

EARTH SKILLS 2012

Since 1987

New Classes in 2012:

- Feline Tracking Weekend
- Intuitive Tracking
- Primitive Stone Tool Kit

Popular revivals:

- Edible Plants
- Nature Awareness
- Moccasins
- Trailing & Mapping
- Fall Traditional Skills

The Essentials:

- Basic & Advanced Tracking
- Wilderness Skills
- Plant Uses
- Earth Philosophy 1-3
- Solo Spiritual Quest



Clockwise from upper left: Basic Tracking in Joshua Tree, Captive mountain lion; Preparing to hide in Nature Awareness; Firestarting in Wilderness Skills; Moccasin modeling; Edible Plant Cooking



EARTH SKILLS 2012 Since 1987

1113 Cougar Court, Frazier Park, CA 93225
661-245-0318 • www.earthskills.com • jim@earthskills.com

* = classes with no prerequisite

Group trainings may also be scheduled.

Tracking

More than following a trail, more than identifying a track, more than reading the landscape, tracking is learning how to “become the animal.” With your skills of visualization and interpretation you step across a threshold into its world. The ancient skill teaches you attention to detail, calm focus and expanded awareness, and will really make the landscape come alive – whether you’re a novice or an experienced outdoorsperson.

Classes in 2012:

- *Basic Tracking
- *Basic Tracking in Joshua Tree
- *Grandfather Awareness
- Intuitive Tracking
- Nature Awareness
- Advanced Tracking
- Trailing & Mapping
- Dirt Time Workshops: Feline Tracking Weekend
Fall Tracking event TBA

Wilderness Skills

Knowledge about the wilderness can make you safe, it can make you confident; but it definitely does make you involved. Sleeping in a primitive shelter, making fire without matches, preparing and sampling wild edibles – these are the experiences that make you part of the wilderness you’re walking through. They also bring you closer to the “ancient ways” of native peoples, from whom many of the skills are learned.

Classes in 2012:

- *Plant Uses
- *Edible Plant Workshop
- *Wilderness Skills
- *A Primitive Survival Tool Kit
- *Moccasins
- *Fall Native Culture Weekend: Gift -Making Workshop

Earth Philosophy

Many of our students consider the Earth Philosophy classes to be the most important and relevant classes we teach, and we definitely concur. In these workshops, you are not really learning, but rather “relearning” the skills of awareness, openness, and intuition. We’re convinced that the earth philosophy skills are essential to really master tracking and survival, because they steadily increase your confidence and greatly expand your awareness. We are indebted to Tom Brown, Jr., for passing on ancient, universally relevant techniques.

Classes in 2012:

- *Intuitive Skills Workshop (=Earth Philosophy 1)
- Personal Skills Workshop (=Earth Philosophy2)
- Community Skills Workshop (=Earth Philosophy 3)
- *Solo Spiritual Quest

About Earth Skills Certificates

Students who take a series of classes in a subject area earn a Certificate in one of three areas. They are:

Tracking & Awareness Certificate

Basic Tracking plus Advanced Tracking plus either Nature Awareness or any Dirt Time Workshop

Wilderness Skills Certificate

Wilderness Skills plus Plant Uses

Earth Philosophy Certificate

Intuitive Skills, Personal Skills & Community Skills (Earth Philosophy 1-3)

BASIC TRACKING & AWARENESS

(NO PREREQUISITE)

Basic Tracking gives you a solid introduction into mammal track and sign identification, as well as nature awareness techniques that will make your future outings exponentially richer. Working closely with the instructors, you will practice identifying and interpreting tracks from clear prints and patterns, and will learn how to read signs and what they say about animal feeding, breeding and behavior. We show you how tracks are “windows” to animals’ body language and biology. Finally, you learn methods to slow the mind and body so that you see, hear and experience more than you ever have.

BASIC TRACKING IN JOSHUA TREE

(NO PREREQUISITE)

This two-day Basic Tracking class takes advantage of a splendid location, a private campground in Joshua Tree. We will introduce track identification with abundant field practice as we track jack-rabbits, foxes, bobcats, coyotes and other desert animals. We will cover mammal signs, track interpretation and awareness skills. This class is offered through the Desert Institute.

This class counts as a Basic Tracking class, but is also open to those who have already taken Basic Tracking.

GRANDFATHER AWARENESS CLASS

(NO PREREQUISITE)

We have so many memories of crazy assignments in the Pine Barrens as we began to learn earth skills – and they all trace back to Stalking Wolf’s, or Grandfather’s, way of experiencing the natural world, and the awesome possibilities he bequeathed to Tom Brown and his extended family, which includes you. Last year we went back to these roots with a thoroughly enjoyable class, so we’re repeating the opportunity in 2012. This class will include activities we don’t include in our tracking and nature awareness workshops. We’ll “go ask the mice,” extend our awareness through multiple veils, sneak around, sit, hide, and be drawn to animal and plant teachers – all to access the world described in those wonderful stories in *The Tracker* and other Tom Brown, Jr. books. Young people from 12 to 17 may come along at half price.

February 11 (Saturday), Malibu Creek

April 21-22, Tracking in Joshua Tree, see below

***June 22** (Friday), Windy Springs Preserve

September 15 (Saturday), Malibu Creek

December 1 (Saturday), Malibu Creek

\$68 (plus \$15.00 including discounted *Tracker’s Field Guide* if desired)

** May be taken by itself or in conjunction with Advanced Tracking and Trailing & Mapping.*

April 21-22 (Saturday - Sunday), Joshua Tree National Park

\$110 Enroll through the Desert Institute (760-367-5535 or at <http://desertinstitute.homestead.com/classes/survival/tracking.html>)

March 3 (Saturday), Frazier Park

\$60

INTUITIVE TRACKING

We are very excited to offer this new workshop focused on intuitive methods to find tracks, to follow trails through difficult stretches, and to “connect to the animal” in a deeper way. The practice and exercises you will undertake are based on our own extensive work over the past three years following trails from deer to mice, using intuition in equal measure with practical tracking techniques. We recommend this class especially for serious trackers who’ve invested some quality dirt time (for example in Advanced Tracking, a Dirt Time workshop or their own field work) and want to expand the possibilities. Also our Earth Philosophy graduates who’ve done some tracking and for whom the intuitive techniques are familiar, will find powerful ways to reinforce their skills. If you are a less experienced tracker but are willing to work hard to open a new door, call us and we’ll see how this workshop might work for you.

March 4 (Sunday), Malibu Creek SP

\$60

FIVE-DAY TRACKING INTENSIVE AT WINDY SPRINGS

Whenever we hold tracking workshops at Windy Springs, it seems like we’re just getting to know the bears, cougars, foxes and chipmunks we track, when we have to pack up and leave! Well this year we’ll stay for a full five days, spending time to follow trails for hours, roam widely to understand animals’ movement patterns, and access individual animals’ personalities through tracks. You may join us for all or part of the week depending on your wishes and what you’ve done already tracking-wise. Windy Springs is privately owned but we can also explore habitat along the south fork of the Kern River as far as Clover Meadow. This class is a thankful nod to our past because, when we began to learn tracking in the 1980’s, the Kern River was one of our principal study areas. Here’s the schedule:

June 22-26 (Friday morning through Tuesday afternoon), Windy Springs Preserve

\$498

Day 1. Basic Tracking. Introduction into track identification and interpretation, with lots of practice in an awesome tracking area. (If you’ve taken this before you may enroll at half price as a refresher.)

Days 2-3. Advanced Tracking. Following challenging trails, pressure releases, animal sign scouting, advanced awareness and human tracking practice.

Days 4-5. Trailing and Mapping. Following individual animals for long distances (in small teams and individually), intuitive tracking, understanding your animal. Surveying and understanding animal movement patterns through large-scale exploration and mapping.

The above-listed price covers all five days and includes four dinners; participants bring their own breakfasts and lunches. Pricing for partial attendance is as follows: Basic & Advanced Tracking, \$293, Advanced Tracking & Trailing / Mapping \$440; Advanced Tracking or Trailing / Mapping \$225 each.

The class will be at Windy Springs Preserve in the southern Sierras near Kennedy Meadows, where the tracking is fantastic.

ADVANCED TRACKING

(BASIC TRACKING REQUIRED)

Becoming an advanced tracker means above all being able to see nuances the novice would miss: spotting tracks in pine needles, leaves or on hard-packed ground; noticing subtleties in track aging; being able to follow an animal across difficult terrain. The advanced tracker also gains confidence in reading tracks for motion

June 23-24* (Saturday - Sunday), Windy Springs Preserve

\$225

*May be taken back-to-back with Trailing & Mapping the following two days,

and in distinguishing tracks of individual animals of the same species. Finally, he or she learns to be less obtrusive and more alert to the rhythms of nature. We know that the complete tracker must draw on the different talents of analysis, perspective and intuition. Thus this class gives you practice in all of those things. You will track animals across challenging terrain, practice reading soil movement or “pressure releases” in tracks, learn to read patterns of animal movement on the landscape, and stalk quietly at night. In teams, you will track the instructors as a final exercise.

TRAILING & MAPPING

(ADVANCED TRACKING OR EQUIVALENT EXPERIENCE REQUIRED)

We follow the Advanced Tracking workshop with two days of intensive tracking work based on intriguing questions that emerge there. We will follow animals’ trails for long distances, interpreting their choices and learning methods to keep on track after “hitting the wall.” We will practice intuitive tracking and reading the personality of individual animals through their tracks. Finally we’ll explore the preserve and adjacent areas widely to understand larger-scale patterns of animal use and travel, keying this to seasonal habits and biology of the resident bears, mountain lions, gray foxes and other mammals.

DIRT TIME WORKSHOPS

Because tracking is so varied, we offer Dirt Time Workshops that will enable the student to get out in the field to learn from different approaches in different locations. These workshops are one-time only, or at least will *not* be repeated often. Some require only the Basic Tracking class as a prerequisite; others require Advanced Tracking. (Please don’t ask us to make an exception to the prerequisites, as they are there for a reason.) For 2011 we are offering:

FELINE TRACKING WEEKEND

(BASIC TRACKING REQUIRED)

This weekend, consisting of two one-day classes, offers new experiences in feline tracking. We’ll spend part of Saturday with a captive mountain lion at Working Wildlife, studying gaits, track patterns and body language as expressed in the tracks. Also that day, at the Feline Conservation Center in Rosamond, we will study tracks of captive ocelot and jaguarundi. (Though not found in California, an ocelot was documented in Arizona in 2011, and there have been unconfirmed sightings of jaguarundi there in recent years.) We’ll also learn about behavior and biology of these cats, as well as about their resident lynx and jaguar (a jaguar was also sighted in Arizona in late 2011). Finally on Saturday we’ll offer an indoor slide program about mountain lion behavior, signs, interaction with humans, and some good practice in distinguishing cougar and dog tracks.

Sunday’s field outing dovetails nicely with Saturday’s feline study, but it’s also excellent practice in and of itself, in surveying, trailing and understanding habitat use through tracks and signs. We’ll focus on bobcat habitat, mapping trails, signs and use of these animal’s home ranges. You may enroll in either or both days. Both classes have limited space, so enroll early.

June 25-26* (Monday - Tuesday), Windy Springs Preserve

\$225

*May be taken back-to-back with Advanced Tracking the previous two days,

May 5-6 (Saturday - Sunday), Frazier Park area

\$105 Saturday, \$65 Sunday, \$150 both days

FALL TRACKING WORKSHOP
(BASIC TRACKING REQUIRED)

We are scouting the options for an October or November 2012 tracking workshop.

NATURE AWARENESS

The Nature Awareness class emphasizes stalking, camouflage and quiet sits, so if you're drawn to sneak around in the woods and watch animals, this is the weekend for you. Our base camp is a rich mountain habitat at 8200 feet. You extend the fine-tuning of your senses many-fold from what you learned in Basic Tracking. You practice reading fine details in the "concentric rings" of the forest. Then, you learn to walk with a mind and feet so quiet that you move like a shadow. You travel in scouting parties and disappear quickly through simple camouflage. This is one of our most fun classes, and it will profoundly change your future experiences in the outdoors.

WILDERNESS SKILLS
(NO PREREQUISITE)

A full three days of projects involving shelter, water, fire and food will give you a solid background in wilderness survival priorities, and show what it is like to set up a survival camp. Individual and group projects include debris huts, bow drill firemaking, cordage, survival basket weaving, stone tools and traps, among others. Many novices as well as experienced outdoorspeople have taken this class, and it is likely that one or more of the skills will become a longtime pursuit for you, increasing your confidence and enjoyment in future wilderness travels. The purpose of the class is not to test how tough you are; however, there is a fair amount of physical work. We hold the class at a car campsite, enabling us to bring in a variety of materials for practice and demonstration.

PLANT USES
(NO PREREQUISITE)

In our study of wilderness skills, we have learned a lot from the "plant people" as well as the native peoples who used them for shelter, food, clothing, tools and medicine. When you make baskets, bows, arrows, rope, smudges and firemaking apparatus among many other things from plants, you begin to know not only their names, but their personality and how and where they grow. In this one-day class, you will get to know intimately local plants with multiple uses as you work on projects including making cordage and processing and preparing edible plants. This class combines the perspective of the survivalist with that of the ethnobotanist. A thorough written summary of local plant uses which we have prepared is included.

TBD

\$225

September 8-9 (Friday 9:00 am through Sunday 3:00 pm), Los Padres National Forest.* Car camping.

\$225.00

**Under Special Use Permit with Los Padres National Forest. We operate on a non-discriminatory basis.*

July 13-15 (Friday 9:00 am through Sunday 3:00 pm), Los Padres National Forest.* Car camping.

\$275.00

**Under Special Use Permit with Los Padres National Forest. We operate on a non-discriminatory basis.*

April 1* (Sunday), Malibu Creek State Park
September 16 (Sunday), Malibu Creek State Park

\$68

** May be taken in conjunction with Edible Plants preceding*

MOCCASIN MANUFACTURE

(NO PREREQUISITE)

It may be snowing outside, but indoors at the Work of Heart gallery in Frazier Park we'll be sitting by the fire making a pair of moccasins that will fit like a glove. Many of our students ask where they can buy moccasins for stalking and quiet nature observation, and our answer is usually that store-bought moccasins are not designed for outdoor use! You really have to make your own – which is the object of this class. Price includes cowhide material.

A PRIMITIVE STONE TOOL KIT

(NO PREREQUISITE)

With basic tools made from stones and hardwood, one can accomplish any survival task without a knife, including making fire, bows, arrows, traps, spears, fishing gear and so on. In this class you will assemble such a primitive tool kit, making a knife, chopper, scrapers, cutting flakes, abraders and a drill out of stone, as well as a hammer stick and wedge out of hardwood. You'll add a glue stick and a hand-held vise to complete your set. The workshop will include some basic percussion flaking and fire-hardening. The class is held on private land in the Santa Monica Mountains. Class size is limited.

EDIBLE PLANT WORKSHOP

(NO PREREQUISITE)

Last fall's crop of local pine nuts, currants, acorns and elderberries is stored and ready to be used in breads, soups, salads, desserts and entrees, along with plants we will gather just before and on the day of this wild edible cooking class. Our friends Barbara Drake (Tongva) and Robin Cornett (Blackfoot) will join us as we work on numerous recipes in small teams. To encourage newcomers, until February 15 we're accepting enrollment only from people who haven't taken this class before; thereafter we'll open it to anyone. *Class size is limited to 12 and the workshop always goes to a wait list, so enroll early!*

FALL NATIVE CULTURE WEEKEND: GIFT MAKING WORKSHOP

(NO PREREQUISITE)

Two months before the winter solstice and holiday season, join us for some serious gift-making led by our First Nation colleagues and veteran Earth Skills instructors. We're putting together a series of projects for you to hand-make, such as game sets, toys, jewelry and adornments, toiletries, food packets and other items that will be special gifts for any children, ladies and men on your list because they are earth-based and traditional. (Hint: you may keep some of these for yourself (we won't tell), or you can save them for birthdays or anniversaries too.) As always this weekend includes a Saturday dinner with native foods, as well as songs, stories and music. This class is held at a camp in Wrightwood with accommodations in shared cabins. Newcomers are most welcome to join this eighth annual traditional skills weekend. (Note: We will post specific projects for the class as we confirm them.)

February 12 (Sunday), Frazier Park area

\$75 (\$85 with catered luncheon)

March 17 (Saturday), Santa Monica Mtns

\$75

March 31* (Saturday), Frazier Park

\$75

** May be taken back-to-back with Plant Uses the following day*

September 29-30 (Saturday - Sunday), Mt. Kare Camp in Wrightwood

\$175

Earth Philosophy Series

If you're like us, the real reason you love spending time in nature is to achieve some perspective and balance, an antidote to an otherwise crazy world. In nature we receive clarity about what's really important, because the phrase "everything is connected" is not abstract but dynamically evident everywhere we look. That's why our ancestors, and indigenous people everywhere, looked to nature for essential teachings that kept a community respectful and in balance.

The question seems to be, what happens to the wisdom we receive from a walk in nature, a vision quest, a sit, a conversation with a hawk, a spontaneous quiet moment watching water and wind? Does it fade quickly, or is it brought back to the world we live in – a culture dominated by superficiality and instant gratification?

Our Earth Philosophy graduates seem to be able to hang on to nature's wisdom, integrate it into their lives, and influence the world around them in a positive way a little more than the average outdoor enthusiast. Using nature as a constant reference point, keeping the communication channels open so to speak, and being aware, open-minded and respectful, they tend to "walk the walk" as examples of what's essential and balanced. In a way they have chosen to be part of the solution rather than part of the problem.

Therefore we consider the Earth Philosophy series of classes to be our most important ones. They're based on our classes with Tom Brown, Jr. and pass on, unaltered, techniques and wisdom learned from his Lipan Apache mentor, whom we call Grandfather.

INTUITIVE SKILLS WORKSHOP (=EARTH PHILOSOPHY 1) + PERSONAL SKILLS WORKSHOP (=EARTH PHILOSOPHY 2)

(ANY EARTH SKILLS CLASS IS A PREREQUISITE)

This intensive class combines two levels of the Earth Philosophy curriculum, beginning Friday evening and running to Sunday afternoon. In the Intuitive Skills part of the program, we show you, through many activities and lots of practice, how to own and trust your intuition. Working in a natural setting, you will learn how to access intuitive communication at any time, how to clarify it when necessary, and how to integrate intuition into your ongoing awareness.

In the Personal Skills curriculum, you learn how interactions with the natural world can address personal questions and empower personal gifts that may be temporarily lost in the modern world. As our ancestors experienced, teachers in nature motivate, clarify, cleanse, heal, balance and prioritize. This direct teaching from non-humans was an essential part of our evolution and remains valid and powerful today. In these two days, we deepen and expand the tools of intuition and awareness, and show you how to use them to honor your personal gifts, get out of ruts and stay in balance.

COMMUNITY SKILLS WORKSHOP (=EARTH PHILOSOPHY 3)

(PERSONAL SKILLS WORKSHOP REQUIRED)

"The goal of the community," writes West African author Sobonfu Somé, "is to make sure each member of the community is heard and is properly giving the gifts they have brought to this world." We offer this workshop, as it were, for the "scout" (the Personal Skills graduate) who has come back to the community with wisdom and the desire to contribute gifts for a larger purpose. We work on larger awareness tasks, as well as introduce healing skills in the broad and specific sense.

June 8-10 (Friday eve - Sunday), Los Padres NF*

\$225

* *Under Special Use Permit with Los Padres National Forest. We operate on a non-discriminatory basis.*

TBD (Fall 2012)

SOLO SPIRITUAL QUEST

(NO PREREQUISITE)

For the sixteenth year, we are excited to offer the Solo Spiritual Quest, an experience for answering deep personal questions, balancing and grounding one's life, and empowering one's personal gifts. Our past quest participants have ranged in age from 18 to their 60's, with extraordinarily varied backgrounds.

While the quest has roots in ancient ceremonies that have occurred in many cultures around the world, it maintains its relevance and power for us modern people. This is because the very act of being alone for four days and nights, and fasting within the rhythms of nature, brings you to a threshold of teaching and centering. The unessential tends to be stripped away, allowing you to discover what is real and necessary for you at this time. Some have quested to sort out important decisions, some to empower underused gifts, and some to shed the complicating "chaff" that modern life bestows. Some of our questers repeat the quest every few years.

Like most significant learning events, the quest does require sacrifice and usually has challenges that tend to be unique for each quester. It is not an experience to undertake out of mere curiosity because it requires a significant commitment. However, the strength you find within yourself, and your willingness to go to the edge of the unknown to learn, create an experience that you can draw on for a lifetime.

Our Solo Quest borrows from no specific tribal tradition. It is a four-day fast, during which you drink ample water. Though others will be questing at the same time, you will be alone in your personal quest circle in a pine/oak woodland. You will have no distractions (journals, cell phones, music, etc.) but will have a sleeping bag and sufficient clothing. You leave your circle only to use your personal latrine and to leave a marker for the facilitators once a day. You will see no one during your fast, though we do set up a communication system for your safety. There is a day and a half of orientation and preparation before you begin your quest, and there is a day of transition after you come out. We feed you before and after your fast and watch over the area 24 hours a day during it. The 2012 quest will be held on 320 acres of private land in the southern Sierras at about 7000 feet elevation.

July 28 - August 4 (Saturday noon through Saturday morning), Windy Springs Preserve in the southern Sierras

Note on Solo Wilderness quest cost: We set the price to cover direct expenses only. Some scholarships are available. Call or write for details.

To participate in this year's quest you must ask for an application and return it to us by June 10, 2012 because there is a limit to the number of questers the site will accommodate. If you have any questions, please contact Jim or Mary at any time and we would be happy to talk to you.

About Earth Skills

For the past twenty-five years, Earth Skills founder Jim Lowery and his wife, Mary, have taught tracking, wilderness survival and nature awareness to thousands of outdoor lovers, both novice and experienced. Should you join us, you will find small, friendly but very focused classes providing you with much field experience and a lot of interaction with the instructors. We take pride in the quality of our teaching and in the versatility of our approach, which allows us to teach beginning outdoorspeople, young science students or professional biologists with equal commitment to their learning needs. From time to time guest specialists are brought in to teach or co-teach. Jim's and Mary's teachers have been many, but special acknowledgment is made to Tom Brown, Jr., from whom they both took numerous classes, and whose teachings form the basis especially of the Earth Philosophy curriculum. For tracking, Tom Brown, Jr. as well as other experienced trackers of different backgrounds and styles have pointed the way but it is frankly the many thousands of "four-leggeds" and "two-leggeds" whose tracks were studied over the years whose wisdom is passed on to students of Earth Skills. Jim is the author of *The Tracker's Field Guide* (Globe Pequot, 2006), currently in its third printing.

Special Trainings and Group Discounts

One- to multi-day trainings in tracking, wilderness skills, or plant uses are available to groups on a limited basis; minimum group size is generally 8 and age requirement is 14 years+.

Additionally, groups of four or more who enroll together in a regularly scheduled Basic Tracking, Wilderness Skills or Plant Uses class qualify for a 15% discount.

Special Trainings

Earth Skills has conducted special classes or trainings for the following, among others:

Parks and Nature Centers, Staff & Volunteer Training: Anza Borrego Natural History Association • Carrizo Plain Management (BLM, California Fish & Game, The Nature Conservancy) • Caspers Park Rangers & Docents • Chula Vista and Tijuana River Nature Centers • Desert Institute at Joshua Tree • Eaton Canyon Nature Center • Filoli Center • Franklin Canyon Nature Center • Lake Perris Rangers & Docents • Mountains Recreation & Conservation Authority • Nipomo Dunes Staff & Docents (Nature Conservancy) • O'Neill Regional Park Rangers & Docents • Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Docents • Topanga Canyon Docents • Wilderness Youth Project

Schools and Universities: California Institute of the Arts • California State University, Desert Studies Consortium • Crespi Carmelite High School • Crossroads School • Cuyamaca Outdoor School • Frisbie Middle School (Rialto, CA) • Hamilton HS (Anza CA) Field Biology Program • Hemet School District Field Biology Teacher Training • Los Angeles County Outdoor School Staff • Pitzer College Desert Colloquium • Thacher School • UCLA Science Project • University of California, Irvine • University of California, Riverside • USC Engineering Dept. Honors Program

Field Biology Professionals: Chambers Group Biological Consulting • SRS Technologies • California State Parks, Oceano Dunes • Tetra Tech • The Wilderness Society

Museum and Group Workshops: Children's Nature Institute • Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum • Habonim-Dror Winter Camp • Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History • Mountains Education Program • Naturalists at Large • Project Butterfly • Santa Cruz Mountains Natural History Assn. • Shikari Tracking Guild • Sierra Club • Tejon Ranch • This Land Is Your Land Summer Science Camp • Wilderness Institute

Law Enforcement and Military: Camp Pendleton Marine Corps Air Station • Pacific Grove Police Dept. SWAT Team • Vandenberg Air Force Base

Reservation and Cancellation Policy:

Reservations must be made through advance payment (if the total enrollment fee you are sending is greater than \$200.00, you may send a 50% deposit). We cannot guarantee space in a class through telephone calls. Classes are kept small, so reserve early to hold a place.

Cancellations: For weekend or longer classes, you must notify us at least 7 days in advance to receive full credit for another class, or a 75% refund. If you cancel later than that, you risk loss of your enrollment fee unless your space can be filled from a wait list. For one-day classes, you must notify us at least 4 days prior to the class to receive credit for a class or a 75% refund. **If you cancel later than that, you risk loss of your enrollment fee unless your space can be filled from a wait list.**

Non-discrimination

Earth Skills complies with USDA and other government policies prohibiting discrimination based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion or disability. Any student in a class on National Forest land who believes he or she has been discriminated against should immediately contact the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250.

Group Discounts

Classes can be scheduled for groups of at least eight people. Rates available on request. Please contact us early to reserve a date.

If your group is small, you may still qualify for a 15% discount if four or more people enroll together in a regularly scheduled class.

Class eligibility:

Our classes are designed for adults and children 12 years and older. (Exception: the Wilderness Skills class is open to 14 years and above.) We put considerable time and effort into the content and pace of the curriculum, knowing that for younger children and families, classes must be structured differently. Please do not ask us to make an exception to admit your younger child; we must say no in fairness to other parents who have not asked for an exception. For classes which require a prerequisite, we may be able to waive the prerequisite if you have had equivalent training elsewhere; contact us to evaluate your situation.

Food and lodging:

For all one-day classes, students bring lunch, water and other simple gear which we will list upon enrollment.

For weekend classes, we usually provide all dinners and breakfasts; students bring lunches and snacks. Usually these classes are held at car campsites, meaning tents can be set up within a short walk from cars (or students may sleep in a camper or van if they drive one). Participants must bring their own camping equipment (primarily tent and sleeping bag). We have limited extra equipment for loan. Lists of required equipment will be sent upon enrollment. No previous camping experience is necessary. *Note about food: Students with special diets such as vegan, gluten-free or non-dairy may be asked to supplement what we provide with some of their own food.*

