

Expedition Days on the Trail

Hands-on • Inquiry-based • Engaging

Bring your students to the McDowell Sonoran Preserve for an interactive STEAM-based field trip at Kovach Family Nature Trail at the Lost Dog Wash Trailhead! Students will collect data as they investigate the Sonoran Desert and learn how they can take positive actions in its conservation. This program aligns with Arizona Science Standards and is designed for groups of up to 120 3rd or 4th grade students.

3rd Grade: Sonoran Desert Wildlife

3.L1U1.5: Develop and use models to explain that plants and animals (incl. humans) have internal and external structures that serve various functions that aid in growth, survival, behavior, and reproduction.

3.L2U1.6: Plan and carry out investigations to demonstrate ways plants and animals react to stimuli.

3.L2U1.7: Develop and use system models to describe the flow of energy from the Sun to and among living organisms.

3.L2U1.8: Construct an argument from evidence that organisms are interdependent.

BioBlitz Hike

Students will become scientists as they learn about desert animals by participating in a short hike where they will observe and record signs of wildlife around them.



Sonoran Desert Mammals

Students will study desert wildlife adaptations as they work to identify mammals using animal skull replicas, tracks, and trail camera photos.



4th Grade: Sonoran Desert Climate

4.E1U1.6: Plan and carry out an investigation to explore and explain the interactions between Earth's major systems and the impact of Earth's surface materials and processes.

4.E1U2.10: Define problem(s) and design solution(s) to minimize the effects of natural hazards.

4.P4U1.1: Develop and use a model to demonstrate how a system transfers energy from one object to another even when the objects are not touching.

4.L4U1.11: Analyze and interpret environmental data to demonstrate that species either adapt and survive or go extinct over time.

Observational Hike

Students will learn how the Earth's systems created the unique qualities of the Sonoran Desert by collecting data on plant adaptations and exploring how organisms have evolved to survive here.



Temperature Study

Students will use infrared thermometers to study the differences in temperatures of various materials to better understand the importance of natural spaces for wildlife.



Additional Info

Duration: 1.5 hours

Cost: Free!

Maximum Number of Students: 120 students

Chaperones Required: 1 for every 10 students

Location

[Kovach Family Nature Trail](#) at [Lost Dog Wash Trailhead](#) 12601 N. 124th St. Scottsdale, AZ 85259. This is a flat trail with an enhanced level of accessibility and limited shade. The trailhead has bathrooms as well as water fountains. For further details please see our website.