

Geology & Cultural History of Cottonwood Spring

Information

Date/ Time: Sunday, December 7, 9 am – 4 pm

Meet at: [Cottonwood Visitor Center](#) (click on the link for a map to the meeting site)
Joshua Tree National Park

Instructor: Ted Reeves, B.A., Biology, Instructor at University of the Pacific

Overview

Stretch your legs and enjoy the spectacular scenery of the Cottonwood Mountains with Ted Reeves, in this all-day field class. Reeves will discuss the geologic history of Joshua Tree National Park, and the rocks and plants of the Cottonwood Mountains. We will also discuss some human history of the Cottonwood Spring area during the late 1800s. Participants will walk **six miles** through the rolling hills of the Colorado Desert to see mills, mines, and more. Along the trail, Reeves will share the adaptations of plants and animals to the desert environment. A portion of the walk will follow a prominent freight road built in the 1880s. Attendees will learn what is known about the road's creation and use. Don't miss the opportunity to learn how geology is connected to cultural history at Cottonwood Spring!

Itinerary

Sunday, Dec. 7, 9 am – 4 pm

Cottonwood Visitor Center

- Introduction
- Field Class
- Lunch/snack break, **bring your own food**
- Field Class

What to Bring to the Course

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

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

Moderate

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.
- 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

Ted Reeves, B.A., Biology, has taught Biology and Geology at Chaffey High School in Ontario, CA for 37 years. He has led field trips in Southern California, Yosemite, Yellowstone, the Tetons, Grand Canyon and Hawaii. He is presently teaching for University of the Pacific and believes that a relevant Natural History class requires an outdoor experience.

* 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.