

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR WILDERNESS PARK REPORT

Southern California has many parks, ecological reserves, wildlife refuges, and wilderness areas — despite our huge human population. Although these places are set aside for city folks, city folks don't really take advantage of them very much. Instead, we usually think of going to the mall for recreation. Why? Go with what you know. I think the wilderness areas are wonderful. They make me feel so good when I walk through them. I think, given the chance, you probably will like them too. Therefore, I want to give you a reason to explore the wilderness resources around you. Once you start looking, you may be very surprised at all the local places you can go to enjoy nature. And as a special bonus, they are very inexpensive outings.

## ***Your Assignment:***

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this assignment is for you to become aware of the various parks and wilderness areas in and near your community. In addition, I want you to investigate one location of your choice and prepare a brief report on your experience.

### **Where to go:**

For destination suggestions on Orange County, consult the “Wild Places in Orange County” web page at the following link:

[http://morriscourse.com/lab/wild\\_places\\_in\\_orange\\_county.htm](http://morriscourse.com/lab/wild_places_in_orange_county.htm)

You also may choose any suitable natural history museum, aquarium, zoo, botanical garden, or wilderness park of your liking.

Check with your instructor before you go to make sure your destination is appropriate.

### **What to do when you get there:**

1. Pickup brochures, maps and field guides, or any literature that describes the park and its wildlife (I will want these in your submittal).
2. Take a walk along one of the trails. Observe the plants and animals and anything else you find interesting about the natural environment there. Record your observations by writing them down (I will want your field notes in your submittal).
3. Prepare (you personally create it) at least one illustration to present in your submittal. This could be:
  - a drawing of a tree, flower, bird, or any other resident
  - a drawing of the landscape
  - a drawing of a map showing the route of your walk and points of interest you encountered
  - a photograph that you took (or several)

### **What You Will Submit:**

1. One page written report describing your visit. It may be handwritten if you like. Report the following:
  - a. Where you went
  - b. What you did
  - c. What you found interesting
  - d. What you learned (make this section particularly informative).
2. Your illustration(s) or photo(s)
3. One of the following: brochure, map, or other literature you picked up at the park
4. Field notes / field sketches you prepared during your visit there

**IMPORTANT NOTICE!!! MOUNTAIN LION ALERT!!** please note that some regional parks may restrict your access because of mountain lion activity. Some parks (notably Ronald W. Caspers Wilderness Park) may prohibit admission of small children. At least one small child was attacked by a mountain lion at Caspers Park several years ago. An adult bicyclist was attacked and killed by a mountain lion at Whiting Ranch several years ago. Always travel wilderness parks with an adult companion and stay alert. Always call your selected wilderness park first to inquire about access.