

# ZOO-TO-YOU

2009-2010 PROGRAM MENU

## AN ADVENTURE IN EDUCATION

### The Living Desert's Classroom Outreach Program

**Our Mission:**

*Desert conservation through preservation,  
education and appreciation.*



Our Zoo-to-You Outreach programs strive to connect children with the natural world they live in, by offering hands-on interactive programs designed to stimulate the students' curiosity about nature, specifically our active desert environment.

**To the Teachers:**

We are pleased to offer a variety of fascinating programs from Pre-K through 6th grade aligned to meet California State Curriculum Standards and The Living Desert's mission.

*Let your classroom become a place of wild amazement and  
an outlet for connections to the natural world.  
All programs are guided by trained natural history interpreters  
and may be enhanced  
by a visit from one of our live Animal Ambassadors.*



THE LIVING DESERT

47900 Portola Ave, Palm Desert / Indian Wells

(760) 346-5694

[www.LivingDesert.org](http://www.LivingDesert.org)

**The Living Desert is pleased to announce the availability of scholarship funds to offset the cost\* of our Zoo-to-You programs for schools within our local districts.**

Scholarship funds will be awarded on a 'first come, first served' basis.

Contact program coordinator [Linda Gaeta](#) for more information

760-346-5694 ext. 2505

## Docent-Led Programs

\$25\*

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### Pre-K

#### **Meet a Desert Animal:**

What better way to learn about desert animals than an encounter with one! Students will be introduced to the adaptations, both physical and behavioral, that help animals survive in a desert environment.

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### K to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

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#### **Desert Pollinators:**

Students will be introduced to the interconnection between flowers and insects, birds and bats, and the importance of pollination. The basics of pollination and seed production will be covered.

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### **Who Dung It?:**

Although it may be difficult to see a desert animal, they do leave many clues behind. Students will become detectives to help solve the mystery of just who "dung it" in the desert. Students will identify and learn about various desert species through hands-on discoveries and live animal presentations.

#### **Cahuilla: People of the Desert:**

Who were the Cahuilla People and how were they able to live so successfully in a seemingly harsh environment? Learn about their interaction with the land, and how they used desert plants. Examine their simple tools and crafts and listen to their stories to better understand the life of these early desert people.

#### **Amazing Desert Adaptations:**

Did you ever wonder how desert plants and animals survive often extreme desert conditions? Their incredible adaptations will intrigue teachers and students alike. Can plants really change their behaviors to modify their environment? And do animals really change their spots? You might be surprised. Through guided observation of desert plants and animals and through planned activities, students will begin to understand that living things make special adaptations in order to survive xerophytic conditions.

## Docent-Led Programs *continued*

\$25\*

### 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

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#### **Amazing Desert Adaptations:**

Did you ever wonder how desert plants and animals survive often extreme desert conditions? Their incredible adaptations will intrigue teachers and students alike. Can plants really change their behaviors to modify their environment? And do animals really change their spots? You might be surprised. Through guided observation of desert plants and animals and through planned activities, students will begin to understand that living things make special adaptations in order to survive xerophytic conditions.

#### **Desert Ecology:**

Through an interactive program students will learn about our desert ecosystem and the three habitats indigenous to the Coachella Valley, the palm oasis, the wash, and the sand dune. After discussing plants and animals students will construct a food chain for each habitat. Students will then confront ecology problems which simulate real life and try to reach a solution.

## Living Desert Staff-Led Programs

\$75\* (*Available select Wednesdays only*)

### All Ages

#### **Amazing Bats: Power Point Presentations**

Bats are amazing flying mammals that are a wonder to all. Discover why they are not only interesting, but very important to our desert community as pollinators. Along with sounds and fabulous colored pictures, hands-on biofacts will also be presented.

#### **Amazing Ants: Power Point Presentations**

Millions of ants are among us daily; find out about their zany way of life and their importance and connection to our lives. Along with fabulous colored pictures, hands-on biofacts will also be presented.

#### **Amazing Desert Insects: Visual/Hands-on**

Creepy? Crawley? Insects are the most abundant life form on our planet. Discover how they have partnered with humans in our desert, and have become an integral part of our lives. You will learn to identify and appreciate these diverse and amazing creatures.

#### **Amazing Rocks: Visual/Hands-on**

This program explains the rock cycle- the forces of nature that form and transform rock into what we see around us. Students will be able to answer the burning question ‘how did all this sand get here?’

Contact program coordinator [Linda Gaeta](#) for more information, or to schedule a

**ZOO-TO-YOU** classroom outreach!

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