

DESERT INSTITUTE

at Joshua Tree National Park

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Fall Session

2019

“How-To” Identify Animal Burrows

Information

Date/ Time: Sunday, September 15, 9 am – 1:00 pm

Meet at: [Black Rock Canyon Nature Center](#), (click on link for a map of the meeting site)
9800 Black Rock Canyon Road, Yucca Valley

Instructor: Candice Weber, MS, Professor of Natural Resources at College of the Desert

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 half-day class. Participants will learn how to identify holes and determine what clues can help discern which animals are living in which holes in the classroom session, and then 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!

Itinerary

Sunday, September 15, 9 am – 1:00 pm

Black Rock Nature Center, Yucca Valley

- Introduction
- Short time in the field
- Lecture and PowerPoint presentation
- Field class continued

What to Bring to the Course

Optional Class Materials

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

The 10 Essentials: Every day in the Desert

- Day pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Closed toe hiking shoes
- Lunch and snacks
- Clothing layers
- Hat
- Sun glasses
- Sunscreen
- Notebook and pencil/pen
- Whistle

Suggested Reading:

“Mammal Tracks & Sign” by Mark Elbroch

“Tracks & Sign of Insects and Other Invertebrates” by Noah Charney

Fitness Requirements

Participants must be in good physical condition for courses/activities in a desert that may be hot, dry, windy, and sometimes surprisingly cold.

Hike Level

Easy

Guidelines

- You are responsible for your safety.
- Park your car in designated areas only. Parking along the side of the road is dangerous to you and the environment.
- Rattlesnakes are present in the desert. Avoid contact with wildlife. Put your hands and feet only where you can see them.
- Only you know your limits, please let the instructor or Desert Institute Representative know if you do not want to continue.
- Stay with the group. If you get lost, stay put.
- Drink plenty of water. If you run out, notify the instructor or the Desert Institute Representative.
- Before leaving the class, check out with the Desert Institute Representative.

Instructor Biography

Candice Weber, M.A., 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.

* The Desert Institute staff/instructors will attempt to accommodate participant's needs; however we reserve the right to deny a student participation in the course due to concerns regarding health and safety issues.