

Desert Hills Christian Homeschoolers

Archaeology Hike - March 15, 2008

This is my field trip report on the archeology hike that our group did last Saturday. We were blessed to have a perfect day for a walk in the desert, with sunny skies and a pleasant temperature – quite different than the next day which was cold, cloudy, and super windy! DHCH members who came out for the hike were the Borman and Gill families, Kim and Jesse Lindvig, Therese and Noah Christopher, Leanne Albillar, and the Olsen family (that’s us!).

Everyone met at our house and we drove from there into the Tonto National Forest. We took two vehicles and most of the kids piled into the back of the pickup truck. Getting to our destination was rather slow-going on a rough, rocky dirt road. There was more activity than we usually see out there, probably because it was such a beautiful day. We even passed a couple of Boy Scout camps along the way. The road sure isn’t getting any better, though. We drove as far as we could, then parked and walked the rest of the way.



While the goal was to go on an archeology hike, it turned out to be more like a wildflower hike. The desert was absolutely gorgeous with lush greenery and flowers of many colors. I kept thinking it was like walking through a wildflower wonderland! Everyone was wishing they had brought their field guide along for identifying the plants, as we were stopped every few steps along the way to take another pretty picture.



It was just like the verse: “The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad...and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly.” ~*Isaiah 35:1-2*



To reach the ruins, we had to walk up a hill.



Now we're almost there!



At the base of the ruins there are pottery shards and petroglyphs.



On top of the hill is the best-preserved room. It even has a little window!



View from the top looking west toward Gavilan Peak.



Exploring the ruins, with a field of yellow flowers down below.



It was a bit windy at the top, but we experienced another magical moment when several little white butterflies kept fluttering around our heads. To see a short video, click here: www.knowledgehouse.info/Butterflies.AVI - Hope everyone enjoyed the day as much as I did!