

COLD CREEK DOCENT FIELD PROGRAM INFORMATION

LOCATION: Stunt Ranch is located at 1201 Stunt Road, Calabasas, in the heart of the Santa Monica Mountains. See the enclosed map for specific directions. Your class may enter Stunt Ranch from one or several points - 1) the **Yucca Trail**, 2) the **Lower Stunt-High Trailhead**, or 3) the **Stunt Ranch driveway**. The Cold Creek Docent scheduler will arrange with you the trail(s) from which you will start. On the day of your visit **watch for the "BUS STOP YUCCA TRAIL" sign. Our docent-naturalists will meet you AT the specified trailhead at 10 AM.**

STUNT RANCH HISTORY: In the 1880's the Stunt family, English immigrants, homesteaded 440 acres in the Cold Creek area of the Santa Monica Mountains. By the late 1980's, the last descendent bequeathed the Ranch to Occidental College who then sold it to the State of California. The University of California acquired 67 acres of the Ranch in 1995. The remaining acreage remains under management of the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. UCLA manages the 67 acre Reserve, and their students conduct chaparral, wildlife and environmental research studies. The **UCLA Stunt Ranch Reserve** continues to serve as the base for the Cold Creek Docent's outdoor field programs, at the Docent's Kay Spensley Nature Education Center. While entry to the nature center and the ranch facilities is by UCLA permission only, the trails that cross the property are open to the public from dawn to dusk.

PREPARE YOUR CLASS:

- **PLEASE TAKE STUDENTS TO THE SCHOOL BATHROOMS BEFORE GETTING ABOARD THE BUS.** We have a clean, portable toilet at Stunt Ranch, but students may not have access to the toilet for a little more than an hour after you arrive.
- **BEFORE YOU ARRIVE DIVIDE EACH CLASSROOM INTO GROUPS OF 10 TO 12 STUDENTS; PLEASE USE NAME TAGS**
- Bring one adult for each of the groups in which your class has been divided. That adult will be responsible for the behavior of their group during the program. Please advise them to wear appropriate shoes. See below:
- Classes will hike to the Nature Center by trail, do a rotation of activities, eat lunch and then return to the bus by trail. For safety, everyone should wear flat shoes with good tread; jogging shoes are good. Sandals and high-heels are not appropriate and could be dangerous on the trails. We encourage everyone to bring knapsacks with their lunches inside in plastics bags. Cameras are fine. **VERY IMPORTANT: EVERYONE NEEDS TO BRING THEIR OWN WATER BOTTLE.**
- Wear layered clothing as weather is often changeable. Jeans and play clothes capable of getting grubby are appropriate. Caps or hats are often useful.
- Encourage your class to eat breakfast before they come to school on the day of the tour. Outdoor activity generates great hunger. Unless other arrangements have been made, we eat lunch starting between noon and 12:15.
- Try to familiarize the class with vocabulary and cultural history information from the pre-visit packet sent to you. It will greatly enhance motivation and learning.
- **IMPORTANT: PLEASE LET BUS DRIVER KNOW HE/SHE NEEDS TO BRING LUNCH: PLEASE PUT THAT ON THE SCHOOL FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM**
- **PLEASE NO GUM, LOLLIPOPS (DANGEROUS!), EARPHONES/RADIOS, OR PURSES!**

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LUNCH:

TO ENCOURAGE AN ENVIRONMENTAL ETHIC OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR ONE'S OWN TRASH, WE ASK THAT ALL STUDENTS AND ADULTS CARRY OUT THEIR OWN LUNCH TRASH.

There are no trash receptacles at Stunt Ranch. All food and beverage containers should be placed in a plastic bag and then put into a backpack for easy carrying. When lunch is over, the protective plastic bag is used to carry out trash. To lessen human impacts in our wild areas, we feel it is important for each student to learn to pick up after him/herself. This sends a powerful conservation stewardship message for students to practice wherever they are in the world.

SPECIAL MEDICAL PROBLEMS:

Please inform us of any special problems by phone prior to tour. We maintain a simple first-aid kit with antiseptic and band-aids at the nature center, but docent-naturalists may not dispense aid to a child. Teachers will oversee their classes in this regard.

WEATHER:

Rain one or more days before the date of tour may cancel your tour even if it is not raining the day of your tour, as the trails can become impassable with mud. Extremely windy days may cause fire-alert closure. The naturalist supervisor may call you at home the evening before or early the morning of your tour if weather conditions threaten closure of the program.

CHECK-LIST:

- ___ NAME TAGS ?
- ___ PLASTIC LUNCH SACKS ?
- ___ EVERYONE HAS AT LEAST 1 WATER BOTTLE ?
- ___ STUDENTS DIVIDED INTO GROUPS OF 10-12 ?
- ___ NOTIFY BUS DISPATCHER THAT DRIVER NEEDS TO BRING LUNCH ?
- ___ EVERYONE TO BATHROOM BEFORE BOARDING BUS ?