

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; Urban area trails in Palm Desert and Rancho Mirage

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

Location of program: Cahuilla Hills Park; Herb Jefferies Trail; Chuckwalla Trail, Bighorn Overlook Trail, Road Runner Trail, Jack Rabbit Trail, Blixseth Mountain Park (this site is outside of SRSJMNM boundary)

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 designation and values designated for, 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) Federally endangered peninsular bighorn sheep, federally threatened desert tortoise
- (2) Geology of the SRSJMNM and Coachella Valley
- (3) History of water and current water sources
- (4) Various plant identifications and historical uses for these plants by the Cahuilla's
- (5) Leave No Trace and importance of Recreating Responsibility, e.g. - staying on designated trails (Front Country LNT ethics version is best for NM programs)
- (6) Recreational opportunities within SRSJMNM (know if trails are open to hikers/bikers/equestrian, and whether dogs are allowed) and use CVMSHCP's Trails Plan of 2014 as official reference

Equipment/facility Needs: Sandwich board, table for registration, list of participants, SRSJMNM and FODM calendars and handouts and donation container

Monument Manger review and notes: Recommend hike leader bring along the SRSJMNM Field Guide to reinforce ecosystems they are exploring along the trail segment. Also recommend having SRSJMNM Trails Map available to share trail hiking on in relation to others and reference point within NM. Depending on trails hiked, would recommend have opportunity to incorporate messages about palm ecology and why they are found in the NM, adaptation of species in these areas, highlight which life zone is being hiked in. Will be

important to stress why there is a seasonal closure for Carrizo/Dead Indian Canyon and why dogs are not allowed on these trails.

*Please expand on what is being discussed with regards to water/water resources.

Monument Manager Approval: _____

OUTLINE FOR HIKE LEADERS' DISCUSSION:

Theme Statement:

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

Introduction pre-trail hike:

Creation of SRSJMNM by who, what, where, when and as National Conservation Lands (NCL). (See footnotes) How does this differ from the National Park Service? FODM role and volunteers. Trail safety, uneven terrain, stay on trails, water, etc.

Themes/Subthemes:

- A. Geology:
 - 1. Desert rain shadow effect, plus transverse mountains
 - 2. Tectonic plates (where is North America?), highest peaks, San Andreas & San Jacinto fault lines with oases (CA fan palms)
 - 3. Batholith and decomposing granite; seismic activity
- B. Adaptations:
 - a. Life zones of SRSJMNM. There are 5 life zones.
 - b. Plants (Hoarders, Avoiders, Toleraters - HAT)
 - c. Animals – Why Endangered species? How adapting to a desert (bighorn & tortoise)
 - i. Habitat destruction, fragmentation, and diseases spread by domesticated animals
 - ii. Fringe toed lizards (Snow Creek area)
 - d. Animals other – jackrabbit, ground squirrels, coyote, etc.
 - e. Climate changes effect – higher elevations (UCR reports & papers on studies)
 - f. Reptiles – snakes, lizards
 - g. Insects/spiders – tarantulas, scorpions, black widow, native bees, ants
 - h. Birds – Phainopepla, Raven, hawks, owls, roadrunners
- C. Invasive species
 - a. Invasives: Fountain grass; Saharan and London Rocket mustard –
 - b. How fire ecology changes the land and environment – recent fire areas: Snow Creek, Pinyon Flats, Mountain Fire & Palm Springs at EHT
 - c. Grasses post fire – schismus, red brome
- D. Cahuilla Native Historical culture
 - a. Story of how they came to the area both past and current
 - b. The various Cahuilla bands (9) in area – Augustine, Torres Martinez, Cabazon, Aqua Caliente, Morongo, Ramona, Los Coyotes, Santa Rosa and Cahuilla
 - c. Hunters and gatherers and traders
 - i. Native uses of local plants
 - ii. Medicinal uses
 - iii. What type supplies were traded & historic trails they used (refer to the Cahuilla book)

E. Recreate responsibility

- a. SRSJMNM types of recreational – equestrian, hiking, biking (no E-bikes), camping, yoga
 - b. Stay on designated trails – do not create social trails
 - c. Observe all fire regulations
 - d. Pack it in/pack it out
 - e. Look, take pictures, only take memories home
 - f. Dispose of waste properly – human & pets
 - g. Dogs are prohibited on most trails in SRSJMNM. Refer to list.
- F. Other local historical events
- a. Railroad – Southern Pacific, arrive in Indio 3/25/1872
 - b. Building Highway 74 – opened on
 - c. Palms to Pines Scenic Byway – designated 1971? or 1972? by the state of CA
 - d. Bradshaw Trail – 1862
 - e. Mining
- G. Summation before leaving trails end
- a. ASK WHAT: What is your favorite fun fact you learned today
 - b. Thank you for participating
 - c. **Dani is verifying if we can make this statement.** “Giving donations online or cash to support FODM”

- 1) National Conservation Lands (NCL) – a.k.a. National Conservation Lands of the California Desert. For more information, please refer to websites below.

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/national-conservation-lands-of-the-california-desert>

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/california/santa-rosa-and-san-jacinto-mountains-national-monument>

- 2) For more information on the SRSJMNM visit these website pages.

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/california/santa-rosa-and-san-jacinto-mountains-national-monument>

<https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/programs-nlcs-ca-santa-rosa-san-jacinto-national-monument-history.pdf>

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/california/santa-rosa-and-san-jacinto-mountains-national-monument>

- 3) For more information on the Cahuilla People and the 9 bands who comprise the Tribe

<https://www.palmspringslife.com/cahuilla-indians-history/#:~:text=The%20Aqua%20Caliente%20Band%20of%20Cahuilla%20Indians%20is%20one%20of,Indians%20of%20the%20Los%20Coyotes>