



Campfire Talk- Desert Musings: How to Experience the Desert this Holiday Season- Family Resources

Fun Websites to Explore the Outdoors from Home:

[Joshua Tree National Park Virtual Tour](#)- Using Google Earth you can take a 3-D tour of Oasis of Mara, Barker Dam, and Arch Rock.

[Discover Great Basin Archaeology](#)- BLM website with 3-D virtual tours of historic (mining) and prehistoric (petroglyphs) sites in Southeastern Nevada.

[Paleobiology Database](#)- You can virtually search fossils in your area. You can search by fossil type, geologic time, and location! My kids (and I) have spent a lot of time looking at fossil finds in our area.

[Mitchell Caverns](#)- Take a 3-D tour of Mitchell Caverns and learn more about Providence Mountains SRA.

[Natural History Museum in Los Angeles](#)- Families can take virtual tours of the NHM including the dinosaur hall, exhibit on local insects, and more. Links to La Brea Tar Pits can be found on the website, you can learn and explore the desert during the Ice Age.

[Find Your Virtual Park](#)- NPS website that allows you to find activities and take virtual tours of different National Parks.

[Citizen Science](#)- Federal Crowdsourcing and Citizen Science Catalog; join a Citizen Science project that interests you. You can also do an internet search for citizen science projects as well.

[Earth Sky](#)- A great website that allows you to find upcoming sky events in your area.

[Parks and Trails with Treks](#)- You can find different California State Parks to take virtual tours of through Google Trekker.

Helpful Websites:

[Leave No Trace](#)- Outdoor ethics website.

[Every Kid Outdoors](#)- Fourth (and 5th this year) grade Interagency Pass.

[Recreation.gov](#)- For making reservations on federal land if necessary.

[Bureau of Land Management](#)- Official BLM website.

[National Park Service](#)- Official NPS website.



[United States Geological Survey](#)- Official website, provides maps and information, you can also purchase an Interagency Pass through the USGS store.

[California State Parks](#)- Official website for the State Park system.

[National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)- Official NOAA website, you can access weather and other kinds of data.

[Prevent Wildfire](#)- Cal Fire website, used to obtain a fire permit.

Dispersed and Backcountry Camping Reminders:

Dispersed camp sites are located along most secondary roads and may not be marked.

Disturbed areas that have been used as a camp site before can be recognized by the telltale flat spots, please use existing sites to avoid creating new disturbances.

Practice Pack-in-Packout and Leave No Trace

You need to be $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ mile from any know water source.

Bury human waste in a hole at least 6 inches deep.

You will need a fire permit for all types of flames.

All wood needs to be brought in, no collecting of vegetation. (It's also best to buy your wood as local to the area you want to camp, to avoid introducing invasive species like boring beetles.)

Bring plenty of water, enough for you whole family. (My family of 4 goes through 10 gallons in 3 days, this includes washing and drinking water.)