

at Joshua Tree National Park

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Wilderness Cooking School: Campsite Cooking

Information

- Date/ Time: Saturday, October 29, 8:00 am – midnight
Sunday, October 30, 7:30 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: Emily Neilson, Campfire Cuisine Instructor
Mai-Yan Kwan, Campfire Cuisine Instructor
Scott Klinger, Photography Instructor
Lew Kingman, Hike Leader

Overview

Have you ever noticed that when you are out in the wilderness, everything tastes better? Back in the days of the Wild West, Dutch ovens were like gold. They were that important. No matter where their travels took them, all they needed was some hot coals and dinner was in the making. Nowadays, the mere thought of trying to survive in the wild sends shivers down people's spines. The thing is, pretty much anything you make at home in the traditional oven and on the stovetop can be made in the wild in a Dutch oven. Bread? No problem. Pie? Absolutely. Stew? A no-brainer. The curriculum includes lessons on meal planning, culinary techniques with an emphasis on cast iron, campfire and propane stove/oven cooking. You will also learn basic baking, grilling and survival food preparation skills. Learn how rewarding it is to cook in the refreshing air of Joshua Tree Park

Want to document your camping adventure like a pro? After dinner, Professional photographer Scott Klinger will go through the basics of night photography to enable you to document your campfire creations and outdoor adventures. You will go through the operations and settings required to get the most out of your camera at night and in dim light. The class will talk about the popular types of night photography particularly at Joshua Tree including, wide-field astrophotography, glowing tents, light painting and more and then Scott will walk participants through getting some great shots of their campfire experience. Tripods and a manually adjustable DSLR camera are required to participate in the photography component.

To create a good appetite, hikes with Lew Kingman are scheduled for both Saturday and Sunday.

Lost Horse campground has been reserved for Friday, November 12 for those who wish to camp a day early. Please contact us at 760-819-4714 if you wish access to the campground on Friday.

Itinerary

Saturday, October 29, 8:00 am – midnight

- 8 am meet at Joshua Tree Visitor Center and caravan to Lost Horse Campground
- Set Up Camp
- 10 am - head out for a hike with Lew Kingman
- Lunch in the park on the hike (**bring your lunch!**)
- Dinner class begins at 3:00 with Emily Nielson and Mai-Yan
- Dinner at 5 pm
- Sunset at 7:30 pm
- Night photography class begins at 8 pm with Scott Klinger

Sunday, October 30, 7:30 am – 2:00 pm

- Breakfast class begins at 7:30 am with Emily Nielson and Mai-Yan
- 9:30 am – head out for a hike with Lew Kingman (**Bring your lunch!**).
- 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm Break-down camp
- 2:00 pm – class ends.

What to Bring to the Course

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 a lunch for Saturday and Sunday**
 - Cook dinner in camp Saturday evening
 - Snacks and beverages for campfire on 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

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.
- 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.

Instructors Biographies

EMILY NIELSON grew up in the outdoors. She climbed and hiked through the Mojave Desert and the Sierra as a child, and moved to Florida in high school where she learned to enjoy the water and life with no rocks. She graduated from Florida State University in 2006 with a B.S. in Biology and Philosophy, and then moved to Big Bear, CA to teach at High Trails Outdoor Science School. She currently lives in Upland, CA, and is passing on the tradition of climbing and hiking as a family to her three kids. Dirtygourmet.com was founded in 2010 by Emily and her two partners as a blog because there were very few online resources for camp recipes at the time. Since then, Dirty Gourmet has grown beyond the blog and continues its work helping outdoorists make food a memorable part of the adventure. We have taught camp cooking classes and catered large-scale outdoor events nationwide with amazing partners including REI, Sunset Magazine, and Stanley PMI. We produced our first cookbook in 2018 called Dirty Gourmet: Food for Your Outdoor Adventures, which is now an essential guide to empower outdoor cooks, no matter the trip or their dietary needs.

SCOTT KLINGER is a professional photographer, filmmaker and educator with over 15 years of experience. Scott's photographs and films have been exhibited throughout the world. Recent screenings include 66th Festival de Cannes and the Hollywood Reel Independent Film Festival. Recent exhibitions include LAXART in Los Angeles, Anfiteatro Arte in Milan, and La Generale en Manufacture in Paris. His work is held in the permanent collection of the Kiyosato Museum of Photographic Art. He currently lives in La Quinta, CA is an Associate Professor of Photographic Technology at Palomar College.

LEW KINGMAN is a retired fire fighter and worked for the Palm Springs Desert Museum as a hike leader for 8 years. He volunteers with the Riverside County Sheriff's Search and Rescue for 25 years and Joshua Tree National Park as an archaeological site steward and a lead field class leader for the Desert Institute.

Suggested Reading

* 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.