

# HIKE of the MONTH



## Rancho Peñasquitos Canyon—Easy ■

**Recommended Level:** Daisies-Adults

**Dates:** Feb.-March

**Cost:** Free (self-guided, family hike)

*Please note that this is a self-guided, family hike (not a troop event.) Please wear masks on the trail if you encounter other people, and follow proper COVID-19 protocols.*

**Length:** 6 miles (out and back)

**Difficulty:** Easy

**Elevation Gain/Loss:** 0'

**Driving directions:** From the 15 freeway take Mercy Road and go West. It will dead end at the entry gate to the Peñasquitos Canyon Trail head parking (paid parking).

**Free parking:** From Mercy turn right on Black Mountain Road. Turn left at the next light, into the Los Peñasquitos Recreation area. Drive west until the road ends and park. Take the trailhead to the left and follow the directions above.

**Bring:** [10 +2 Essentials](#) (link to our WHC handbook)

**Map:** [Los Peñasquitos Canyon Preserve | Parks & Recreation | City of San Diego Official Website](#)

Print the map; *there are no maps at the trailhead.* [Peñasquitoscanyon.pdf \(sandiego.gov\)](#)

**See specifics on reverse**



## HIKING LEVELS

■ Easy (all levels of hikers) ■ Moderate (intermediate) ■ Strenuous (experienced only)

### **Specifics:** Turn by turn

- Route: The one-way trail begins to the left of the baseball fields, at Rancho Peñasquitos Recreation Center. Once you are at the center, drive all the way west and park where the road ends.
- From parking spot find a dirt trail to your left and walk left.
- Turn right at a trash can before to are all the way to the creek. Here you will find a bridge that crosses the creek.
- You will then be on the main trail. It is smooth, wide and easy to follow. It can also be crowded and there are dirt bikes, so watch for others. Also watch for wildlife. There are hawks and snakes. If you go early in the morning, you may also see a deer or fox.
- Follow this main trail for about 3 miles. When you start to go up a slight hill, you will see signs that point to the waterfall.
- Take the natural steps down to the water fall/creek or find a nice rock above to sit on (not too close to the edge) and have a snack, enjoy the view and the sound of running water. To return to your car, follow the path back the same way you came.
- You can also start the hike from the Los Peñasquitos Canyon Parking lot. The trailhead is well marked. You will have to pay the parking fee here and the hike is a bit longer.

### **Key Risks:**

- Possibly weather (heat/cold/wind)
- Mountain bikes—especially on the Laguna side of Sunrise Highway
- Rattlesnakes

### **Be safe! Have fun! Share your pictures!**

- Send us a picture: [GSSD Backpacking](#)
- Post a picture on the [GSSD Trail Buddies Facebook Page](#) (completion of Wilderness Hiking is a requirement to join this private group. We encourage you to join GSSD Trail Buddies to stay connected to the GSSD hiking and backpacking program, and learn about upcoming hikes, classes, and trips.)

