

Deep Creek Hot Springs Etiquette

Respect your fellow hotspringers and be polite to all by following the Deep Creek Hot Spring's etiquette and USFS regulations. These common sense hot springs standards of etiquette have been written with the intention of making your hot springs visits more enjoyable for you and your fellow hotspringers.

- **Respect other people's privacy.** Many are at the hot springs for quiet time. Please refrain from shouting. Don't monopolize a person's time unless the welcome mat is out. Recognize when you are unwelcome.
- **Do not bring glass containers.** Even though you can take the greatest of care, accidents do happen or someone else could accidentally bump into you. No one wants to cut themselves on glass you brought in.
- **Pack it in, pack it out.** There is no official trash collection at Deep Creek. Just because we are doing our part to look after this beautiful place does not mean we are your trash collectors. If you carried it down, you can carry it back up. It is recommended that you pack out a little more than you packed in. Unfortunately, not everyone packs all their trash out. Cigarette butts and melted candles are trash as well. Please do not leave them in the pools for others to take out.
- **Respect the environment.** Do not cut down, chop, mark or carve on trees or harm the wild life and other vegetation you see at the springs or on the trails. Do not add any class of chemicals to the water. Help preserve the existing pool but do not build new ones.

- **Monitor your dogs.** Not everyone is a dog lover. Please respect the feelings of others and restrain your pet if he/she is being a nuisance to others. Many people do not appreciate a dog in the hot pools with them so please check with fellow hotspringers before allowing your dog into a pool.
- **Do not photograph people without their permission.** It is common courtesy to ask first. Not everyone wants to end up in a stranger's photo album. Never photograph any children without their parent's permission.
- **There are no bathroom facilities down at the hot springs.** Bring a small shovel and toilet paper for these purposes. Find a private place away from the creek, dig a hole and when finished please cover it up with lots of dirt. The USFS standard guideline requires you to be 200 feet from the creek and hot spring sources. The sanitary condition of the springs and surrounding area is a concern to the authorities. Do not give them an excuse to close them down. Please remember that toilet paper is trash as well, please pack it out or bury it deep.
- **Speak up for our standards.** If a person seems unaware of hot springs etiquette, explain it kindly and plainly. Don't let uncouth individuals jeopardize the future of Deep Creek or ruin our fragile and beautiful place under the sun.

Note regarding a potential health concern: According to USFS information Deep Creek Hot Springs is one of four bodies of water known to contain an organism called *Naegleria fowleri*. Bathing in the springs could expose a person to the risk of an extremely rare but potentially fatal disease called primary amoebic meningoencephalitis (PAM). There have been no reports of PAM at the springs since 1979. Note this is an advisory based on information provided to DCV and should not be taken to constitute medical or legal advice.

Note regarding a flash floods: Please note that Deep Creek area is prone to sudden flash floods, mud slides and falling rocks. These events are more likely during or shortly after rain storms in winter, however they could occur year round.

Clothing Optional Custom

Historically these springs have been clothing optional. It has been the US Forest Service accepted practice that nudity is tolerated within the Deep Creek drainage. However, other agencies like Bureau of Land Management or the San Bernardino Sheriff's Department could try to enforce State anti-nudity ordinances on Federal land, but there have been no recent cases where this has occurred. It is recommended that if possible you dress before encountering them, and definitely upon their request.

Some people hike the trails nude, however you should remember that many people in today's society are not accustomed to public nudity and therefore you should try not to offend other people. Keep your shorts or other clothing handy. To wander nude into clothing compulsive territory may offend many and undermine our objectives. Please help by respecting their rights, as we would like them to respect our right to be nude in established clothing optional areas. Transgressions may lead to complaints and us losing this right. The hot springs you save by respecting these standards may be your own.

Remember that clothing optional is not a pretext for overt sexual activity. Nude is not lewd but combined with sex, it undermines our image and could cost us our freedom and enjoyment of the hot springs. We firmly believe that the springs are a healthy environment for your children and grandchildren. Please help us keep it that way.

Deep Creek Volunteers is affiliated with The Naturist Society (TNS), which is organized to protect our rights to have public areas set aside for clothing optional recreation across the United States. To find out more about TNS or to contact similar groups in your area please visit their website:



www.naturistsociety.com
info@naturistsociety.com
The Naturist Society
P.O. Box 132
Oshkosh, WI 54903

How to Contact Us

If you would like to be a part of this group or if you would like to find out more about the group, please complete the attached form and mail it to:

Deep Creek Volunteers
P.O. Box 5870
Orange, CA 92863-5870

or **Visit the web and click on NEW Member .**
www.DeepCreekVolunteers.com

We will keep this information confidential and will use it to notify you of any changes in our scheduled monthly meetings, clean up days and anything that may affect the future of Deep Creek as we know it today.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Forum Alias: _____

- I would like to become a member of DCV and be on your mailing / email list (membership is FREE but no card is provided).
- I would like to receive further information about your group.
- I would just like to be on your mailing list.
- I already am a member of The Naturist Society.
- I would like to join TNS (information on preceding page) through DCV and my check for \$50 payable to DCV is attached. Your card will get you discounts at clubs and "N" magazine mailed to you.

DEEP CREEK VOLUNTEERS

Deep Creek Volunteers is a volunteer organization that exists to preserve and protect Deep Creek Hot Springs for our children and grand children as they exist today. We believe they should be open and available to all clean, healthy, clothing optional, family oriented, with the intention of bringing people together in a sense of community and in harmony with the natural environment. We hope to achieve this through the volunteer work of our members, the education of its users, and by coordinating and cooperating with our local private and public entities.

Our informal meetings are held the last Saturday of every month at 1:00 p.m. at the grassy area above the Anniversary Pool and are open to public observation and comment. Please accept this brochure as an invitation to come and join us. We operate on a consensus-seeking decision making process.

Our objectives include:

- Preserve the public's right to access the springs.
- Work with the USFS to help reduce the impact that visitors have on this area.
- Communicate the USFS regulations regarding the use of this area.
- Inform visitors of our local customs and common sense expectations.
- Preserve the clothing optional custom by educating visitors on the appropriate etiquette.
- Establish a network of caring hot springers that can be contacted if these springs are threatened with closure.

You may join DCV for free but we do not provide members with cards. In order to do so please complete the contact information page and mail it to us or send us an email with the same information. To learn more about our group please visit our website at:
www.DeepCreekVolunteers.com

Welcome to Deep Creek Hot Springs

These natural hot springs are located in the San Bernardino National Forest. The pools were built by volunteers over a period of years and are largely maintained by volunteers in the pristine state you see them in today. The beautiful and unique landscape, the soothing hot spring waters mixing with the cool mountain stream, local custom and tradition make for a wonderful clothing-optional setting to be enjoyed by all. Since the time Native Americans inhabited the area, people from all over the world have come to the springs to get away, soak, sunbathe, relax, and enjoy the natural environment all year long.

Our group is dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of the springs and our right to enjoy it, by reducing the impact of increased visitation through volunteer cleanup efforts, educating the public about various United States Forest Service (USFS) regulations, as well as encouraging a level of visitor etiquette compatible with the goal of preserving the springs as it is enjoyed today. To learn more about this informal group and what you can do to help preserve the springs, see the reverse side of this brochure.

United States Forest Service Regulations

Respect the USFS regulations for the area. Ignoring these regulations could lead to the closure of the area that would affect us all. These regulations prohibit the following activities in the Deep Creek drainage area:

- Camping on National Forest lands within a mile of each side of Deep Creek.
- Building, maintaining or attending a fire, campfire or stove fire.
- Being in the Deep Creek area after sundown or before sunrise.
- Possession of glass containers within a mile of each side of Deep Creek.
- Being publicly nude within one-quarter mile of the T-6 crossing (near Lake Arrowhead).

Violation of these regulations is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both.