



DESERT INSTITUTE
JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL
PARK ASSOCIATION

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55922 Twentynine Palms Highway,
Yucca Valley, 92284

LANDSCAPES OF THE SOUL: WRITER'S WORKSHOP

FIELD CLASS / SPRING 2024 / INSTRUCTOR: CINDI ANDERSON, PhD

APRIL 14TH, 12:00 PM – 3:00 PM

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

A tree is not just a tree; the elements of Nature represent more than just their physical attributes. Artists, philosophers, writers, and storytellers of all kinds know that the imagery of our planet expresses our inner landscape as much as our outer world. In this workshop, you will learn how to use a mythological lens to experience Joshua Tree like you've never experienced it before. In addition to learning how the symbolism of the landscape is used in psychology and storytelling to provide meaning, you will also explore its specific meaning to you through a writing practice called Active Imagination. This form of automatic writing does not require any writing experience; it is a meditative writing technique that will give you a new understanding of how our desert landscape speaks to you in personal and meaningful ways.

PROGRAM AGENDA

We will start by gathering at the picnic tables at Indian Cove Group Site #11 for a talk about the desert landscape's meaning in psychology and mythology, and explain how we will use the Active Imagination technique to "commune" with elements of the landscape. Each participant will find an area that speaks to you, and you will be given 1 hr to reflect and write. We will close the workshop as a group and share with one another what we experienced.

MEETING LOCATION

[Indian Cove Campground, Group Campsite #11](#), 68917 Indian Cove Circle, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

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 at the entrance!

ACTIVITY LEVEL

LEISURELY No physical activity required, but participants will be encouraged to find a quiet, isolated spot to write, which may involve wandering off path on uneven terrain. Please contact us if you have questions about accommodations or 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, 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

Required for this course:

- Notepad or journal for writing
- Pen or pencil, or preferred writing tools

Recommended for this course (but not required):

- Notebook and pencil are always good to have
- Camp chair or blanket to sit on

GET TO KNOW YOUR INSTRUCTOR

Cindi Anderson has her doctorate in Mythology and Archetypal Psychology, specializing in emerging themes and symbols in our personal and collective stories – think Dan Brown’s character, Robert Langdon, in the Da Vinci Code. After an extensive career in the music and television industries, she became a professor, teaching Creative Writing, Story Mediums & Genres, and American Cinema to emerging artists and storytellers. Her particular focus is the West’s changing relationship with Nature and where civilization and wilderness intersect. She returned to Joshua Tree to advance her studies, because there is no better place to experience the magic of our landscape, which holds hidden meaning for us all.

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.

