

## 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, as much as possible, we will carpool in all-terrain vehicles to access the ponds. We appreciate people who are willing and able to volunteer to carpool, both as drivers and passengers.

To reduce ongoing risks of coronavirus transmission during the short drives between sites, we are generally keeping groups of colleagues from the same organizations together while otherwise distributing masked people among vehicles as much as possible. Vehicles are also encouraged to operate with open windows during carpooling.

**We also urge everyone not already vaccinated or boosted to do so if/as soon as possible to reduce their risk of contracting and spreading the coronavirus.**

#### Supplies and Equipment

Waders or waterproof boots are required for the field sessions. Boots will be adequate if participants do not wish to venture further 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.

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 temperatures ranging between very chilly to hot. Participants have been ill prepared in the past for the cold, wind, fog, 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.