

Desert Discoveries Field Trips to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park

Student Learning Outcomes:

Anza-Borrego Foundation's Desert Discoveries Field Trips include virtual, single day, and overnight camping adventures using nature's classroom to create personal growth opportunities and connect students to nature. The Student Learning Outcomes include:

1. Environmental Awareness & Stewardship:
 - a. Students will demonstrate an increased awareness and appreciation of desert ecosystems and their unique adaptations.
 - b. Students will identify plant and animal species found in the desert environment and understand their roles within the ecosystem.
 - c. Students will demonstrate a commitment to environmental stewardship by practicing Leave No Trace principles and minimizing their impact on the natural environment.
2. Geological and Paleontological Understanding:
 - a. Students will recognize and describe various geological formations, such as canyons, badlands, and fossil beds, and understand the processes that formed them.
3. Cultural Appreciation:
 - a. Students will learn about the indigenous history of the area, of the Kumeyaay and Cahuilla peoples who have inhabited the region and their traditional uses of natural resources.
4. Scientific Inquiry:
 - a. Students will engage in hands-on scientific inquiry through activities such as nature walks, wildlife observation, and data collection.
 - b. Students will formulate questions about the natural world, make observations, and draw conclusions based on evidence gathered during their field trip.
5. Outdoor Skills:
 - a. Students will develop basic outdoor skills and learn about safety practices through guided hikes and exploration and demonstrate responsible behavior in a wilderness setting.
6. Teamwork and Collaboration:
 - a. Students will work collaboratively to set up camp, prepare meals, and perform other tasks necessary for camping in a wilderness environment.
 - b. Students will practice communication, problem-solving, and decision-making skills while working together as a group.
7. Self-Reliance and Resilience:
 - a. Students will develop self-reliance and resilience by participating in outdoor activities, such as hiking and camping, and overcoming challenges they encounter.
 - b. Students will learn to adapt to changing conditions, such as weather or terrain, and develop confidence in their ability to cope with outdoor environments.
8. Reflection and Connection:
 - a. Students will have opportunities for reflection and connection with nature through activities such as journaling, meditation, or stargazing.
 - b. Students will develop a sense of awe and wonder for the natural world and reflect on their personal connections to the environment.