

Animals & Technology

What's New at Pathfinder? *By Sun Butter*

New things are happening here at Pathfinder, and we couldn't be more excited!

This August, we welcomed six new Outdoor Education staff and two new animal residents to our team. Four Teaching Naturalists (Sloth, Finch, Coyote, and Dandelion), plus two Outdoor Education Coordinators (Mama

Bear and Spring) are super excited to be a part of our community!

Mama Bear has been teaching environmental sciences all around the country for the last several years. She is incredibly passionate about the environment and an avid protector of our natural resources. Spring has been in the world of residential camps and outdoor education since 2006, and has also worked in schools teaching math and supporting students in general education classes.

We are also pleased to welcome Dart, an Eastern Collared Lizard, to our nature center family. Dart is a car-

nivorous male lizard, and he is already starting to show his excitement and entertaining personality. Eastern Collared Lizards have been recorded running up to 16 MPH, and they can run on just their hind legs.

Ashley, or Ash, is a Vietnamese Potbelly Pig that we adopted after the Cranston Fire. She enjoys basking in the sun and rolling around in the mud in typical pig style!



Meet Dart, our new Eastern Collared Lizard!

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Garbology Awards!!!

- Desert Preparatory
- Sky Country

Adult Quotes:

- "I will try to keep encouraging recycling and reduce the amount of garbology."
- "Always have exceptional instructors who are patient and who challenge the students. The kids always remember this experience even into adulthood."

Tablets for Citizen Science *By Lily*

Recently, Pathfinder Ranch received a grant to purchase iPads to use for its Outdoor Education program with school groups. The new equipment is now being used in our classes to contribute to citizen science projects, which are data collection projects conducted by the general public. Using the apps iNaturalist, eBird, and Herphunter, students are

able to take photos, identify and share this data online. They then enter these species into the apps in order to map phenology trends and provide data to help researchers. These citizen science projects give students a sense of how exciting it can be to collect data in the field and how they might be able to continue their learning using technology!



Open House Recap and Astronomy By Dandelion

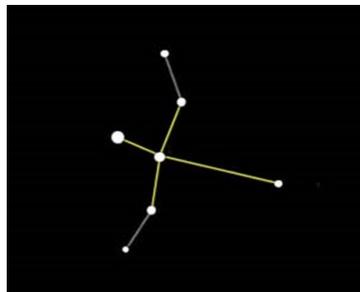
Open House

The Pathfinder Ranch Open House took place on September 9. The Open House was our busiest to date with a total of 71 attendees mostly consisting of teachers and families of future science campers! We had tons of fun—attendees visited the farm and the rest of campus. At the farm, we greeted and fed some of the pigs, alpacas, goats, and chickens. Blue Jasmine, the goat, was particularly excited to greet the visitors. Soon after going to the farm we proceeded to do some archery. The attendees did a

great job at archery! We look forward to seeing those who attended during your school's field trip!

Astronomy

As the summer transitions to fall, we can still view summer constellations! A noticeable Greek constellation is Cygnus the swan. Keep an eye out for the swan directly overhead in the night sky!



Cygnus the Swan

Unfortunately, Jupiter and Saturn are setting too early to see in the night sky anymore, but Mars is still out in the southern sky.

One of our school groups went on a Night Hike and saw the Harvest Moon on September 24, which is the closest full moon to the Fall Equinox.

Featured Park: Cahuilla Hills Park By Taylor

The Coachella Valley is starting to cool off, so what better way to celebrate than to get outside for a beautiful hike? There are plenty of places in the desert to go hiking so get out on the trails near you, or take a short family vacation to the desert for a change of scenery.

Located in the beautiful city of Palm Desert, Cahuilla Hills Park is an oasis of undeveloped land within the desert. There are 27.5 acres of scenic, multi-use trails, and also serves as the trail head for the Cahuilla Hills Trails System.



These trails feature routes of varying distances and difficulties so there is accessibility for hikers of all levels.

They range from the easy 0.9 mile Mike Schuler Trail to the difficult but worthwhile 8.1 mile Hopalong Cassidy Trail.

Wildflowers are beautiful in the spring and wildlife sightings year round! The park also features shaded picnic areas,

4 pickle ball courts, and 1 tennis court. Cahuilla Hills Park can be found at 45825 Edgehill Drive in Palm Desert.

DIY Upcycled Chip Bag Pencil Case By Juniper

Upcycling is when you take something that was going to be thrown away and re-purpose it. One thing we always have leftover from student lunches is chip bags. You can turn a chip bag into a pencil case to use for school! Start by taking a chip bag and cleaning it out so there are no crumbs or residue left inside.



A finished pencil case.

Cut one of the long sides. Cover the outside of the chip bag with clear packing tape to protect it. Then turn the chip bag inside-out and cover the inside with clear packing tape. Buy a small zipper or reuse a zipper from old clothes. Place the zipper

on top of the chip bag and attach one side to the chip bag with glue. When it dries do the same thing to the other side. You could also sew it to make it stronger. Glue or sew the top of the bag closed. After that you can start using and bragging to others about your cool upcycled pencil case!

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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