



Girl Scouts of San Gorgonio Council
DESERT CONNECTIONS



The Living Desert Patch Program

Purpose: This patch program will provide a learning experience for girls to establish an appreciation and awareness of our unique desert environment.

Requirements: Complete all six requirements to earn the patch. A visit to *The Living Desert* in Palm Desert is required. This patch is recommended for third grade Brownie Girl Scouts or older.

Before going to The Living Desert:

1. Read and discuss with your troop, the history of the Coachella Valley and the Cahuilla Indians.
2. Review the history of *The Living Desert*.
3. Read and discuss Lost in the Desert.
4. The service project to be completed before or after your visit:

Adopt an Animal: This program lets you adopt an animal for a year and your contribution helps provide food, health care and housing. All the animals at *The Living Desert* need specialized diets, daily supervision, inoculations and creature comforts. Adoption is a fun and easy way to be an important part of *The Living Desert*. For more information regarding this program, please call (760) 346-5694.

At The Living Desert:

5. Visit *The Living Desert*, take the guided or self-guided tour (guided is recommended) and discuss:
 - a) What is the difference between *The Living Desert* and a zoo?
 - b) What endangered species did you see? What is being done to protect these animals? What can we do to help?
 - c) What non-releasable animals did you see? What is the difference between non-releasable animals and endangered species (vanishing animals)?
 - d) What is a bird of prey and how are they different from other birds? What is the difference between a Burrowing Owl, Great Horned Owl and Red Tail Hawk?
 - e) What is an Antelope Ground Squirrel?
 - f) What is a sand dune? Why is it important to preserve and protect these areas? What can you do to protect the fragile desert environment?

After your visit:

6. Using the map of *The Living Desert*, review the sites you visited and discuss some of the things you learned.

To schedule a visit to *The Living Desert*, contact the museum directly (760) 346-5694. Group rates are available with a minimum of 15 people and advance reservations (For a group tour, you must mention you are with Girl Scouts of San Gorgonio Council). Guided tours include an interpretive walking tour of the animals, exhibits, botanical gardens, and "wildlife wonders" featuring live animals. Standard tours are up to two hours but may be longer or shorter depending on your needs. The museum is closed during August.

Group Rates:

For current prices on guided tours, self-guided tours and general admission, please contact The Living Desert Group Sales Office: (760) 346-5694

After completing the requirements, you may purchase the patch through the council shop.

If you would like to work on this patch with your troop, request the Desert Connections Leader's Guide from the Girl Scouts of San Gorgonio Council Program Department. The Leader's Guide will give you the materials to complete requirements 1-4.