

OC Parks Trail Ambassador Program

OC Parks Trails Subcommittee — September 29, 2022



Presentation Agenda

- Volunteer Program Review
- Trail Ambassador Role
 - Role Description
 - Responsibilities
 - Locations
- Training Manual Review
- Training
- Deployment in Parks

OC Parks Volunteer Program

- Approximately 1,000 trained volunteers serving OC Parks (including non-profit partner agencies).
 - 2021–2022 volunteers contributed approximately 39,000 hours of service.
 - Additional 6,300 hours of service contributed by short term (one time) volunteers.



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OC Parks Volunteer Training

- Program Orientation/Public Interaction Workshop
 - Orientation to OC Parks – policies and procedures
 - Customer service and interpretive training
- Background check
- CPR/FA
- Site training
- Role training
- Facility certification



What is a Trail Ambassador?

- Trained in various aspects of trail safety and etiquette.
- Educates visitors about responsible trail use.
- Helps ensure a **safe** and **enjoyable** visit for all trail users.
- Helps **protect** local wildlife and natural habitats.
- Stationed at trailheads, intersections, or designated points along a variety of trail types and park facilities.



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Roles & Responsibilities

Public Interaction:

- Engage park visitors in a positive, respectful manner.
- Provide information about: trail etiquette, safety, park rules, trail/park closures, maps and promotional items.



Wayfinding:

- Use park maps, directional signage, and landmarks to help trail users navigate their park visit.
- Match visitors with the right trail for their skills/desired experience.



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Roles & Responsibilities

Trail Closures:

- Provide information about closures or re-routes of park trails, whether due to weather, sensitive habitats, wildlife, fire, or other circumstances.

Wildlife Encounters:

- Educate visitors about what wildlife they may see and how to stay safe while on the trails.

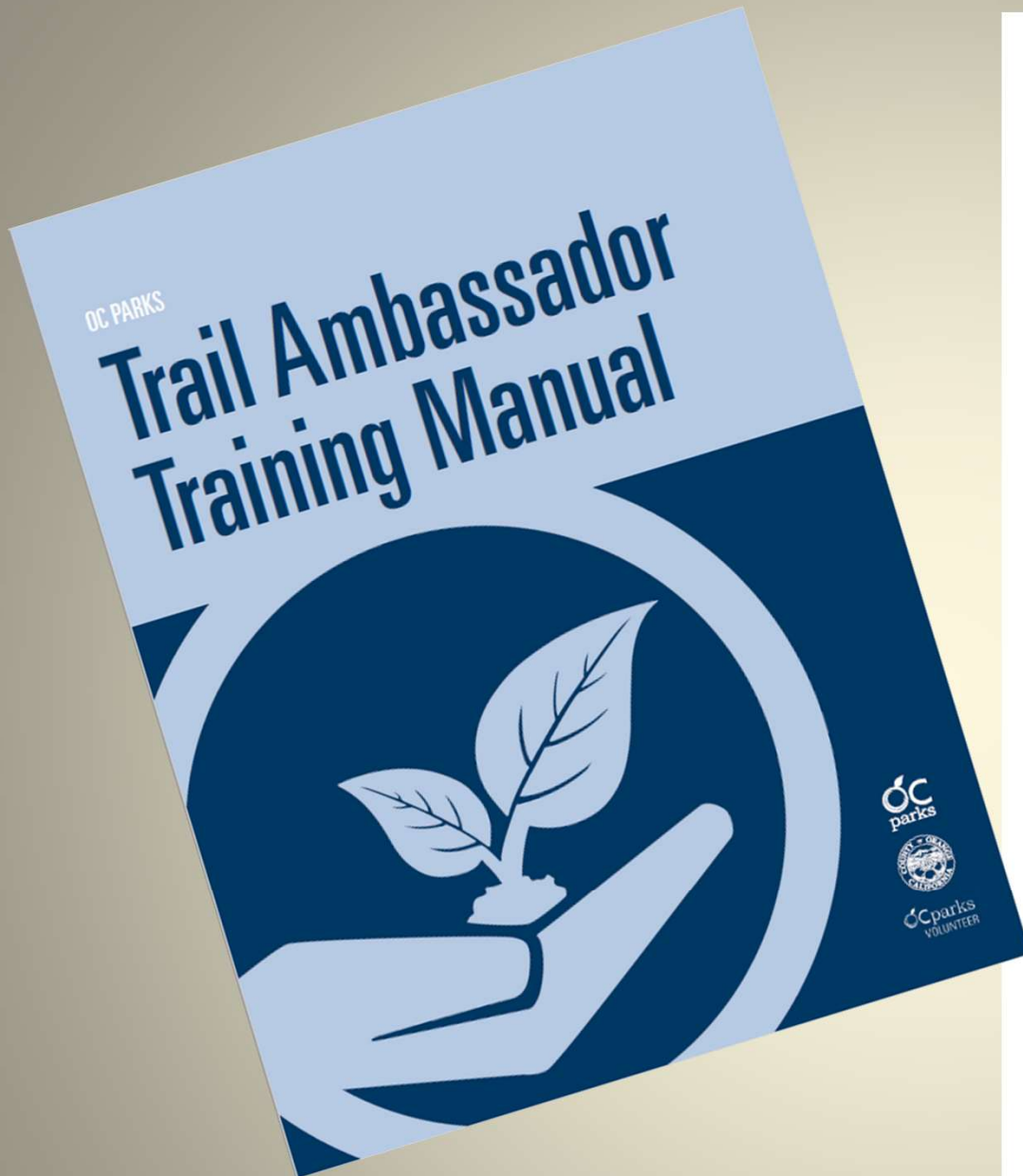


Where are Trail Ambassadors?

	OC Parks Volunteer	Animal Keeper Volunteer	Archery Range	Backcountry Patrol	Beach Cleanup Lead	Camp Host	Collections Management	Education Docent	Fire Watch	Habitat Monitor	Historic Docent	Lab Volunteer	Park Maintenance*	Petting Zoo Volunteer	Native Garden*	Nature Center	Restoration*	Trail Ambassador	Trail Crew*	Visitor Services	Zoo Docent
Regional Parks																					
Carbon Canyon Regional Park	•						•	•	•			•		•	•	•	•	•	•		
Clark Regional Park	•					•	•		•					•	•				•	•	
Craig Regional Park	•												•								•
Irvine Regional Park	•		•					•							•	•	•	•	•	•	
Laguna Niguel Regional Park	•							•								•					•
Mason Regional Park	•						•							•		•			•	•	
Mile Square Regional Park	•	•					•							•							•
O'Neill Regional Park	•		•		•		•	•				•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Peters Canyon Regional Park	•		•					•	•							•	•	•	•	•	
Santiago Oaks Regional Park	•		•					•							•	•	•	•	•	•	
Talbert Regional Park	•						•		•							•	•	•	•	•	
Yorba Regional Park	•							•						•		•					•
Wilderness Parks																					
Aliso & Wood Canyon Wilderness Park**	•		•				•	•	•			•		•		•	•	•	•	•	
Caspers Wilderness Park	•		•					•	•	•					•	•	•	•	•	•	
Laguna Coast Wilderness Park**	•		•					•	•	•		•		•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Riley Wilderness Park	•							•	•	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park	•		•					•	•	•		•			•	•	•	•	•	•	
Nature Preserves																					
Irvine Ranch Open Space**							•	•	•							•	•	•	•		
Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve**	•							•	•					•	•	•	•	•	•	•	
Beach Parks																					
Aliso Beach	•			•												•					•
Capistrano Beach	•			•												•					•
Salt Creek Beach	•			•										•		•					•
Historic Sites																					
Cooper Lab						•					•										
Helena Modjeska Historic House	•					•	•			•											•
Heritage Hill Historic Park**	•					•	•			•				•							•
Key Ranch Historic Park	•					•	•			•											•
Old Orange County Courthouse	•					•	•			•											•
Zoo																					
OC Zoo (Irvine Regional Park)	•	•											•	•	•						•

*Lead Volunteer roles are available within these volunteer opportunities.

** Partner group training required.



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 - Common Arthropods Guide



Monarch Butterfly

Training Goals & Objectives

- Goal:
 - Provide positive educational interactions between representatives of OC Parks and trail users while delivering a message that reflects the importance of trail safety and responsible trail use to park visitors.
- Training Objectives:
 1. Gain understanding of the Trail Ambassador role, responsibilities, and importance within OC Parks.
 2. Gain a basic understanding of OC Parks' unique natural and cultural resources, including habitat types, protected species, and conservation easements.
 3. Develop a geographic understanding of OC Parks trail system and be able to identify the different types of trail systems and where they are located.
 4. Understand and identify the three main trail user groups (hiker, biker, and equestrian).
 5. Understand and relay the principles of responsible trail use including the "yield triangle," dog leash laws, staying on marked trails, and maintain reasonable/posted speed limits.

Training Program Overview

- Role training basics:
 - Delivered onsite by facility staff.
 - 3–4 hour training (may be combined with site facility training)
 - Classroom and field training
- Topics covered:
 - Preparing for a day in OC Parks
 - Uniform and equipment
 - Trail user groups
 - Park regulations
 - Trail etiquette
 - Trail scenarios
 - Wildlife and Plant Guides



Volunteer Deployment

- Staff “train the trainers” scheduled for mid-October.
- Volunteers trained and requested by facility staff.
- Examples of types of shifts:
 - Safe Trails Day/Trail Pop-ups
 - Weekly park assignments
 - Special Requests



Saturday, October 22, 2022

Whiting Ranch Trail Ambassador



Requesting OC Parks volunteer or Ranger Reserve assistance with greeting park visitors at the Borrego Canyon trailhead at Whiting Ranch. Borrego trail travelling to Red Rock Canyon trail is the most popular hike in Whiting Ranch. Trail ambassadors will answer questions about the trails and animals, pass out maps, educate the visiting public on park rules, and communicate with park staff on any issues.

[Edit Event](#)

Date: Sat, 10/22/2022

Time: 7:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Where: Whiting Ranch
Wilderness Park

Difficulty Rating: 1

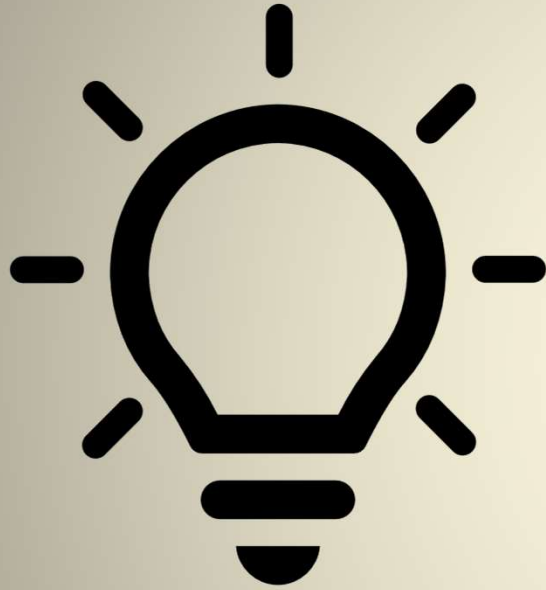
Minimum Age: 16



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Questions



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