

Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument

Education Program Checklist

Themes provide a structure for organizing information and focusing interpretive efforts for the presentation of key ideas. All information presented to Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument (National Monument) visitors should communicate this main interpretive theme statement.

Sub-themes are listed below, developed to guide development of interpretive and educational programs in support of this National Monument.

National Monument Theme Statement: *(check all that apply to your program)*

From desert oases to granite peaks, the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument is a land of contrast with stories of adaptation.

National Monument Interpretive Themes and Subthemes:

The National Monument encompasses diverse biological communities and geological resources.

Throughout time people have adapted their lifestyles and modified the landscape to live in the National Monument's seemingly inhospitable environments.

Management of the land is as diverse as the matrix of the landscapes and ecosystems that comprise the National Monument.

Health of the land is determined by the relationships of its living and nonliving components, and their response to external changes.

There are several angles of repose and many contrasting environments within the National Monument.

An objective of interpretive and educational programs for the SRSJMNM is for at least 25 percent of visitors participating in such programs to:

- *Identify at least two different ecosystems or life zones in the area.*
- *Describe the concept of habitats and how plants and animals depend on them.*
- *Explain how and why palm oases are formed.*
- *Identify geological aspects and elements of the National Monument.*
- *Recognize the Cahuilla Indians in the context of their prehistory and current-day culture.*
- *Identify at least three significant events in the cultural history of the area.*
- *Name two threatened and/or endangered species and how/why they are protected.*
- *Acknowledge that much of the National Monument is designated wilderness and understand the management implications of this designation.*
- *Explain the effect of natural and human-caused fire on the land.*
- *Identify a variety of recreation uses in the National Monument.*

Presenter's name, program title: Various volunteers; **Birding Walk-About at the Monument**

Contact information (email only): Ada Nuckels; adanuckels@gmail.com

Location of program: **Ed Hasteley Garden Walk and Randall Henderson Trail-lower wash only**

Ongoing or one-time program? Ongoing October 2023 through September 2024

Introduction to Hike Program: Program Leader will do opening remarks. To include: The SRSJMNM creation, location, scope in acreage, diversity, recreational opportunities, management, and partnerships. Introduce the hike program volunteers and topics to be discussed while on the trail. Safety protocols for desert hiking and verify adequate water for each participant.

Program content/outline goes here: Hike leaders will discuss the following:

1. Varied habitats supply varied food, shelter from the elements and prey, materials for nesting, etc. Native habitat attracts native birds. Avoid trimming trees and shrubs in the nesting season to mitigate adverse impacts to species which are protected through the Migratory Birds Species Act (not all species are protected)
 - a. <https://www.fws.gov/law/migratory-bird-treaty-act-1918>
2. Every species has its own niche within a habitat: ground level, mid or upper. Monument is a biodiversity hotspot and in 2007, the American Bird Conservancy declared the Monument an "Important Bird Area".
3. Each species has its own food need: insects, fruit, seeds, meat.
4. Some birds will be 'passing through' migrating. And this habitat gives them the chance to refuel, rest safely, before moving on.
5. Some birds are endangered or becoming extinct, some are 'listed' of concern. Some species are invasive.
 - a. Federally listed birds found in the SRSJMNM: Least Bell's Vireo, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and Yellow Billed Cuckoo; all three species use desert riparian habitat.
6. We may see a 'vagrant' who is not seen regularly, perhaps a weather event pushed it in. This is always exciting.
7. Bird identification tech tools are introduced, such as the Sibley App or Merlin Bird ID, not to mention binoculars.
8. Discussion of bird songs or calls, as they relate to establishment of territory, or attracting a mate. Flight pattern and perching behavior all contribute to ID.
9. Introduction to the eBird App, a community science personal bird list, whose information goes directly to Cornell University. Volunteers share bird lists with Monument staff and this aids in any updates to SRSJMNM Birding Checklist.

Equipment/facility Needs:

Sandwich board, table for registration, list of participants, donation container and SRSJMNM bird listing handout

Monument Manger review and notes:

Recommend leaders bring along the SRSJMNM Field Guide to highlight habitats and share the Monument's Birding Checklist brochure (ideally it would be helpful to have these filled out and given to NM Manager to track for record keeping, especially as BLM/USFS does not have access to eBird accounts). Also, utilize official Monument Trails Map to share where visitors are within the Monument and reinforce use of designated trails to promote responsible recreation. For birding events, important to avoid any areas in which birds are nesting to avoid abandonment of hatchlings. And also recommend use of binoculars and spotting scopes for all participants to ensure everyone is keeping a safe and respectful distance from wildlife at all times.

Monument Manager Approval:

