

2017: Beginning Anew

What's New at Pathfinder

Tyler

A new year has snuck up on us here at Pathfinder Ranch. Let's take a look at what's new here at the ranch!

First off, we have four new Naturalists joining us this year: Cloud, Monarch, Pika, and Raven. A fifth newcomer, Spark, will be joining us for some of our busier weeks as well. We are excited to have you aboard!

In addition to the new Naturalists, we welcomed a donation of four new ducks and a chicken (who thinks she's a duck) at the farm. Their names are Jalal, Neusha, Richard, Ryan, and Shapoor. They have joined Marcus, our veteran duck, here in the barnyard. With all the rain and snow we've been getting



here, they have had many opportunities to get to know each other while playing around in the revived wash that now flows near the farm.

Pathfinder recently set up a new rotational grazing system for our pasture. This is

done by splitting the pasture up into four smaller pieces. This practice should help promote the growth of healthy native grasses. The corral has also been updated with all new fencing so now all of our equine can live together happily.

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Calendar of Events:

- February 23 - Environmental Education Collaborative Symposium www.eecsymposium2017.eventbrite.com
- March 5 - Outdoor Education Open House at Pathfinder Ranch
- March 20 - Spring Equinox
- April 28-30 - Family Camp at Pathfinder Ranch
- May 20 - Summer Camp Open House at Pathfinder Ranch



Upcoming Events: Open Houses and Family Camp

Bubbles

Our Outdoor Education Open House is scheduled for Sunday, March 5. This is a free event for faculty, students and families to visit Pathfinder. There will be guided tours as well as fun activities to sample what we might be able to offer your students! Call 951-659-2455 to reserve a spot. All age welcome, but children under seven will not be able to participate in some of the activities due to age restrictions.

If you're interested in Summer Camp, come to our Open House on Saturday, May 20. More details and registration to come.



Pathfinder's first Family Camp will be April 28-30! Everyone is welcome, but all minors must attend with a parent/guardian. We'll be offering plenty of traditional

camp activities such as archery, canoeing, climbing, campfire, and much more! Prices are \$130-150 for anyone seven and older with reduced pricing for younger children. Check out www.pathfinderranch.com for more information and call our office (951-659-2455) with questions. We hope to see you at one of these upcoming events.

Electives: Creating New Opportunities

Pika

The Spring Season is in full swing here at Pathfinder Ranch and Naturalists new and old are hard at work. Spring programming has provided the opportunity for professional development for staff and specialized classes for students due to an increase in schools choosing elective classes.

Electives give Naturalists the ability to create classes based on their own personal passions and interests, while also exposing students to new and intriguing topics which vary greatly in subject matter. Among electives such as Backpacking, Wilderness Survival, and Art



in Nature, some Naturalists create non-traditional courses with creative plotlines and activities such as “Zombie Apocalypse” and “Gotta Catch ‘Em All” (finding Pokémon) in order to discuss topics such as pandemics and infections (Zombie Apocalypse) and orienteering (finding Pokémon). This makes the content much more engaging and relatable to the students.

When given the opportunity to plan classes based on personal passions,

in Nature, some Naturalists create non-traditional courses with

Naturalists are motivated to develop their curricula throughout the season, sometimes creating courses that are eventually offered as regular classes. A recent example of this is the Birding and Nature Observation class which was created by a passionate staff member who worked to provide enough resources and curriculum content that the class is now offered outside of electives. Electives are a great way to engage students in new ways regarding various topics while helping Pathfinder staff explore options for potentially new courses at the Ranch!

Local Park Feature: Mount Rubidoux Park

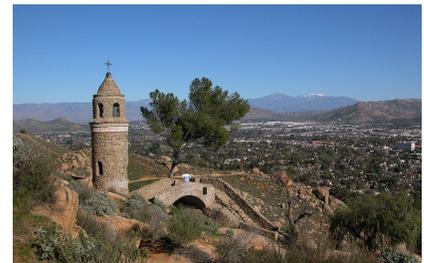
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When thinking of Riverside, one of the first things that pops into our minds is the beautiful Mount Rubidoux Park.

Originally named “Pachappa,” Mount Rubidoux covers 161 acres with 3.5 miles of paved pathways and several dirt hiking trails. The park is also popular for people beginning in bouldering.

With the help of Friends of Mount Rubidoux, a non-profit organization, local citizens volunteer to restore and preserve the park for future visitors.

Open from sunrise to sunset with free admission, Mount Rubidoux is a wonderful place to explore and enjoy the sunshine!



DIY: Pizza Box Solar Oven

Juniper

Spring is near! It's getting warmer which means it is the perfect time to use the sun's solar energy to cook some tasty snacks.

Solar energy is a renewable resource - clean energy that never runs out - which means that while you're heating your food you are also helping the earth! You will need to find a pizza box to be the base of your solar oven. Once you have your pizza box, you just need to remember the word **BAKE**.

B - Bring in as much sunlight as possible. You can do this by cutting a large

opening in the top of the pizza box to let in the sun and then adding reflective foil around it.

A - Absorb the heat. Have you ever worn dark clothes on a sunny day and noticed how warm you got? Dark colors absorb more heat than light colors. Paint your pizza box with black paint or cover it with black construction paper.

K - Keep in the heat. Now that you have brought in the sunlight and absorbed the heat, you need to keep it in the oven to cook your snacks. Cover the

hole you made in the top of the box with plastic wrap. Make sure to keep the box closed while you are cooking.



E - Eat and enjoy your sun-cooked food. Some of my favorite things to make are bagel pizzas, nachos, or s'mores. Be sure to send us a picture of you enjoying the food you made!

Pathfinder Ranch is a non-profit organization founded in 1964 that is dedicated to connecting people to nature and each other. We offer outdoor education field trips, youth summer camp, and retreat opportunities for groups of all types and ages. We take pride in providing affordable and high quality programming throughout the year. Check out our website and Facebook page for more information, and contact us if you have questions.

35510 Pathfinder Road
Mountain Center, CA 92561

Phone: (951) 659-2455

Fax: (951) 659-0351

Email: info@pathfinderranch.com