

Preparation Checklist

_____ **Important Documents:** At a minimum, please read pages 8-11 in the EcoHelpers manual before arriving for your field trip. For each class that participates in the program, please complete one "Sponsored Voluntary Services" form. For each student, we must also have a signed "Parent Approval" form. Please use the master copies of these forms provided in this information packet. A staff member will collect these forms on the day of the field trip before the program begins. Please note that park policy requires each individual/group in the program to complete these forms. **Those who do not complete the required forms will not be allowed to participate.**

_____ **Safety:** There are many hazards when working outdoors that the students should be aware of. Rattlesnakes, bees, ticks, squirrel holes and poison oak are all part of the natural environment. Students will learn how to avoid these hazards and be alert to other safety concerns. Students with allergies should bring their allergy medicine. Pollen can often be a problem and weeding activities will raise dust.

_____ **Clothing:** Wear clothing appropriate for outdoor restoration activities. Remind students they might get dirty and not to wear their best clothes for this trip. For their safety, students must wear long pants and comfortable, closed-toe shoes (tennis shoes are fine). They may wear short-sleeved shirts, but should bring a long-sleeved shirt for weeding activities. Students must be prepared to be outdoors for the entire program in variable weather conditions. **Please bring sunhats, sunscreen and jackets.**

_____ **Supervision:** Leaders are responsible for the proper behavior of their group. Please have at least two leaders per field trip. Rangers will not be expected to maintain discipline. Be sure that the chaperones are adequately dressed and prepared; they should be able and willing to participate in all activities. A short hike is part of the program.

_____ **Rules:** The group will be informed of all regulations at the beginning of the program. Students should be reminded that everything is protected within National Park boundaries. **Thus, picking flowers, collecting rocks, disturbing wildlife, etc. is prohibited.**

Questions? If you have any questions regarding your visit, please call the Program Coordinator at (805) 370-2314.