All youth participants must be accompanied by an adult.

PROGRAM AGENDA

9:00 - 9:20 AM - Meet at the trailhead for an icebreaker and safety talk.

9:20-11:00 AM - Short guided hike with plenty of stops for learning

MEETING LOCATION

[Discovery Trail](#), in Joshua Tree National Park (approximately 7.3 miles from the North Entrance in 29 palms.

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.

REQUIRED PREPARATION

Waiver: All participants must complete the [participation waiver](#) at least 24 hours before a class begins. *Failure to do so may forfeit your right to participate.*

Park Pass (\$30 per vehicle): For classes inside Joshua Tree National Park, participants are now required to purchase a [park pass](#). You can purchase a park pass [online](#), or pay at a park entrance. If you have an existing pass, you may use that!

ACTIVITY LEVEL

Easy ▾ All levels are welcome. Please contact us if you have questions about your ability to participate.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- First aid and emergency supplies for the group

WHAT'S NOT INCLUDED

- Admission to Joshua Tree National Park
- Meals, Snacks, Lodging, or Transportation

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 (please leave no trace)
- 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

GET TO KNOW YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Dr. Justin Lenzi is the Director of Education at Joshua Tree National Park Association. He has been teaching in elementary and middle school for 15 years and has a passion for science education. In collaboration with Desert Institute Manager Benazir Erdahl, they are excited to facilitate a fun, practical, and memorable class.

SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

There is no cell service in the park!

Please allow ample time to arrive at the meeting location; park entrances may be very busy on weekends (see FAQs).

Please make sure you check weather conditions and dress accordingly.



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FAQ+ _

WHO DO I CONTACT IF I AM RUNNING LATE?

Desert Institute Manager Benny Erdahl: **949-241-9693**
or Education Director Dr. Justin Lenzi: **760-819-4714**

For classes meeting inside the park, it can take up to 45 minutes to go through an entrance gate on weekends after 9am (though 15-20 minutes is typical). Please 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***, please plan accordingly.

WHAT IF I NEED TO CANCEL?

Desert Institute will provide a full refund if we are notified more than 14 days in advance. We are unable to process refunds for *any* cancellations less than 14 days in advance.

DOES DESERT INSTITUTE CANCEL ACTIVITIES FOR WEATHER OR LOW ENROLLMENT?

If we do not meet our minimum of 6 registered participants for any given activity, we will likely cancel the activity with at least 48+ hours notice.

Desert Institute runs classes rain or shine, with the exception of astrophotography classes, which require mostly clear skies in order to be successful.

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.

WHAT IF I FORGOT SOMETHING I NEED?

Our visitor centers and park stores are stocked with amazing essentials for your adventure. Preview or purchase items from our [online shop](#); we carry [hats](#), [shirts](#), bandanas, water bottles, notebooks, [maps](#), [books](#). And more!

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) are registered and meet the age requirements.

As much as we love pets, we don't allow them in the field with any of our activities.

