

# Scattering of Human Remains

The National Park Service normally grants permission to those wishing to scatter cremated remains within the borders of Death Valley National Park. This activity requires a Special Use Permit with an application fee of \$100.

Death Valley National Park is under federal jurisdiction and is, therefore, sovereign in its lands and not subject to the limitations regarding land use by the State of California. Permission by the National Park Service to scatter cremated remains assumes that necessary permission from the State has been secured for the disposition of cremated remains. The following conditions apply to scattering of human ashes:

- A copy of the Certificate of Cremated Human Remains must accompany the application.
- The remains to be scattered must have been cremated and pulverized
- Ashes from Cremated Human Remains must be scattered in a manner so as to disperse their identity.
- No markers of any kind may be left to commemorate the event.
- No more than six (6) participants will be permitted
- The scattering of human ashes by air is prohibited.
- Prerecorded music or audio amplifying devices are prohibited.
- Area may not be blocked off to visitors, the permit does not imply exclusive use of an area and ceremonies shall not interfere with normal visitor traffic.
- CalTrans permit may be required for ash scattering on or near Highway 190
- A general location must be listed on the application and should be chosen with the following criteria in mind:
  - The scattering of remains by persons on the ground shall be performed at least 100 yards from any trail, road, developed facility, or body of water
  - The selected location must take into account potential conflicts with the spiritual or cultural practices of the indigenous people associated with the area
  - Scattering of Ashes in Death Valley National Park is generally allowed within 300 feet from any park road and/or on Devil's Golf Course

You may mail or email the permit application to the Special Use Permits Coordinator. The park will work with you to determine an exact suitable location once you have selected the general area. It will take 30-60 days to obtain a permit—please keep this in mind when planning your activity. Once a permit is generated, it will be sent to you for signature. When you sign and return the permit to us, it will be signed by the superintendent and only then will it be valid. The completed permit will be returned for your use and you should have it with you while you are in the park.