

Rock Art of Southern California Rodman Mtns Recording Project

Information

Date/Time: Saturday & Sunday, May 4-5, 8 am – 5 pm
Meet at: NE corner of Old Woman Springs Road (Hwy 247) and Rock Camp Road in Lucerne Valley, east of Victorville, CA.
Instructor: Daniel McCarthy, M. S., Anthropology, former Archaeologist, San Bernardino National Forest (1994-2012) and Director, Cultural Resources Management Department, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians (2012-2016)

Overview

Do more than discover the mystery of the enigmatic symbols left behind by the Indigenous Peoples. Be part of a recording effort to document the petroglyph sites located within the Rodman Mountains Wilderness Area with Archaeologist Daniel McCarthy. McCarthy will lead participants on an ancient petroglyph site that needs mapping, recording and photographing several hundred petroglyphs that are over a thousand years old. While recording the participants will see a glimpse into the life of the Native Nations through petroglyphs preserved in stone. Each weekend field class will camp at the wilderness boundary and walk within a half mile to systematically document an important Native American archaeological site. The site is located on the edge of an ancient lava flow and cinder cone that make up a portion of the Rodman Mountains. Participants will work together under the guidance of McCarthy over the course of many weekends it will take to complete the documentation of the project. Background discussions will include the people who made these images, how they were created, and their importance to those who created them and to us today. This is a great opportunity to participate in a recording project of petroglyphs. The recording effort will seek information about the seasonal patterns of movement across the landscape of the Native Peoples, their places of habitation, and the reason they traveled through and to this area. Participants will drive about 30 miles from the meeting place to the designated parking area at the Rodman Mountains. Dry-camping will be conducted.

Itinerary

Saturday, May 4, 8 am – 5 pm

Meeting Place

- Greeting, orientation
- Drive to Rodman Mtns, orientation of the archaeological recording effort. Begin mapping, recording and photographing the rock art.
- Lunch break

- Continuing recording effort.
- Return to dry-camp prepare for evening meal end of day
- *bring your own food and drink; no food or drink available near-by.*

Sunday, May 5, 7:30 am – 2:30 pm

- Breakfast
- Continue recording effort
- Lunch
- End of the day

What to Bring to the Course

Basics: *Food, water, camping gear/cooking equipment. High clearance vehicles needed or carpool with another.*

Optional Class Materials

- Camera, clipboard, Notebook, pencil/pen, GPS unit

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 this field trip/activities in a desert that may be hot, dry, windy, and sometimes surprisingly cold.

Hike Level

Moderate, hiking two to four miles round trip over rocky ground and in sandy, dry washes.

Guidelines

- You are responsible for your safety.
- Park your car in designated areas only.
- 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

Daniel McCarthy, M. S., Anthropology, has worked at Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, Joshua Tree National Park, and throughout Southern California compiling photographic inventories of the rock art of this region. He has served as District Archaeologist for the San Jacinto Ranger District and acting Forest Archaeologist for the San Bernardino National Forest where he was the Tribal Relations Program Manager for 18 years. His research interests include desert archaeology, aboriginal trail systems, and rock art. McCarthy also conducts southern California Native American cultural awareness classes providing information about native plant uses, rock art, and material culture.

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