

MISSION STATEMENT

To offer quality facilities and programs that provide opportunities in a natural environment for education, recreation, and inspiration.

OUR PHILOSOPHY

The Desert Outdoor Center provides a fun, hands-on, and inquiry-based learning experience to:

- ▶ Encourage a curiosity about nature
- ▶ Create an interest in scientific concepts
- ▶ Nurture an appreciation for the desert

*"Outdoor classrooms improve standardized test scores, critical thinking, and decision making."*

-Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods*



# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

## FIELD TRIPS



Contact us for costs and availability.  
41402 N 87th Ave. • Peoria, Arizona 85383

**(602) 372-7470**

[www.maricopa.gov/parks/doc](http://www.maricopa.gov/parks/doc)

[www.desertoutdoorcenter.org](http://www.desertoutdoorcenter.org)

[doc@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:doc@mail.maricopa.gov)

Brochure funded by  
Friends of the Desert Outdoor Center



DESERT OUTDOOR CENTER  
*at Lake Pleasant*



FIELD TRIP OPTIONS

The Center offers overnight, full day, and half day experiences accommodating up to 150 youth grades K - 12. Accommodates schools, scout groups, home schools, clubs, and other youth groups.

We teach over 30 different classes that include:

- ▶ Aquatic Life
- ▶ Ancient Ones
- ▶ Archeology
- ▶ Venomous Creatures
- ▶ Earth Energy
- ▶ Nature Hike
- ▶ Desert Survival
- ▶ Day of the Dino
- ▶ Mammals
- ▶ ...and much more!

**All classes comply with Arizona Academic Standards and are taught by highly qualified Maricopa County Interpretive Rangers. Subject emphasis includes Science, Social Studies, Visual Arts, and Physical Education.**

The Desert Outdoor Center is a facility of Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department. It is nestled on the southeast side of beautiful Lake Pleasant, overlooking a quiet cove. The scenic and pristine setting in nature makes it an ideal learning environment.

- ▶ Multiple classrooms plus a science lab with microscopes
- ▶ Gardens, nature trails, and outdoor amphitheater
- ▶ Animal exhibit hall
- ▶ Two dorms that sleep a total of 150 people
- ▶ Dining hall and commercial kitchen

Recognized as one of the top environmental education centers in Arizona. Serves over 20,000 people annually. Center is perfect for weddings, special events, conferences, and retreats.

SITE AMENITIES

