

## Winter is Here!

### Fall Updates By Finch

There have been lots of new and exciting changes at Pathfinder Ranch this fall! We've updated and revamped our astronomy program to include brand new activities. We just finished posting our new glow-in-the-dark planet models around Lied Lake. The planets are made to scale, based on differences in size. It's like you're actually travelling through the solar system! We also have our new astronomy dome, which is equipped with a projector that displays the night sky right above you. We have a lot in store for the astronomy

program and we're so excited to share it with you! In other news, our wrinkly tortoise friend, Artimus, has finally gone into brumation. Brumation is when a reptile adapts its body to help it survive very cold weather, similar to when a bear goes into hibernation. We're so excited to say "Hello!" to Art again when he wakes up in the spring! We're also very close to finishing construction on our main road that was damaged last winter. The expected completion time is January. Thank you so much

to those who donated to our February storm damage fund! If you're interested in learning more about this project or other opportunities to support us, you can visit [pathfinderranch.com/donate](http://pathfinderranch.com/donate).



The Astronomy Dome

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### School Quotes:

- "[We'll make connections back home by incorporating meal time garbology. I'd like to help my family see how much food waste we have every day to help reduce, reuse, recycle." *Antelope Hills Chaperone*
- "Everyone was AMAZING! Friendly, kind, courteous, super engaged with what they were doing." *Carrillo Ranch Teacher*
- "[Team Challenge Class] forced the kids to work together and learn that together they are stronger." *Alta Murrieta Chaperone*

### The Buzz on Bee Boxes By Kite

One in every four bites of our food is thanks to pollination by bees! This makes bee protection urgent, especially amid the threats of climate change and intensive agriculture. Our new bee box, located in Pathfinder Ranch's organic garden, makes a great teaching tool to inform students about the connections between pollinators, food, and the specific

farming practices we can use to promote the health of all involved. Despite our bee box lacking any current residents, we still record observations of wild pollinators using iPads equipped with Citizen Science applications and discuss their biology using other educational tools. In this way, students absorb information about the ecological significance of bees

while also engaging in hands-on learning activities that contribute to local pollinator research projects.



Bee Box in the Garden

## Family Camp at Pathfinder By Goose

Looking for some fun outdoor events to attend at Pathfinder this spring? Pathfinder Ranch's Family Camp will be April 17th - 19th if you are looking to have fun with your family at the Ranch. Even the younger siblings are invited! We'll have plenty of recreation, hiking, and campfire activities! More details and how to register will be on our website soon so keep a close eye on our website. We'll also publicize the event on our Facebook page, so

like our page if you haven't already!

If you like to plan in advance, our website will also have our Summer Camp information posted next month! Summer Camp is expected to run from late June to early August. We hope to see some of you back up here for Family and/or Summer Camp!

If you are looking for an outdoor event that you don't necessarily have to travel anywhere for, con-

sider stepping outside to view the Quadrantids Meteor Shower that will be happening the night of January 3rd. This will be the first



major meteor shower of 2020 so don't miss it!

*Meteor Shower!*

## Riverside Botanic Garden By Sequoia

Do you ever feel the need to stop and smell the flowers? If so, then the Botanical Garden at University of California- Riverside, is the perfect place for you to visit. This beautiful garden has plants that grow in not only your backyard, but also around the world.

Park hours are daily from 8:00am-5:00pm. For a suggested donation of \$5 per person, you could spend quality



time with your loved ones seeing native pollinators happily visiting their favorite flowers in the butterfly or rose gar-

den. The park also offers a chance to see exotic plants from places like Australia, South Africa and the Redwood forests of Northern California/Oregon. The park has around 1.5 miles of trail to explore and the turtle pond is a great place to have a picnic.

Spending the day with your favorite people immersed in nature is just a bus or short car ride away.

## Craft a Homemade Wreath with Re-used Materials! By Indigo

As the temperature drops and holidays roll in, it's the perfect time for crafting! Give new life to your trash and recycling by spending an afternoon crafting. A homemade winter wreath makes for a perfect holiday gift!

Materials: Cardboard, Newspaper, White Grocery or Trash Bags, Tinfoil, Construction Paper, Tape, and Scissors  
Optional: Branches and/or Berries

Directions:

- Cut out a circle from cardboard
- Cut out a small circle from the middle of the cardboard to make a donut shape
- Cover the cardboard in newspaper and secure with tape
- Cover newspaper with trash bags and secure with tape
- Tape on strips of construction paper
- Take small sections of tinfoil to tape on
- Add some local branches and/or berries (Optional)

Have fun crafting!



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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