

Winter Discovery

What's New at Pathfinder? By Juniper

Our winter camp was a success! From December 28th through 30th Pathfinder was open for campers to come experience winter in the mountains. Winter campers enjoyed “making snow” in arts and crafts, cooking baked potatoes and making



Winter campers participating in a robot relay race!

cider. If you missed it make sure to check out our Facebook page for more photos and put it on your calendar for next year!

Pathfinder naturalists are preparing for a busy spring season. We look forward to meeting new schools and seeing returning ones. During winter training all of Pathfinder's naturalists took a Foundations of Interpretation Course through the Epley Institute. We are always looking for new professional development and engaging youth.

We have been trying out some new Mad Science Fair activities and settled on what we think are the four

best experiments. You can now look forward to making gack bouncy balls and thermometers. Of course, the classic oobleck and canister rockets are still an option.

Even though it is still winter, we have started plants in the greenhouse to be transferred to the garden beds when it is warm enough come spring. We have mustard greens, garlic and kale that survived the winter break with some extra care and frost covers.

It is going to be a great season! Check out our website or Facebook page to see what else is new at Pathfinder Ranch!

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School Quotes:

- “All was absolutely amazing! Well done, staff is well trained, highly educational and so great with the kids! Thank you!”
- “I think that providing a journal was a great feature to helping the students reflect and learn.”
- “We are planning other outdoor trips for the family and the curriculum learned here will help. We also plan to work on reducing our waste at home.”

ExCEED Class By Finch

Pathfinder Ranch has plenty of options for horse-centered recreation including ExCEED!

What is ExCEED? ExCEED (Equine-Centered Experiential Education) is a class that teams up a group of students with one of our horses to complete various challenge initiatives.

Why is this important? This class gives students the opportunity to work with a teammate that has very different skills and uses different ways of communication than them. It challenges students to figure out how to accommodate these differences and use those differences to their advantage.

ExCEED is a unique opportunity that gives students the opportunity to develop a bond with their horse teammate on a deeper level than they would on a horseback ride. It teaches teamwork skills, communication, as well as inclusion and diversity. There's a lot we can learn from our furry friends!

Upcoming Events this Winter/Spring By Coyote

We at Pathfinder Ranch feel fortunate to be connected to a wide network of organizations, groups, families, and colleagues. We invite members of the Pathfinder Community to participate in several upcoming events:

Our semi-annual Open House will be on March 9th! It's a free event with scheduled tours of our facilities, plus a visit with our farm animals, archery lesson, and light refreshments. Please call to reserve a spot (Monday—Friday 8AM—4:30PM at 951-659-2455), as we cannot guarantee space for walk-ins.

The North American Association for Environmental Education is asking for members of the community to participate in an Environmental Education Advocacy Day on February 20th to support their environmental education mission through political advocacy. Check out details at the link to learn about trainings for advocacy skills and to connect with your local representatives. <https://naee.org/eepro/blog/day-hill-ee>



Come experience archery at our Open House on March 9th!

The Palm Springs Pathfinders generously support Pathfinder Ranch's mission. Their annual fundraising Gala is February 23rd. 90% of all proceeds go to The Boy's and Girl's Club of Palm Springs and Pathfinder Ranch.

If you're interested in supporting us further, you can select the donation button on our webpage or call our

office if you'd like to be an active supporter or volunteer.

The Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center By Lily

The Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center provides opportunity for a fun outing that the whole family can enjoy. The center includes both a museum and a nine-acre botanical garden with walk-



ing trails. Interpretive signs enlighten visitors to information about the natural and cultural history of the area. The displays are fascinating and feature ancient fossils, precious minerals, and artifacts from several indigenous cultures of Southern California. Visitors can also enjoy a walk in the cactus garden and a visit to the turtle pond. The Discovery Center hosts family friendly events such as "rock collecting with the dinosaurs" and science-based "Toddler Time." Admission and parking for the

"Interpretive signs enlighten visitors to information about the natural and cultural history of the area."

Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center is free to the public and it is located in Riverside, California.

Become a Scientist at Home with iNaturalist By Dusty

Last fall Pathfinder Ranch began contributing to several citizen science projects including iNaturalist. Since August, 300 students have made 65 observations of 35 different plant species while at Pathfinder.

One of the most exciting things about this project is that you can contribute to these scientific projects while you're at home as well. If you or someone in your family has a smart phone you



Pancake Prickly Pear

have everything you need to become a citizen scientist!

If you want to get involved all you have to do is download the free iNaturalist app. Once you've found some plants that look interesting or you'd like to know what something

is, the iNaturalist app will guide you through the identification process. You'll take a few photos of the plant, mark the location, and upload it to the app.

By doing this, you'll be contributing to meaningful science data collection that researchers can use to better understand our local environment and how to best preserve it. So go outside, do some exploring, and be a scientist!

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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