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6/9/2018

Proposal for **Youth Desert Survival Program**

Mission

The mission objective of the Youth Desert Survival Program is to provide a donkey and cart for each team of four students who over a 5 day desert experience will learn about identifying medicinal and edible plants, learn first aid procedures, learn methods for surviving the heat and cold of the harsh desert, food trapping / hunting and water source discovery. Students will be limited to selected basic equipment provided with the donkey carts and will then learn to ration resources over the 5 day period.

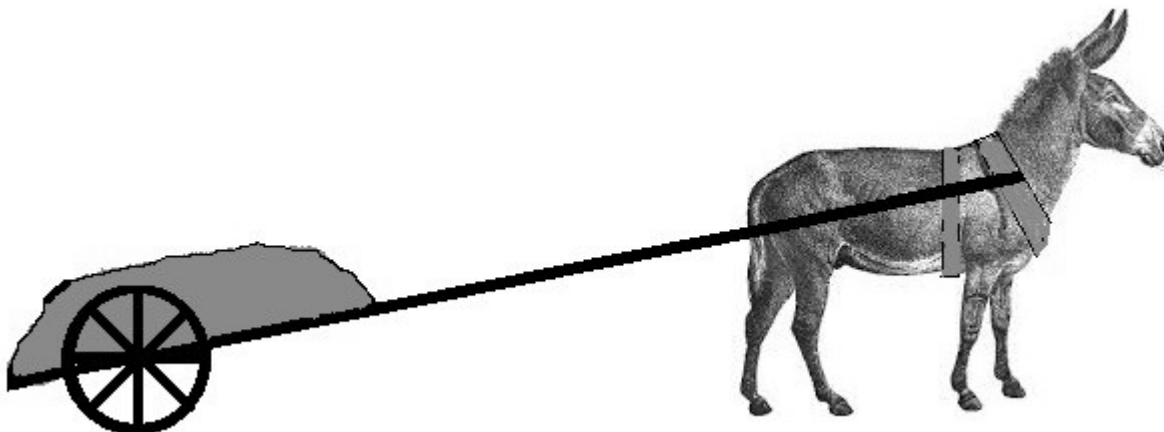
The 5-day Course

Windwalker Education has secured a base camp in Bowie called Windwalker Village with another 10 acres 8 miles to the North in the middle of the desert called Camp Tribulation which will become the stop for the first night. The second day will be a further 8 mile trek north to Hot Wells Dunes as an oasis with a greater variety of vegetation as the second night stop with soaking in the naturally heated mineral pools. On the third day at the Hot Wells Dunes, youth will seek out medicinal and edible plants in the area and learn to prepare them for consumption and medicinal remedy applications. The 4th day will be a return south to Camp Tribulation with the continued collection and cataloging of plants along the way with the possible live trapping of rabbits as a meat source for a dinner cook-out feast. The fifth day is the final 8 mile trek back to Windwalker Village to then review the trip and what they have learned.

A written guide will be published and given to each student prior to beginning this adventure providing all of the instruction as a reference source with pages for notes (like a journal) to compliment the hands-on instruction provided over the 5 day period.

Donkeys and Carts

In order to enable this program to happen, 6 donkeys plus a few spare donkeys will need to be acquired and trained to be led pulling the donkey carts. The donkeys will be kept and trained at Windwalker Village to be led and not driven. In addition, 6 carts will need to be designed and built using the lightest materials possible to make the pulling easy for a standard sized donkey.



The carts are designed using the four 12' tent poles made of thin-wall aluminum pipe and easily clamped to a 30" axle spanning the two double poles.

Sleeping gear and food will be carried on a sling hung between the two double poles. Attendees will walk the donkey and cart rather than riding or driving them.

Funding the Program

Our initial need is for the funds to acquire the donkeys, design and build the carts and provide some infrastructure for keeping and training the donkeys. We hope some suitable donkeys will be donated for this program.

The cost per cart is estimated at \$150 each cart with 6 carts being built for a total cost of \$900. The purchase of 8 donkeys may be about \$300 each for a cost of \$2400. Infrastructure for training and keeping the donkeys is \$1700 to cover the cost of a round pen for training, the fencing in of a paddock, start up food and for materials to make harnesses for the donkeys. The requested grant is then as follows

Carts	\$900
Donkeys	2400
Hartnresses	500
Training/Feeding	<u>1200</u>
	\$5000

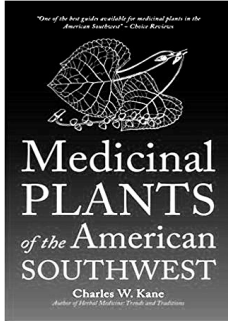
Windwalker Village has a full wood working shop and welding shop where the carts can be easily built at this location with mostly volunteer labor.

Training Provided

Many areas are included in this training Desert Survival Program. The following list is but a snapshot of specific skill areas to be taught and experienced by attendees.

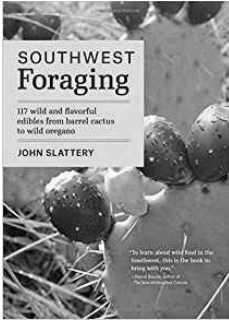
1. Donkey bonding and leading.
2. Animal care.
3. Cart maneuvering.
4. Medicinal plant Identification and preparation.
5. Food plant identification and preparation.
6. Designing and building live animal traps.
7. Live trapping small desert animals for food, skinning and cooking.
8. Food and water resource management over 5 days.
9. Water sourcing in the desert including evaporation purification techniques.
10. Team building
11. Sharing resources between teams.
12. Weather prediction.
13. Map and compass navigation.
14. Star and sun navigation.
15. First Aid techniques.
16. Keeping a survival journal (provided in survival guide)
17. Safe camp Fire building.
18. Extreme heat and cold survival methods and systems.

Resources for the Program



Medicinal Herbs of the American Southwest.

- Paperback: 392 pages
- Publisher: Lincoln Town Press; Reissue edition (August 1, 2011)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0977133370
- ISBN-13: 978-0977133376



Southwest Foraging

- Paperback: 320 pages
- Publisher: Timber Press (August 10, 2016)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 1604696508
- ISBN-13: 978-1604696509

A class manual will be developed for handout to students with pages provided for journaling their experiences three times each day. Chapters on donkey care and leading, trapping, First Aid, resource management, water filtering and many other areas will be included.