



# Registration Form & Participation Details

## Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park Botany Blitz Sun, Apr. 16, 2023

### Overview

On Sunday, April 16 volunteers will join the chapter's Whiting Ranch Park Checklist team in a one-day Botanical Blitz. Our objective is to document as many unique plant taxa as possible at the park in a one-day period. We will be using the iNaturalist application and all observations will consolidate into a single iNaturalist Project. Results from the day will be used to supplement the team's understanding of the park's botanical inventory, refine each plant's distribution and abundance, and add a few new species to the checklist.

This is the second county park in an ongoing project. Our progress to date and a complete species list can be seen on the Consortium of CA Herbaria at [www.cch2.org/portal/checklists/index.php](http://www.cch2.org/portal/checklists/index.php).

### How the Blitz Works

All participants will work in teams. The park will be divided into areas and each team will survey a different area. The teams will work independently and cover as much of their area as possible, photographing and identifying as many plant species as they can, whether native or naturalized. Each survey team will be led by one of the project leaders or a knowledgeable botanist. The team leader will be responsible for the route travelled, the pace and other details.

All participants will meet at 8 AM at Concourse Park, 18931 Saddleback Ranch Rd, Lake Forest. Here, we will provide additional instructions, finalize the teams, organize the day, and answer questions. We will then begin the Blitz.

At 3 PM all participants are asked to meet again at Concourse Park to summarize the day, create a species list, prepare our field collections, and share a few stories from the day.

### How to Prepare

All participants are requested to download the iNaturalist application (free on IOS or Android). (Alternatively, photographs can be taken on a GPS enabled camera and downloaded to iNaturalist on a desktop computer immediately following the count.) If you are not familiar with adding observations and identifications with iNaturalist, please practice on a few garden plants before the trip - it's quite easy and fun.

Complete the Participation Details below and **email this form to [botanyblitz@occnps.org](mailto:botanyblitz@occnps.org) no later than April 9!**

### What to Bring

- A GPS enabled cell phone and camera, with the iNaturalist application installed. You will not need cell or wi-fi reception while surveying. (Alternatively, you may bring a separate camera that is GPS enabled, then upload your photos to iNaturalist following the count.)
- A pack with lots of water, some snacks, basic first aid and a sack lunch.
- Pen, notepad, 6 inch ruler, and local field ID book (*Wildflowers of OC & the Santa Ana Mts, Allen & Roberts*).
- Hat, walking or hiking boots, sunscreen, appropriate clothing (layers are usually best).

### Mountain Lion Warning

You will be entering Mountain Lion country. There has been mountain lion activity in Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park recently. Stay with your group, avoid crouching when alone and follow all other mountain lion safety guidelines.

### Following the Blitz

After the count, and all observations have been added to the iNat Whiting Ranch Park Blitz Project, the coordinators will begin curating the data, add missing identifications and correcting misidentifications. The final results for this Botany Blitz will be viewable to everyone on iNaturalist and will supplement the official project checklist, which is viewable on the CCH2 website here: <https://www.cch2.org/portal/checklists/checklist.php?clid=176&pid=5>.

Once the Whiting Ranch Park Vascular Plant Checklist project is complete the results will be submitted to the Natural Resources Division of the County of Orange. We also hope to publish the results in a botanical journal and continue similar projects at other OC Wilderness Parks.

# Participation Form

## Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park Botany Blitz Sun, Apr. 16, 2023

Please complete a separate form for each participant.

Name:

Email:

Phone:

### Plant identification ability:

Novice, but can help with photos, record keeping.

I know some of the more common species and names.

I know a lot of the genera and families, but sometimes get stuck on the species.

I can identify most plants I see to the species level.

I guess you could call me an expert.

### Hiking and physical ability:

A bit limited. Mostly flat with short hiking distances that are not too strenuous.

Medium. I can handle easy to moderate trails and distances.

Medium to strenuous. Some up and down and with elevation gain are ok. Moderate off-trail also ok.

I'm a tiger. I'm a strong hiker that also does not mind some off-trail travel and a bit of bushwhacking.

### Participation

I will be there all day, until 3:30 PM (preferred)

I will need to leave at (time):

### I would like to participate in a particular area (2-3 choices are best):

#### Any site – where most needed.

- A. Lower Borrego Canyon, up to about the junction of Red Rock Canyon Trail. Easy hiking, Mostly shaded, some off trail into thick riparian, with patches of poison oak. (4-5 mi)
- B. Serrano Road, Serrano Cow Trail, and Live Oak Trail. Moderate hiking, elev. change and distance. Partly shaded oak woodland, some riparian, coastal sage scrub. (5-6 mi)
- C. Raptor Road, Coyote Brush Road, and Line Shack Road. Nice variety. Moderate hiking, elev. change and distance. (4-5 mi)
- D. McFadden House, Aliso Creek Bikeway and Aliso Creek. Moderate hiking with some riparian exploration in dense vegetation. Car shuttle to the Western segment. (4-5 mi)
- E. Concourse Trail, Sage Scrub Trail, Vulture View Trail, Santiago Ranch Road, Sleepy Hollow Trail, Cactus Hill Trail, and Whiting Rd. Collection of short trails with some up and downs and variety. Longer distance. (6-7 mi)
- F. Whiting Spur Rd., Billy Goat Trail, Mustard Rd., Willow Tree Rd., and Four Corners. A Northern portion of the park with some up and down and variety. Longer distance. (6-7 mi)
- G. Northern part of Borrego Cyn. Trail, Red Rock Canyon Trail, Mustard Road (part), and the Cattle Pond Loop. Includes washes and sage scrub, some light riparian. Some light up and down, moderate distance. (5-6 mi)

Anything else you would like to tell the leaders:

Complete and submit this form to [botanyblitz@occnps.org](mailto:botanyblitz@occnps.org),  
and the CNPS Liability Waiver no later than Apr 9, 2023

Area A

Area B

Area C

Area D

Area E

Area F

Area G

## Whiting Ranch Park Botany Blitz



● Area start locations

### Whiting Ranch Wilderness Park

DAY USE: 7:00 A.M. - SUNSET

**2500** ACRES FOR HORSEBACK RIDING, HIKING AND WORLD-CLASS MOUNTAIN BIKING  
• EVER SEE A RED-TAILED HAWK? • HIKE TO A SANDSTONE CANYON



#### Legend:

- Park Office
- Outhouse
- Parking
- Water
- Equestrian Center
- Scenic Overlook
- Multi-use Trail
- Hiking Trail
- Paved Road
- Easy Trail
- Moderate Trail
- Difficult Trail

#### Trail Guide:

Trail Name	Difficulty	Distance
Billy Goat Trail	DIFFICULT	0.0 Miles
Borrego Canyon Trail	EASY	1.3 Miles
Castles Hill Trail	MODERATE	0.6 Miles
Castle Pond Loop Trail	MODERATE	0.2 Miles
ConcOURSE Road	MODERATE	0.4 Miles
Coyote Brush Road	MODERATE	0.8 Miles
Driveway Hill Road	DIFFICULT	1.2 Miles
Edison Road	EASY	1.1 Miles
Live Oak Trail	EASY	0.5 Miles
Live Shrub Road	MODERATE	0.8 Miles
Mustard Road	DIFFICULT	2.8 Miles
Raptor Road	EASY	0.4 Miles
Red Rock Canyon on Trail	EASY	0.5 Miles
Sage Scrub Trail	MODERATE	0.4 Miles
Santiago Ranch Road	MODERATE	0.6 Miles
Serrano Road	EASY	0.9 Miles
Serrano Cove Trail	EASY	0.4 Miles
Sleepy Hollow Trail	MODERATE	0.4 Miles
Vista Lookout Road	MODERATE	0.5 Miles
Walters View Road	EASY	0.5 Miles
Water Tank Road	EASY	0.8 Miles
Whiting Road	MODERATE	0.8 Miles
Whiting Spur Road	MODERATE	0.3 Miles

