

Wildlife Tracking Activities and Classes in 2018 at the Adobe Ranch House in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

Every Quarter:

Wildlife Survey Volunteer Training

Dates: Saturdays January 20, April 21, July 21, and October 13.

Time: 7:45 am – 12:30pm

Location: Adobe Ranch House in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve

This FREE half-day class prepares you to participate on surveys that monitor the wildlife in Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve and other major open space preserves. You will learn about basic track and scat identification, habitat fragmentation, survey transects, data collection protocols, and conservation.

Please pre-register at info@sdt.org or 760-715-4102.

Twice a Year Series:

Tracker/Naturalist Classes—Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced

****** Develop your wildlife tracking knowledge and skills with this series of classes ******

Each class includes a two-hour classroom session at the Ranch House on a Wednesday evening from 7–9 pm AND an all-day Saturday field session from 8 am – approx. 3:30 pm. (Check www.sdt.org/events/Calendar.aspx for specific dates.)

Cost: \$50 per class (\$10 discount for SDTT members).

Pre-registration is required. Email info@sdt.org or call 760-715-4102 to register.

Curriculum:

Beginning T/N class: We concentrate on basic mammal track and sign identification to determine who made the track and briefly introduce the concept of track patterns and gaits as a means to interpret how an animal moves. Students are introduced to sketching and field journaling to reinforce learning objectives.

Intermediate T/N class: This class expands the students ability to identify a wider range of wildlife tracks over a variety of substrates, and comparing and contrasting tracks that are often confused by beginning trackers. Sign identification is enhanced by the introduction of skulls and jaws. We go deeper into the interpretation phase through additional track pattern and gait analyses and field experience (=dirt time). The basics of "aging" (=estimating age of) tracks and signs aging is presented.

Advanced T/N class: The third and final class in the Tracker/Naturalist series concentrates on fine details and continued development of the students proficiency as a tracker. We provide substantial dirt time for students to practice and verify track identification, to interpret observations, and to "age" tracks and signs accurately so students can discover areas of weakness and strength. A detailed discussion of track patterns and gaits is presented. We also give students a taste of a tracker evaluation should they wish to pursue CyberTracker certification in the future.