



The Official Newsletter of the Death Valley Natural History Association

# TELESCOPE

## EDUCATION

Volume 64  
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Summer 2019

### FROM THE DIRECTOR

By David Blacker, Executive Director  
DVNHA

If you ask my teachers, they'd probably tell you I was not a very good student. It wasn't until high school that I found my love for history and devoured everything I could get! The same thing happened when I went to work at the Grand Canyon—standing there on the rim looking down, I wanted to know how it happened. My desire for lifelong learning has become even stronger since coming to Death Valley. It is one of the reasons I am so proud of DVNHA's education programs.

When you see the eyes of kids light up when they see science and history right in front of them, it's amazing! This is why DVNHA has been supporting education programs through our Death Valley R.O.C.K.S. program—covering the transportation costs of school groups coming to Death Valley from all over Southern California and Southern Nevada.

For us older kids, we have an ever-expanding list of programs for the general public provided by our Death Valley Institute. For even more mature students, we have our partnership with Road Scholar to provide multi-day hiking programs for different levels of physical ability.

Be sure to look on the back page for some of these programs.

We have supported college researchers and field studies programs for years, but probably the most underrated educational events we put on have been the Death Valley History Conference and our newer Science Conference. Hundreds of papers have been presented and more than a thousand people have attended over the years. We are now preparing for our 2nd Death Valley Science Conference in June of 2020. Now before you get all worked up about how hot it will be—we will be inside in the air conditioned auditorium at the Furnace Creek Visitor Center. We hope to get the best presenters by holding the conference when the spring semester lets out for the summer.

No matter what age you are, if you want to learn about this incredible land of extremes, you can always join us for a class. Or, make a donation to help bring more school groups here for a learning adventure they'll never forget.

*David*



Our 2nd Death Valley Science Conference will take place in June 2020, but we need to find presenters today! We're publishing a free video series from the event that will be accessible to a worldwide audience interested in what makes Death Valley tick. Would you like to present your first-hand scientific research in this fashion? Please read our submission guidelines for instructions on how to submit: [dvnha.org/programs-events/science-conference](https://dvnha.org/programs-events/science-conference)

Proposals must be received by October 14, 2019 to be considered.





# Death Valley R.O.C.K.S.

The Death Valley R.O.C.K.S. (Recreation Outdoors Campaign for Kids through Study) program continues to astonish those we serve. Through the years, your contributions have helped provide education support staff, equipment for overnight visits, and transportation assistance to help bus thousands of students to the amazing outdoor classroom of Death Valley National Park!

Death Valley National Park's education program currently facilitates classroom visits and day field trips with students from Nevada and California. During the 2018-2019 school year, the education program reached over 2,300 students through pre-trip and post-trip classroom programs, and immersive field trips. Most classes receive a pre-visit from education rangers in the classroom prior to their great adventure. This interactive presentation introduces students to the concept of a national park and the mission of the National Park Service. Teachers conduct a post-trip activity encouraging students to reflect on their experience.

The field trip lessons correlate with Next Generation Science Standards for life and earth sciences. Students visit different habitats in Death Valley, including Salt Creek—habitat to endemic pupfish—where the students explore how the underground aquifer and surface water affect the habitat. The students think critically about how sediment influences the movement of water and how water shapes rocks and sediment—they discover how these forces affect the habitat of this endangered species.

The program continues to grow and evolve to meet the needs of the local rural and urban schools. We'd also like to thank the National Park Foundation and the Kopczynski Family Foundation for providing additional funding this last year. If you'd like to help us continue to bring more students this next season: please visit our website at [dvnha.org](http://dvnha.org) to donate online; mail in a check payment indicating R.O.C.K.S. in the memo field; or give us a call at 1-800-478-8564 ext. 10. Thank you for supporting this program!

Gateway Elementary students visiting Death Valley National Park to investigate pupfish habitat. Photo courtesy of: Nate Kimbler.

*"When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts."*

-Dalai Lama

#LovePublicLands

Opportunities at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge Abound!

## Tour the Night Sky!

Saturday, October 26  
@ the Visitor Center  
7 p.m. - 10 p.m.



- Telescopes & tutorial provided
- Binoculars are encouraged
- Event is free but space is limited!

Please RSVP by emailing [peter\\_pearfall@fws.gov](mailto:peter_pearfall@fws.gov) or calling 775-372-5435 ext. 118

## CATTAIL REMOVAL @ CRYSTAL SPRING

Sept. 28, 2019 9 a.m.–12 p.m.



Join Refuge staff as we improve habitat for native species by removing cattails from Crystal Spring!

Meet at the Visitor Center at 9 a.m. Bring lunch. Dress for warm weather and/or wading. Tools and refreshments provided.

Please RSVP by emailing [peter\\_pearfall@fws.gov](mailto:peter_pearfall@fws.gov) or calling 775-372-5435 ext. 118



Anticipate educational boardwalk tours every Saturday morning throughout the Winter/Spring at Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge. Check their website, [fws.gov/refuge/ash\\_meadows](http://fws.gov/refuge/ash_meadows) for more information as the season approaches.



Your support has helped us provide

**\$6,000,000**

[SIX MILLION DOLLARS]

in aid to **Death Valley National Park** and  
**Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge**  
since our inception in 1954!



**DEATH VALLEY**  
**NATURAL HISTORY**  
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est. 1954

## TELESCOPE

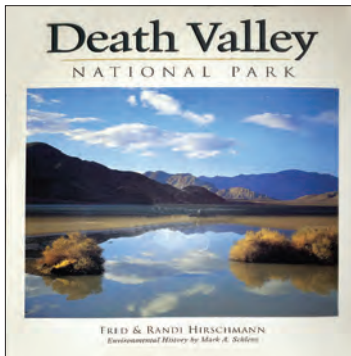
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We never have enough room on our renewal forms to include images—so we thought you might want to see what renewal gift options are currently available:

SUSTAINING



SPONSOR

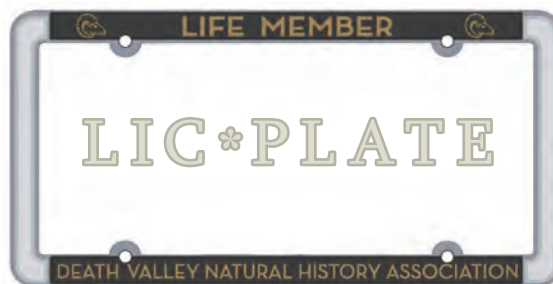


\*New licence plate available for those who join or renew at the Lifetime membership level.

Also available by request for those already holding Lifetime member status (\$10 fee for shipping and handling).

Place your request via our online store at: [dvnha.org/opencart](http://dvnha.org/opencart).

LIFETIME



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*Ash Meadows Visitor Services*

#### NEWSLETTER DESIGN

Kimber Moore Design



**DEATH VALLEY**  
NATURAL HISTORY  
ASSOCIATION

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*Inspiring a passion for Death Valley National Park  
and Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge*

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DEATH VALLEY, CA  
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Call for presenters:  
**Science Conference**

**2020**

Submissions due: **October 14<sup>th</sup>**  
details inside!

## UPCOMING DEATH VALLEY INSTITUTE FIELD SCHOOL EVENTS:

- **Titus Narrows Photo Excursion with Thomas Fallon Mackey** –October 19, 2019
- **Hiking History: Jayhawkers Day 1, McLean Spring** –November 2, 2019
- **Hiking History: Jayhawkers Day 2, Jayhawker Canyon** –November 3, 2019
- **Death Valley Geology Discovery Tour: The Hunt for Tortured Rocks** –November 8 - 11, 2019
- **Paleontology Hiking Tour with Dr. Torrey Nyborg** – November 16, 2019
- **Titus Canyon Driving Tour with Author Ken Lengner** –November 23, 2019
- **Paleontology Hiking Tour with Dr. Torrey Nyborg** –December 14, 2019
- **Death Valley Through Your Eye: A Death Valley Photography Workshop** –January 17 - 19, 2020

**Interested? We'd love for you to join us!**  
Find full program descriptions, pricing  
and registration at: [dvnha.org](http://dvnha.org)

A Road Scholar educational provider  
since 2013!  
Register for hiking program #6120 at:  
[roadscholar.org](http://roadscholar.org)

**ROAD SCHOLAR** Program: #6120 Hiking Death Valley National Park  
Activity Level: Outdoor Spirited  
• January 5 - 10, 2020  
• January 26 - 31, 2020  
• February 2 - 7, 2020  
• February 23 - 28, 2020  
Activity Level: Outdoor Challenging  
• January 12 - 17, 2020  
• February 9 - 14, 2020