

**DESERT INSTITUTE**

*at Joshua Tree National Park*

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Fall Session

2021

## **HIKING MY FEELINGS: Stepping into the Healing Power of Nature**

### **Information**

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Date/ Time: Friday, October 22, 3:00 pm – 8 pm  
Saturday, October 23, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm  
Sunday, October 24, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Meet at: [Joshua Tree Visitor Center](#) (click on the link for a map to the class site)  
6554 Park Blvd., Joshua Tree, CA 92252

Instructors: Sydney Williams

### **Overview**

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When we take time to disconnect from the distractions, we can reconnect with ourselves. With Hiking My Feelings, every hike is an opportunity to come home to yourself, release the stories that are no longer serving you, and stand tall in your truth.

Join us for a judgement-free weekend where transformational healing is possible. We introduce participants to mindfulness and the healing power of nature, and the results are lasting improvements to mental, physical and spiritual health.

This is more than learning how to set up a tent, this is wilderness wellness. Through guided self-discovery exercises, in-the-field education, physical movement, and storytelling, we heal and transform our relationship to self so we can show up more powerfully for our communities.

We know that when there are spaces where vulnerability is recognized as a strength and empathy is the norm, deep healing is possible. Everything we do is designed to support participants as they embark on this journey to blaze their own trail to self-love.

### **Itinerary**

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Friday, October 22, 3:00 pm – 8:30 pm

- 3 pm meet at Joshua Tree Visitor Center and caravan to Lost Horse Campground
- Set Up Camp, Settle In
- 5 pm - welcome ceremony with Sydney

- 6pm - dinner time (**bring your own meals!**)
- Storytelling starts at 7pm around the campfire

Saturday, October 23, 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

- 8:00 am - Pre-hike briefing + intention-setting
- 9:00 am – head out for a hike with Sydney (**Bring your lunch!**)
- 2:00 pm - return to camp
- 2-3:00 pm - post-hike stretching, group reflections
- 3-4:00 pm - wilderness wellness journaling
- 4-6:00 pm - group gratitude circle + guided self-discovery
- 6:00 pm - dinner time (**bring your own meals**)
- Storytelling starts at 7pm around the campfire

Sunday, October 24, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

- 8:00 am - Pre-hike briefing + intention-setting
- 9:00 am – head out for a hike with Sydney (**Bring your lunch!**)
- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm return to camp, post hike stretching
- 2:00 pm - hike ends

## **What to Bring to the Course**

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### ***Camping Materials***

- Tent
- Sleeping bag
- Foam pad, blow up mattress or cot
- Cooler with ice
- Water (there is no water in the park or in our campground)
- Food
  - **Bring breakfast for Saturday and Sunday**
  - **Bring a lunch for Saturday and Sunday**
  - **Bring dinner for Friday and Saturday**
  - Snacks and beverages for campfire on Friday + Saturday night
- Cooking and eating utensils
- Lantern
- Flashlight (your headlamp will do just fine)
- Trash bags
- Toiletries and towel

### ***The 10 Essentials: Everyday in the Desert***

- Small day pack or fanny pack
- 4 quarts of water
- Closed toe hiking shoes
- Lunch and snacks

- Clothing layers (be prepared for cold and windy or hot and dry)
- Brimmed Hat
- Sun glasses
- Sunscreen
- Notebook and pencil/pen
- Whistle

### ***Optional Equipment***

- Hiking poles

### **Fitness Requirements**

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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**

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Moderate

### **Guidelines**

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- 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.
- Watch your step. Beware of uneven ground and obstacles.
- 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**

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#### **SYDNEY WILLIAMS**

When former collegiate athlete and competitive skydiver, Sydney Williams, unexpectedly found herself on the receiving end of a Type 2 diabetes diagnosis, while grappling with unresolved trauma from a decades-old sexual assault, she set out on a mission: turn her pain into power. Two hikes across Catalina Island and 80 miles later, she founded Hiking My Feelings® to help others tap into the mind-body connection and healing power of nature that helped kick her self-limiting beliefs and disease into remission.

Having more than 12 years of marketing experience with Fortune 500 companies and emerging brands, Sydney serves up her “truth juice” style of storytelling to break wide open tough conversations with practical, powerful content and experiences. Over the years, she’s been featured on the SXSW stage, as well as in **Health Magazine, Diabetic Living Magazine, Huffington Post, Psychology Today, US News & World Report**, and numerous other publications. Today, she is the author of *Hiking My Feelings: Stepping Into the Healing Power of Nature* and travels across the country empowering others to summit their personal mountains on their way to becoming Well Beings.

### **Suggested Reading**

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*Hiking My Feelings: Stepping into the Healing Power of Nature*

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\* 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.