



WINTER NEWSLETTER

Enhancing public awareness of the importance of maintaining and restoring the unique natural habitat within Chino Hills State Park through interpretive and educational activities

AT A GLANCE

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Meet New Park Manager, Kim Reyes



We would like to introduce you to the new Park Manager, Kimberly Reyes. Kim comes to us from the City of Corona and Riverside County Parks before that.

She was born in the Los Angeles area and did not have any exposure to nature. At 18 years old, Kim went camping for the first time and fell in love with camping and even got to see a momma bear and her cub.

She first went to community college in Cerritos and then transferred to Cal State Fullerton. She graduated with two bachelor's degrees.

During her last semester in college, she joined the OC Parks Ranger Reserve Program. She knew that she wanted to do more with parks and working in the outdoors.

The contacts she made volunteering with OC Parks led her to volunteering with State Parks at Crystal Cove (still her favorite place in the world). This finally led to a job as a Forest Ranger at Riverside County Parks in Idyllwild. She managed three campgrounds, a 100-year-old lodge, and groups cabins at Lawler Lodge.

Following this, Kim was promoted to Park Ranger Supervisor for the City of Corona. She was tasked with creating and building the city's Park Ranger Program. The program was very successful and opened up new fun opportunities for community members to enjoy and experience their local green space safely.

All of this has now led her to Chino Hills and California Citrus State Parks.

She sees her role as Parks Manager to support all the services at Chino Hills and California Citrus State Parks. She sees interpretation as the blood of the Park while land management and enforcement keep the body together and safe. But the blood is what gets the park going, and that's interpretation.

That means working with everyone who cares about the parks, including the native tribes. She sees it as a partnership and is always looking for opportunities to move the Park forward. She just wants to be the person who helps get the wheels oiled and moving forward.

As her biggest challenge is the unpredictability of the current environment, she stays focused on providing the best experience for the people using the Park while protecting its natural resources.

She loves board games, music, professional wrestling, and camping. She still lives in Idyllwild and loves being close to nature.



Scully Hill Trail & Bridge

Scully Hill trail has been closed due to dangerous conditions. The CHSPIA trail sign installation volunteers have placed CLOSED signs at the top and bottom of the Scully Hill trail. The trail is 2 miles long with over 500 feet of gain/loss from its intersection with Scully Ridge trail and Lower Aliso Canyon trail. The reason the trail is closed (and has been closed

for a long time) is that the bridge at the bottom of the trail is burned out and partially washed away. It times, the normally dry stream bed below it isn't so dry—it can have thick mud making it dangerous to cross. As of last fall, the brush has grown so thick that it's not possible to even see a way to get across and out to Lower Aliso Canyon.

Recent road clearing by a utility company makes it very inviting to hike those 2 miles downhill only to find out that the last bit is impassible. Hiking back uphill those 2 miles in the hot sun can be challenging for many park users. Thanks to the sign installation volunteers!

These photos were taken in July 2022 before the current vegetation took over.



Interpreter's Corner

La Nina winter is bringing lots of activity to the park. We've seen the addition of 15 volunteers. We have kicked off our Naturalist Chats the last Friday of every month. Our traditional campfire program is the first Saturday of every month. We hope to bring in people who love being outdoors and who want to know more about the park while eating smores! We've made statewide changes to the Junior Ranger program. We will host our Junior Rangers the last Sunday morning of every month. We are always looking for more volunteer for programs and trails and hope that 2025 brings us up to our 200 people goal!

To learn more about our park events, please check us out on Eventbrite and follow CHINO HILLS STATE PARK EVENTS.



Odds & Ends

Want to get even more involved with the Park? Have you considered joining the CHSPIA Board? The CHSPIA Board role is to support the Park and the staff primarily through financial support. But we also help with other efforts in the Park, such as Earth Day and Barbed Wire Removal. If you have any interest email eric@chinohillsstatepark.org.

Do you know of any groups that may want to support the Park? Does your employer have a matching donation program that you can be targeted towards CHSPIA? Let us know, or if you have any questions, please email eric@chinohillsstatepark.org.

How to know if trails are open

Have you ever been planning a visit to Chino Hills State Park and wondered if the trails are open? Or if the Park is fully closed to visitors? There are many reasons that the Park's trails can be fully or partially closed, including protecting the breeding areas of the Least Bell's Vireo and other birds, severe fire danger, or letting the trails dry out after a significant rainfall.

With funding from the Chino Hills State Park Interpretive Association (CHSPIA), the Park's media coordinator Garrett Fuhrman has added an information box to the official Park website where he will provide detailed real-time information about trail conditions, construction work in the park, parking during super-blooms, and anything else that might improve a visitor's experience. Look for this updated information at the [State Park website](#).

You can help CHSPIA raise funds to support this software addition by donating at the CHSPIA store in the Park's Brea Discovery Center, or you can donate through the QR code below.

As always, find up-to-date information about CHSPIA and the State Park on our social media here:

<https://www.facebook.com/10CHSPIA>

<https://www.instagram.com/chspinterpretiveassociation/>

Reach out to us

For questions, feedback, article ideas, or story contributions, email info@chinohillsstatepark.org.

If you want to volunteer at the park, for more information go to:

<https://app.betterimpact.com/PublicOrganization/9c092e9f-8c6e-46e9-b19f-48d3f4f3a41c/1>

If you are looking for great gift ideas and want to support CHSPIA, stop by the gift store at the Discovery Center.

Help the Park and make a tax-deductible donation to CHSPIA at www.ChinoHillsStatePark.org or at this QR Code:



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