

Santa Rita Overnight Adventure: Saturday, August 30, 3:00 p.m. to Sunday, August 31, 10:00 a.m. at Florida Canyon Station.

Pre-trip Information and Packing List

The Florida Canyon Field Station is located in the foothills of the Santa Rita Mountains 35 miles south of Tucson. Nestled along a seasonally-flowing creek with mature riparian trees, it is a beautiful location to explore the diversity of life in our region, especially that brought forth by monsoon rains. Lodging is in three dormitory-style bunkhouses with rooms that sleep 4-8 people: you will need to bring your own bedding and pillow. Each bunkhouse has shared bathrooms. The Field Station has a fully equipped kitchen and common space for meal prep and serving. We will provide snacks, dinner, and breakfast for everyone, (please let us know about any food restrictions/allergies you may have when you fill out the trip forms,) but you are welcome to bring any additional food items that you desire.

To reach the Florida Canyon Station, from Exit 63 of the I-19, drive on Continental Road following signs for Madera Canyon. Turn then right on Whitehouse Road, and continue past milepost 7 to Road 62. Drive on Road 62 for 0.4 miles to Road 62A, then drive on Road 62A for 2.8 miles to Florida Canyon.

What to Expect:

The weather will be comparable to Tucson, but with the proximity to the mountains and the season, there is a chance for afternoon rain. We plan to do some short hikes on trails, explore the riparian canyon next to the station, look for day-active and night-active creatures, and if skies permit, do some star gazing.

Overview of Schedule/Activities:

Saturday, August 30

- 3:00 p.m. Arrive, check-in, bring belongings to bunk houses
- 3:15 p.m. Meet each other with name games
- 3:45 p.m. Exploratory hike to look for life around the station
- 4:45 p.m. Stream play, aquatics exploration
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner
- 7:00 p.m. Blacklighting for nocturnal arthropods, owl calling, star gazing
- 8:00 p.m. campfire or songs/stories, snack
- 9:00 p.m. Get ready for sleep
- 9:30 p.m. Lights out



Sunday, August 31

6:30 a.m. Birdwatching (optional)

7:00 a.m. Breakfast

7:45 a.m. More to explore!

9:45 a.m. Wrap up and collect belongings

10:00 a.m. Depart for home or further adventures!

What to Bring:

- Closed-toed shoes with good traction for hiking
- Water shoes for walking in the canyon stream if flowing
- Socks, underwear, pants/shorts, shirt, long-sleeved shirt or light jacket for evening/morning temperatures
- Rain jacket or poncho (optional)
- Clothing for getting wet in stream play
- Pajamas/sleep clothing
- Bedding: sheet and blanket or sleeping bag, pillow
- Towel
- Toiletries (toothpaste, toothbrush, sunscreen, lip balm, etc)
- Flashlight or headlamp
- UV “black light” for viewing nocturnal arthropods (optional – we will bring some to share)
- Binoculars (optional – again, we will have them to share)
- Water bottle
- Sun hat
- Snacks of your own (optional)
- Insect repellent (optional)
- Phone charger (adults. If children have phones, we encourage them to leave them at home.)

Questions?

Please reach out to Robin Kropp at rkropp@desertmuseum.org or 520-883-3034 (office phone) if you have any questions. Robin’s cell phone is 520-490-5891 if you need to contact staff the day of the event.

