



Friends of the  
Desert Mountains

## PRESS RELEASE

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September 18, 2009

### **Friends of the Desert Mountains Announces Junior Trail Guides Program, Issues Call for ‘Young Explorer’ Applicants**

**Palm Desert, Calif., (March 13, 2009)** – Palm Desert, Calif., - (September 18, 2009) – Friends of the Desert Mountains is accepting applications for its new Junior Trail Guides Program – a free creative learning experience for children ages 9-12, focused on outdoor safety, natural sciences and cultural anthropology. The program focuses on education for learning and practicing safe exploration techniques on desert trails – and will be held at the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center, located at 51-500 Highway 74, in Palm Desert.

The program begins on Saturday, October 10, 2009 and continues through Saturday, April 10, 2010 on the second Saturday of the month from noon – 4 p.m. Space is limited to 15 young explorers per event and on a first come, first served basis.

Registration is required. Interested participants can log onto Friends’ website at [www.desertmountains.org](http://www.desertmountains.org) for an application; contact the Visitor Center at 760-862-9984; or email Interpretive Ranger, Danielle Ortiz, at [dortiz@fs.fed.us](mailto:dortiz@fs.fed.us).

The program is supported by several corporate and foundation sponsors, including Gannett Foundation, The Coeta and Donald Barker Foundation, Whitewater Rock & Supply Company, The Community Foundation and Chino Cienega Foundation.

#### ***About Friends of the Desert Mountains***

Friends of the Desert Mountains is a Palm Desert-based non profit organization dedicated to protecting the magnificent mountains, scenic vistas, recreation trails and natural open spaces that make up the Coachella Valley. Its mission is to secure, acquire and preserve lands in the Coachella Valley and the surrounding mountains, and to support education, conservation and preservation in the Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument. To date, Friends of the Desert Mountains has acquired more than 35,000 acres of land throughout the Coachella Valley.

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Let’s be Friends.