



# BACKBONE TRAIL PROGRAM - *Traverse the diversity and history of the Santa Monica Mountains*

SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

**WHAT** – The Backbone Trail (BBT) Program is an interpretive hike not a fitness hike. It is led by experienced National Park Service volunteers. The trail covers 65 miles, about 25,000 feet of elevation gain and loss, and all types of terrain. **The BBT Program has 8 segments with average hikes of 8.5 miles and 3,200 feet of elevation gain and loss.** Significant vehicle shuttling is involved to avoid “in and back” hikes. The only fee is when using several California State Parks parking lots.

**WHEN** – The hike’s 8 segments occur on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday (not every other Saturday) of each month beginning in January. Additionally, allow for 2 hikes on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays in May in case we have to postpone hikes for whatever reason. All hikes stage at 8AM and last no more than 7 hours before returning to your car. **Attendance is required at a Hiker Orientation the morning of the fourth Saturday in October.**

**WHO** – Injury free hikers in average to good physical condition of any age are welcome. If an 8.5 mile hike with 3,200’ of elevation gain/loss on uneven footing while exposed to the elements is beyond your current comfort zone, or conversely if it is just a good warm-up this may not be the hike for you. Likewise, **if you are unable to calendar the dates for Orientation and 10 hikes (January thru May) please consider postponing your application until a future year.** There is always an eager and hopeful waiting list.

**HOW** – Applications will be accepted annually from September 20<sup>th</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>. A randomized lottery will be conducted and results will be communicated the following week. Using this Application Form you can sign up for yourself and one other adult, or a minor child. Families use multiple forms listing each minor as Hiker #2 and responsible party as #1. Applicants who are part of a larger group should be prepared to hike if their application is selected, but the rest of the group's aren't. Applicant’s name may only appear on one application (except for families). Questions and applications should be emailed to: [BBTHIKE@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BBTHIKE@GMAIL.COM).

## LOTTERY APPLICATION

*All fields are required. By submitting an application those listed agree to comply with the BBT Program as described above.*

HIKER #1	Name:		Email:
	Cell phone & provider name:		Home phone:
	Medical issues that might be a factor on the trail:		Interests you’d like addressed on the hike:
	Emergency contact: name & relation (not on hike)		Emergency contact: phone
	Your Zip Code:	Hiker’s fitness is adequate? (Y/N)	Hiker has Orientation and 10 hikes on their calendar?(Y/N)
HIKER #2	Name:		Email:
	Cell phone & provider name:		Home phone:
	Medical issues that might be a factor on the trail:		Interests you’d like addressed on the hike:
	Emergency contact: name & relation (not on hike)		Emergency contact: phone
	Your Zip Code:	Hiker’s fitness is adequate? (Y/N)	Hiker has Orientation and 10 hikes on their calendar?(Y/N)
QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS	How did you learn about the BBT Program?		