

Invasive Plant Patrol Volunteer Training at Joshua Tree National Park

Saturday, February 8 at 10 AM

Rattlesnake Room at Oasis Visitor Center of Joshua Tree National Park

You have expressed an interest in becoming part of the Invasive Plant Patrol Volunteer Group at Joshua Tree National Park which is why you are receiving this email. Thank you so much for your interest!

As you may have noticed, invasive mustards, namely Sahara Mustard (*Brassica tournefortii*), and invasive annual grasses (*Schismus* and *Bromus*) are already beginning to germinate and grow! In order to be able to have everyone out identifying, reporting, and treating satellite infestations, we must have a yearly training and orientation. This meeting will be held on:

Saturday, February 8th at 10:00 am in the Rattlesnake Meeting Room located at Park Headquarters Science and Resource Stewardships building.

This meeting will also be our season kick-off where we will discuss the coming season. Please let me know if you plan on attending or if you are unable to make it. If you are unable to attend and are still interested in being an Invasive Plant Patroller, please let me know; I will work to schedule a second orientation or work one on one to train individuals on invasive plant ID.

On Saturday, we will be filling out the necessary volunteer paperwork, as well as giving a brief overview of the history of invasive plants within the park, and field identification of invasive plants. We will also be attempting to take a field trip into the park to practice field identification and using iNaturalist to report any findings. I recommend wearing appropriate field clothes and shoes, as well as bringing along at least 1 liter of water and a lunch.

In order to facilitate the field portion of the orientation, please have created an iNaturalist account and have it downloaded the application on a smartphone or tablet (instructions on how to do so attached), and email me your username, along with your RSVP, so that I can add you to our private project on iNaturalist.

Thanks so much for your interest in keeping Joshua Tree weed free! If you have any questions, please feel free to email me.

I look forward to joining you in identifying and treating areas infested with invasive plants!

Valeria Cancino Hernandez
Invasive Plant Program Lead
Great Basin Institute (Park Partner)
valeria_cancinohernandez@partner.nps.gov