

The Eighteenth Annual
Spring Outing,
Botanical Excursion,
Foray, Retreat, and Escape to the Environment!

****** SO BE FREE 18 ******

Tuesday-Friday, March 26 through 29, 2013
in the Cuyamaca Mountains near Julian, California
Coordinator: Chris Harrell

Founded in 1996, SO BE FREE is a series of West Coast forays started by the Bryolab at UC Berkeley, but open to all botanists. The main focus is on bryophytes, but we also encourage experts on other groups to come along and smell the liverworts. We welcome specialists and generalists, professionals and amateurs, master bryologists and rank beginners. SO BE FREE is held each spring, somewhere in the western US, associated with spring break at universities. The usual tradition is to have a four-day, three-night schedule with communal meals, in inexpensive and remote locations. Evening slide shows and informal talks are presented as well as keying sessions with microscopes. In addition to seeing interesting wild areas and learning new plants, important goals for SO BE FREE include keeping West Coast bryologists (and friends) in touch with each other and teaching beginners. For glimpses of the past outings, visit the SO BE FREE web site:

http://ucjeps.berkeley.edu/bryolab/Field_Trips.html.

Visit this link to view a slide show with some [photos of SO BE FREE 2012](#).

Location this Year

The 2013 SO BE FREE will be held in the Cuyamaca Mountains near the historic gold mining town of Julian, CA. Palomar, Laguna and Cuyamaca Ranges and Anza-Borrego Desert will provide diversity for our bryophyte searches from mixed conifer forests and oak woodlands all the way down to the Colorado Desert.

Beginning bryologists are welcome, and we are planning field trips and activities that will engage all levels of interest from the neophyte to the hardcore.

We will be based at Camp Stevens (www.campstevens.org) at about 4,000 feet in elevation. The physical address of the camp is 1108 Banner Road (Hwy 78), Julian, CA 92036.

Camp Stevens is 64 miles northeast (1 hour 20 minutes) of San Diego's Lindbergh Airport and 110 miles southeast (2 hours) of Orange County's John Wayne Airport.

Lodging

There are several choices for lodging at Camp Stevens. See the reservation form for details. We will have common areas available with comfortable seating, small kitchenettes and fireplaces, as well as a large meeting room for setting up microscopes and giving talks.

Linens are not provided, so you will need to bring a sleeping bag or sheets/blankets, pillow, and towel. You will be able to drive to your lodging to unload before parking your car in the lot.

If bunk beds aren't your thing or you don't want to haul along your pillow and sleeping bag, consider booking a room in Julian (1.5 miles away). <http://www.julianca.com/>

The closest campground is William Heise County Park (5 miles away).
www.sdcountry.ca.gov/parks/Camping/heise.html

If you choose to arrange your own lodging, please plan to join us for meals and evening programs and microscope sessions. See cost for this option on the registration form below.

Meals

Nine meals will be provided beginning with dinner on Tuesday night (3/26) and going through box lunch Friday (3/29). Meals will be served family style. KP duties will include table setting and clearing our own tables.

Registration

Full registration includes lodging, nine meals, printing, and use of the meeting hall in Blum Lodge where we will set up our microscopes and have our evening talks.

All arrangements are being handled by Chris Harrell. Please contact Chris with your questions. Email: charrell@miracosta.edu; work: 760-795-6819; home: 760-758-1413; cell: 760-518-1241

Please fill out the following registration form and return by mail with your check to the address given below.

Please do not contact Camp Stevens for reservations.

Registration and payment are due by January 15, 2013, but housing will be filled on a first come, first served basis so please get your reservations in early!

SO BE FREE 18 March 26 through 29, 2013
Registration and payment are due by January 15, 2013

Registration Form

Name (s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone No: _____ Email: _____

People you would like to room with who are paying separately: _____
Otherwise, roommates will be assigned to you.

Costs are per person, based on at least 75% occupancy per room.

Rooms with private baths have limited availability. Reservations are on a first come, first served basis. If the lodging you prefer is sold out, you will be contacted to choose an alternate.

Lodging at Camp Stevens (includes three nights, nine meals, printing and meeting room:

3-person bunk bed room with private bath = \$200.00 per person # People _____ (one room available)
5-person bunk bed room with private bath = \$190.00 per person # People _____ (five rooms available)
6-8 person bunk bed room with shared bath = \$170.00 per person # People _____ (twelve rooms avail.)
8-person bunk bed yurt with private bath = \$200.00 per person # People _____ (three yurts available)
(minimum per yurt = 5 people)

Tenting with personal gear at Camp Stevens = \$120.00 per person # People _____

Lodging self-arranged:

Nine meals, printing and meeting room = \$90.00 per person # People _____

Sex: Male Female

Meal preference: No preference # _____ Vegetarian # _____

Special dietary needs: Please explain here any special dietary requirements you have, such as gluten or lactose intolerance. You will be notified of arrangements that can be made. _____

Please make your check out to Chris Harrell. Please write SOBEFREE in the memo line and mail to:

Chris Harrell
MiraCosta College
1 Barnard Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056