The Deer Valley Petroglyph Preserve is a 47-acre nature preserve, archaeological research site, and interpretive gallery.

Created to protect the petroglyphs etched into the boulders of the Hedgpeth Hills, it opened to the public in December of 1994. Behind the preserve runs the Adobe Dam, a check-dam that was built in 1981 in order to control the flooding of Skunk Creek and allow for further development of the Northwest Valley.

An archaeological investigation of the site was conducted by J. Simon Bruder of the Museum of Northern Arizona prior to construction on the dam. Over 1500 unique petroglyphs were identified and recorded, as well as several artifacts recovered currently on display in the gallery.

Today the preserve is staffed and operated by Arizona State University’s School of Human Evolution and Social Change in partnership with the Maricopa Flood Control District and through the continued support from our docents and volunteers.
Welcome
Connecting Past and Present

HIGHLIGHTS
- Escape the city on a self-guided, quarter-mile nature trail featuring native desert plants and animals in their natural habitat
- View petroglyphs etched into boulders along the Hedgpeth Hills
- Interact with our knowledgeable staff, students, docents and volunteers
- Learn about the cultures that traveled through this location for thousands of years
- Explore the archaeological research by J. Simon Bruder and view objects found at the site including pottery sherds, shell and animal bone artifacts, and stone tools
- Gain hands-on experience through our interactive learning and education center for children and families
- Purchase unique items in the store including publications from ASU faculty and experts in the field of Southwest archaeology and petroglyphs, cookbooks on indigenous foods, nature guides, children’s books and Deer Valley souvenirs

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES
- Docent-guided tours (reservations required in advance)
- School field trips (reservations required in advance)
- Demonstrations, workshops and special events featuring local indigenous artisans throughout the year
- Activity days focusing on archaeology, prehistoric cultures and desert ecology
- Research-based lectures offered through Osher Lifelong Learning Institute led by faculty and graduate students from Arizona State University
- Annual culture recognition and celebration events in March and November
- Seasonal themed tours offered throughout the year (see website for current offerings)
- On-going research presentations and displays from ASU’s School of Human Evolution and Social Change and community partnerships

HOURS
Open Wednesday - Saturday (closed Sunday - Tuesday)
January - May 2022 . . . . 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Open Wednesday - Friday (closed Saturday - Tuesday)
October - December 2021 . . . . 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

ADMISSION
General . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $9
Seniors (62+), Military, AAA members, Students (with valid ID) . . . . . . . . 10% discount
Children (7-12) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . $5
Children (6 and younger) . . . . . . . . . . . . . Free
Preserve Members and ASU Students . . . . Free

VISIT
- Please wear comfortable, closed-toe shoes, sunscreen, a hat, and bring water. You may also bring binoculars and your camera.
- Bottled water and drink-ware available for sale.
- The trail is a relatively flat, gravel walking path, and is suitable for all levels of fitness. Please note the trail is not ADA accessible.
- The average visit lasts around 90 minutes, while some visitors do stay for the day. However, the gallery and trail can be completed in as little as 30 minutes.
- We welcome service animals. Please leave pets at home. The preserve is committed to compliance with state and federal laws regarding service animals.
- During summer hours we encourage early morning viewing of the petroglyphs.