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Editor: Casey

New Season = New Changes

What's New at Pathfinder

We had almost 600 campers attend five of our weeklong Summer Camp sessions this year. They got to rock-climb, ride horses, explore the mountains, and make memories with new friends. Thanks to all of our summer staff who made it possible!

Our Outdoor Education Program started after Labor Day, and our returning naturalists are excited to be back

for another fall season. We've welcomed four new naturalists to our family: Casey from New York, Lilly from Wisconsin, Todd from Maryland, and Dahlia from Northern California. They arrived on August 21st to begin training on horseback riding, recreational activities, and the local history. The following week, the returning instructors joined us for team building, class

review, and a social awareness training.

Besides the new staff, we also welcomed a new baby goat and two new horses!

- Cloud



Powder & Otter

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BEETLES Training

Otter and Juniper attended a leadership institute for the BEETLES (Better Environmental Education, Teaching, Learning & Expertise Sharing) Project this August. They brought back a plethora of materials and information to train our staff on new teaching and learning methods that will improve our program and the students' experiences. At the very heart of BEETLES, educators are asked to reconsider what learning should look like.

Research shows that teaching dominated by lecture and memorization are not contributing to long-term and meaningful learning. How do

educators make sure students are really learning, and get the information to "stick"? We found it helpful to abandon the idea that students are blank slates, ready to have concepts explained TO them.

In reality, students already have elaborate ideas and explanations about how the



world works. By inviting broad thinking, imagination, and curiosity, learning can be student-centered and much more meaningful. Because learning is a never-ending process of thinking, re-thinking, discussion, and reflection, it is the experience by which students arrive at an idea that is more beneficial than just "knowing" the right answer.

We aim to challenge learners to find their own answers through observations, explorations, and personal experiences. Check out www.beetlesproject.org for more information.

- Trail Mix

Garbology Winners:

- Desert Prep
- Sky Country

Special Events:

- Oct 14: Malki Museum Fall Gathering (Banning, www.malkimuseum.org)
- Oct 21: Pathfinder Open House (RSVP by calling 951-659-2455)
- Nov 3-5: AEOE Fall Conference at Pathfinder (visit www.aeoe.org)
- Nov 18: Pathfinder ROPE Club (Alpine Tower climbing for people with mobility issues. www.pathfinderranch.com/events-news)

Special Events: Open House & Educator Conference at Pathfinder

This fall, our Open House will be held on October 21 from 10am-1pm to offer tours for families, future campers, faculty, and anyone else interested in learning about our programs. There will be some activities like farm animal interactions and archery included in the tours. You must RSVP, so call our

office at 951-659-2455 to reserve your spot!

Pathfinder will also be hosting the annual Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education's Fall Southern Conference. These conferences are a wonderful way for our naturalists and

other educators (even science teachers) to network and attend workshops on various topics from management strategies to natural history.

Come join the fun on November 3-5! You can register and learn more about AEOE at www.aeoe.org.

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Featured Park: Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Preserve

Located in the southern region of the Santa Ana Mountains near Murrieta, the Santa Rosa Plateau Ecological Center is filled with educational and recreational opportunities for those of all ages, making it great for a family week-end excursion. If you and your family are searching for an out of the ordinary outdoor experience away from the crowds, this reserve is a perfect place to go. This ecological center is an impressive 9,000 acres and is home to various types of unique ecosystems such as an Engelmann Oak forest, wetlands, and mountainous chaparral. With all this protected space, there are countless species of birds, reptiles and mammals roaming the park, some of



which are endemic to Southern California, including a type of Fairy Shrimp that can only be found in the seasonal pools of this reserve! There are many different trails of varying difficulties, but two of the most popular hikes are

the Moreno and Machado Adobe hikes, which offer beautiful views and great places to picnic. The main destination of these hikes brings visitors to two adobe structures dating back to the mid 1800's, which were used as housing for

cowboys and farmhands. Along with multiple walking trails, the Santa Rosa Ecological Center is also home to various mountain biking and horse-riding trails, making it suitable for visitors of all pursuits. Trail use in this reserve costs \$4 for adults and \$3 for children, but needless to say, this wilderness experience is well worth it! Go enjoy the great outdoors with your friends and family!

- Mike

DIY Halloween Project

Here is a fun and easy way to make your Halloween both scary and delicious!

Step 1: Take 4 pipe cleaners of any color together and bend in half.

Step 2: Take your lollipop and place in the bend of the pipe cleaners

Step 3: Twist pipe cleaners around lollipop stick

Step 4: Bend the leg ends to help it stand

Step 5 : Add googly eyes or make eyes out of candy of choice!

- Tyler



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.

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