

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

As the stewards of our future, children have been a primary consideration in the development, design and programming of activities at the Springs Preserve. In addition to the classes, workshops and programs for school-aged youth including themed programs on archeology, animals, water and plants, there are a variety of activities designed specifically for young Preserve visitors.

CLASSES AND ACTIVITIES – Every weekend the Springs Preserve provides a variety of educational classes and activities for kids that explore and explain their desert world. Children of all ages can take advantage of a variety of fun, hands-on classes on Saturdays and Sundays starting at 10 a.m. scheduled throughout each weekend with topics changing monthly. The classes and activities are organized around the general themes of desert animals, gardening, eco art, archaeology, history, storytelling and more.

LIVE ANIMAL SHOWS AND DEMONSTRATIONS – The southwest is home to some amazing animal habitats and the Springs Preserve offers a unique environment where visitors can learn about and see these animals up-close and in action. In partnership with experts, trainers and veterinarians, who raise and home exotic animals locally, the Preserve presents live animal shows and demonstrations twice daily each weekend and on holidays.

LIVING COLLECTIONS – The Origen Museum features the Living Collections exhibit where visitors are introduced to a variety of native mammals, reptiles and invertebrates. These exhibits show how desert animals adapt to survive the extreme temperatures and dry climate of the Mojave. The Living Collections include desert tortoises, kangaroo rats, pocket gophers and other animals in their underground burrows, a Gila monster and other wildlife. Animal feeding experiences as well as behind-the-scenes tours are offered every Saturday and Sunday.

NEW FRONTIER GALLERY – Inside the Origen Museum, the New Frontier Gallery is a space that houses experiential, interactive traveling exhibits of national significance that explore topics relevant to the Springs Preserve such as science, sustainability, conservation and preservation in fun, hands-on ways for visitors of all ages. Exhibits change approximately every three months.

NATURE EXCHANGE – Located in the Desert Living Center, this nationwide educational program called the Nature Exchange provides a unique, free choice learning environment where young collectors can “trade” their natural found items and learn more about them. Trained staff initiates dialogue with the collector and encourages further investigation via the Springs Preserve Resource Library. Participating collectors gain “points” that are tracked through the Nature Exchange computer database and can be used for trading for other items.

CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND – Located in the Crossroad Commons, across from the outdoor amphitheater, the Children's Playground offers little ones an opportunity to escape into a recreated desert canyon environment and experience all that comes along with it, including ambient sound effects. Oversized replicas of wildlife are a main focal point of the playground, including a gigantic replica of a Peregrine Falcon perched high upon a rock, the recreated skeleton of a Woolly Mammoth partially buried in the sand and a massive concrete Sidewinder snake winding through the canyon walls.