



## **Briefing Statement**

**Date:** October 19, 2011

**Title:** Desert Tortoise Information and Youth Education Program Update

- The Living Desert Zoo and Botanical Garden (TLD) in Palm Desert has taken over DTIYE program coordination on behalf of and in partnership with the DMG. TLD hired Miss Kyle Pong in June as the new program coordinator. Kyle has an educational background and is collocated with Dr. Chris Mullen of DTRO.
- Deliverables for all grants are on-track. The NFWF has been extended until June 2012 and all funds from the OHMVR grant will be obligated by the end of this month.
- Kyle is planning a desert tortoise scouting event at The Living Desert November 5 and 6. The attendance goal is 150.
- Kyle is attending numerous fairs and events. A list of these events is attached. If you are aware of additional events that Kyle should attend, please contact her. Agency staff is always welcome to participate in or help plan any of these events.
- MDEP designed a desert tortoise graphic wrap for trailers that Barstow Field Office uses at El Mirage OHV area. A similar design will be used for the El Mirage annual passes and signage. If you tortoise education design needs, please contact Kyle or Fon.
- The Mojave Maxine emergence contest will begin in November.
- Kyle, as an employee of The Living Desert, is able to seek private donations for the their part of the DTIYE partnership. If you have ideas for possible donors, please contact Kyle. Likewise, if you have a relationship with a potential donor that you would prefer Kyle not to contact, please let her know.
- As a result of dot gov domain reduction, FWS was asked to remove deserttortoise.gov. All content has been moved to [http://www.mojavedata.gov/deserttortoise\\_gov/](http://www.mojavedata.gov/deserttortoise_gov/). Because all DTIYE promotional material has deserttortoise.gov on it a redirect page will remain at <http://www.deserttortoise.gov/> for at least a year.
- The next DTIYE meeting is scheduled for November 16 at The Living Desert.

## **Contacts**

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Events that the Desert Tortoise Outreach Coordinator plans to attend this winter.

- Sand Sport Super Show- Los Angeles- September 15-18
- Boy Scout Stampede at the San Bernardino County Sherriff's Rodeo- Devore- September 24
- LA County Fair - September 28-October 2
- Pioneer Days- Twentynine Palms- October 13-16
- California Science Teachers Association- Pasadena- October 20-23
- Girl Scouts of LA Girltopia- Los Angeles- October 29
- Fall Festival for Teachers- TLD- November 2 This event will be a tortoise trunk workshop for teachers
- Girl Scout BIG Event- January
- Riverside County Fair- Indio- February 17-26
- Maxine Emergence Festival- The Living Desert- after emergence, probably in February
- Wildflower Festival- March
- Palm Springs West Fest- Palm Springs- March
- Imperial Valley California Mid-Winter Fair- El Centro- March
- Learning Day Festival at Agua Caliente Tribe- Palm Springs- April
- Poppy Festival- Lancaster- April
- California Association of Environmental and Outdoor Education- April
- National Junior Ranger Day- National Park units- April
- High Desert Spring Festival- May
- San Bernardino County Fair- May
- Desert Tortoise Days- California City- May
- Grub Stakes Days- Yucca Valley- Memorial Day weekend