



THE WILDLANDS CONSERVANCY MISSION CREEK PRESERVE

Dear Teacher:

Thank you for reserving an outdoor school program for your **4th grade** students to **Mission Creek Preserve**. Your program date is **Oct. 25**, for approximately **65 students**. We will expect your bus or cars between **9:30 - 10 am**. Departure is from **12:30 to 1 pm**. Please call ahead if your bus time changes. This letter will help insure that you and your students will arrive with everything needed to enjoy your visit. The combination for the gate will be **(lock combination)**. **Please share the gate combination and the following directions with your bus driver:**

The Preserve's physical address is 60550 Mission Creek Rd, Desert Hot Springs. It is west of Hwy 62 on Mission Creek Road, about 1.5 miles north of Pierson Rd. and 1.5 miles south of Indian Avenue. Travel on Mission Creek Rd. (dirt and gravel) for about 1.5 miles till you reach The Wildlands Conservancy's gate. The above combination will open the green lock, farthest to the right. Please lock the gate behind you upon entering and leaving the preserve. Proceed 1.6 miles to the Stone House parking lot.

We will meet your bus near the Stone House for an introduction. Students should bring water and leave heavy backpacks and lunches in the Stone House. We will break the children into groups for a 1 hr. and 15 minute walk. We generally have five guides for a group of 60 students. After the walk and picnic lunch we will break into groups for activities.

Please be advised that we have only two restrooms and make sure all children use the restroom before leaving school, as restroom visits can delay program time substantially. It is also a very good idea to remind children to **eat breakfast** on the day of the trip, as lunch will be after the walk. Mission Creek is miles away from trash pickup, so we ask all visitors, including students, to pack out their own lunch trash in their backpacks. If your students do not bring backpack, please bring garbage bags for your class. Our **Pack it In, Pack it Out** policy prepares your students for visiting our preserves with their families.

We ask you to provide **1 adult chaperone for every 10-12 children**.

Our focus is on the watershed and all programs include proximity to water. Please make sure that your students are wearing appropriate outdoor clothing and are prepared for extreme, windy and possibly wet weather. It is important that they wear closed-toe shoes with reasonable tread for hiking over rocky terrain and that they dress in layers for changing weather conditions. **Please make sure students bring water and that they keep it with them.**

Don't forget to help us improve our programs by filling out the Teacher Evaluation forms after your trip. TWC is a California nonprofit 501(c) (3) public benefit corporation dedicated to preserving the beauty and biodiversity of the earth, and providing programs so that children may know the wonder and joy of nature. **TWC provides all education programs free of cost. Donations from your school will help us continue to provide this important community service.**

We look forward to meeting you and your students!

Caroline Conway
Education Director, Desert Preserves

