

*at Joshua Tree National Park*

74485 National Park Dr. Twentynine Palms, CA 92277

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## Wildflower Wanderings

### Information

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Date/ Time: Saturday, April 24, 9 am – 4 pm

Meet at: [Oasis Visitor Center](#) (click on link for a map of the meeting site)

74485 National Park Drive, Twentynine Palms, CA

Instructor: Darrell Shade, Botanist, Desert Naturalist

### Overview

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Saturate your senses with the beauty of a wildflower bloom in Joshua Tree National Park. Desert Naturalist, Darrell Shade will lead this all-day field class on a tour through the colorful flowers of a desert spring. Darrell will entertain participants with descriptions of the flora, their botanical characteristics, and show how to identify the unique blossoms of the park. The audience will be delighted by Darrell's personal accounts of the wonders of nature in this ordinarily dry and dusty environment. Darrell will identify the flowers of Joshua Tree National Park by scientific and common names, allowing the participants to get to know these amazing plants up close and personal. Students will look at the early flora, mainly annuals coming into bloom. Students will look at the early flora, mainly annuals coming into bloom.

### Itinerary

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Saturday, April 24, 9 am – 4 pm

*Oasis Visitor Center*

- Field Class
- Lunch/snack break, **bring your own food**
- Continuation of field class

### What to Bring to the Course

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#### ***Optional Class Materials***

- Magnifying glass to look at flowers
- Gators or ankle high shoes due to flora seeds
- Camera
- Field Guides

#### ***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**

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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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Easy to 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.
- Stay with the group. If you get lost, stay put.
- Before leaving the class, check out with the Desert Institute Representative.
- Drink plenty of water. If you run out, notify the instructor or the Desert Institute Representative.

## **Instructor Biography**

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**Darrell Shade** is a retired high school teacher and recognized botanist/desert naturalist for Joshua Tree National Park. Shade has a deep love for the desert and its enormous variety of plant and animal life as well as being a master teacher. He has worked closely with Joshua Tree National Park botanists over the last 20 years keeping abreast of the most recent changes in family, species and variety names of the park's flora.

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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.