

Field Practicum

California Tiger Salamander Workshop

PLEASE READ THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION

It is very important that you arrive on time! Please leave enough time for traffic, getting lost, and so forth. We will begin promptly and depart very shortly thereafter to places where you cannot meet us. In an emergency, call or text organizer Dan Brumbaugh at (831) 332 – 6933. Just note that there may be little or no cell service on parts of the Dorrance Ranch.

Driving / Carpooling (including COVID considerations)

At the ranch, we need to use all-terrain vehicles to access the ponds. We appreciate people who are willing and able to volunteer to carpool, both as drivers and passengers.

Fortunately, out of 41 responses to our anonymous poll of 51 participants (48 students and 3 instructors/leaders), we found that 83% (34 people) expected to be fully vaccinated, and another 7% (3) expect to be partially vaccinated, suggested that our group will be ~73-92% vaccinated (depending on the vaccination status of the 10 non-respondents).

This, as well as current knowledge of coronavirus transmission pathways, suggests that risks of transmission during our activities should be quite low, though not zero. To reduce any risks of coronavirus transmission during the short drives between sites, we will be wearing **masks**, generally keeping groups of people from the same organizations together, and otherwise distributing people among available vehicles as much as possible. Vehicles are also encouraged to operate with **open windows** during all carpooling. All carpooling is **voluntary**, but if you do not want to carpool, you'll need to provide your own all-terrain vehicle.

We also urge everyone not already vaccinated to do so if/as soon as possible, because unvaccinated people are most at risk from contracting and spreading the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Restroom

There may be no restroom facilities at the field location.

Supplies and Equipment

Waders or waterproof boots are required for the field sessions. Boots will be adequate if participants do not wish to venture into the water, but waders would provide the ability to conduct a thorough field investigation and to more thoroughly benefit from the hands-on elements of the training. **We will also be requiring masks while in the field.**

It is very important that all field gear be clean and disinfected prior to being brought to the field site to reduce the chances of spreading invasive organisms and/or pathogens. To clean and disinfect waders and boots (and nets if you bring them), make sure all mud and debris is removed, then spray with a 4% bleach solution, wait three minutes, and rinse with water. Alternatively, after removing mud and debris, instead of bleaching, the gear can be left to dry in an environment of less than 70% humidity for 48 hours.

Comfort and Safety

Please be prepared for our sometimes very chilly conditions. Participants have been ill prepared in the past for the cold, windy, foggy, and moist conditions that are typical here on the coast. There is a possibility that it will rain, and fog can sometimes precipitate as if it were rain. The field locations contain bodies of water within which participants will be surveying. The sides of these pools are slippery, there is mud, and there are no trained lifeguards as part of the training. If you are concerned about your ability to swim, manage slippery aquatic conditions in field equipment, etc., please let the instructors or workshop organizers know.

We will not be providing food or beverage as part of the field training session. If you are concerned about these items, please be sure to bring them yourself.

The sites may also present the following hazards: ticks, leaches, fleas, mosquitoes, other biting insects, poison oak, and rattlesnakes. The field session may include opportunity to assess upland habitat and some participants may wish to explore this typically difficult territory. The sites have uneven ground and travel to and from the vehicles may include uneven surfaces and short, moderately difficult hikes.