



Palm Desert / Indian Wells - 47-900 Portola Avenue - Palm Desert, CA 92260 760-346-5694 / Fax 760-568-9685 - www.LivingDesert.org

CHAPERONE GUIDE TO THE LIVING DESERT

Thank you so much for being a Youth Tour chaperone for your visit to The Living Desert! We need your help to make this trip a success. It is not necessary for you to know The Living Desert in order to be a good chaperone, you just need the desire to see your group has safe and enjoyable visit.

WHAT IS THE LIVING DESERT?

The Living Desert is a Wildlife and Botanical Park in Palm Desert dedicated to preserving and interpreting deserts of the world. It's an Adventure in Education!

CHAPERONE RESPONSIBILITIES

Chaperones are responsible for the behavior and safety of the students in their charge and are required to stay with their assigned group at all times. Your full attention will be needed to make this a successful visit, so we ask that cell phones and pagers be turned off or left at home and that you not bring toddlers or infants in strollers with you. **Chaperones must be at least 21 years of age** and in the case of High School groups, may not be a student.

WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?

- Wear closed toed shoes
- Comfortable clothing
- A hat
- Sunscreen
- A light jacket in winter
- Wear a nametag with your school or group name on it only.

BRING AND NOT BRING:

- Bottled water
- Camera
- Binoculars
- No backpacks filled with personal items or food.
(Please minimize what students bring with them.)

HOW CAN I HELP?

Each grouping of students needs a chaperone to keep them safe, together and to help maintain order. Make sure your students, teachers and chaperones know and remember these guidelines:

LIVING DESERT GUIDELINES FOR A SUCCESSFUL FIELD TRIP:

- **WALK:** animals hide when they see or hear running children!
- **QUIET:** Noise scares the animals and annoys other visitors. If they are asleep, please do not wake them up. If they are local animals, please leave them alone Do not chase them or torment them.

- **RESPECT:** the plants, the animals, the other visitors, and yourselves.
- **RESIST:** the urge to climb. Please do not stand, sit, or climb on the wooden fences, berms, rocks, or any other objects in the park.
- **REFRAIN:** from eating on the trails and do not feed any of the animals.
- **STAY:** on the main paths. Stay with your chaperones. Watch out for moving vehicles, golf carts, and trams. Do not run ahead or lag behind.

IMPORTANT: *Throwing ANYTHING (including food items) at an animal or into an animal enclosure is grounds for immediate expulsion from the park! We have the right to remove any person or group for unsuitable behavior.*

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

- Pay attention with your eyes, ears, and noses to discover the wonders of the desert.
- Follow ALL directions given to you by the “Living Desert” Staff and Volunteers.
- Docents often ask questions of the children during the tour. Please allow the children to respond and save any questions you may have for the end of the tour.
- If you plan on attending one of our Wildlife Wonders Shows, be aware the amphitheater has limited seating, which is taken on a first come first served basis. You may not save seats for other members of your group! Arrive early.
- If desired, students may visit our gift shops with permission of their chaperone. Please only allow ten students and two chaperones to enter at one time. No students are allowed in the gift shop without a chaperone.
- The Discovery Center is open to the public daily from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE:

- Ask students to put any trash in the unmarked trashcans. Place Aluminum Cans, Glass and Recyclable Plastic items in the Recycle Bins.
- Be sure you have all your students and their belongings. Your group is responsible for getting all boxes, coolers, and leftover lunches to your bus/vehicle.

HAVE FUN AND ENJOY THE PARK!