

Environmental Education



Environmental education connects students to the environment and can support any subject area. Studies document the positive impact that environmental education has on student test scores, overall achievement and self-esteem. Curricula listed below address California standards. Field trips serve to further connect children with nature.



City of San José Environmental Services Department Watershed Protection —Youth Watershed Education Team (YWET)

170 W. San Carlos Street
San José, CA 95113
(408) 945-3000

watershedprotection@sanjoseca.gov
www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/schools

Curriculum materials, grant funding, teacher training, field trips, and presentations focused on watershed protection. It's Wet, It's Wild, It's Water! is a curriculum targeted for grades 3 to 6 and correlated with California Content Standards. This updated tool kit offers a teacher's guide with five hands-on activities and resource materials, a watershed poster, and an award-winning video.

Santa Clara Valley Water District

5750 Almaden Expressway
San José, CA 95118
Kathy Machado
(408) 265-2607 x2331

kmachado@valleywater.org
www.valleywater.org/For_Teachers_and_Students/index.shtm

Offers water conservation workshops, tours, and newsletters for teachers and students.

RAFT, Resource Area for Teaching

1355 Ridder Park Dr.
San José, CA 95131
(408) 451-1420

www.raft.net

RAFT Teacher Training Workshops facilitate hands-on learning, offer low cost professional development opportunities, and enrich education for children. In house and in school topics include Math, Science, Technology, and Art. Special workshops feature use of Adobe products for schools.



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California Education Standards

There are many environmental education curricula available now that address the California Education Standards. Environmental curricula can be incorporated into any subject area.

California Regional Environmental Education Community Network (CREEC)

An educational project supported by the California Department of Education, Environmental Education Program, in collaboration with state, regional and local partners, with an on-line Resource Directory where users can search by county, grade level and academic focus using California Standards, including resources for bilingual and disabled students.

Region 5: South Bay Area including Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Benito and Monterey Counties

Charity Mulkey
South Bay Region Coordinator
Santa Cruz County Office of Education
400 Encinal Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
Phone: (831) 466-5711
Fax: (831) 466-5607

emulkey@santacruz.k12.ca.us
www.creec.org/region5/

California Department of Education, Environmental Education

Provides Statewide Environmental Education Resources, Environmental Education Grants, and the Environmental Education Compendia Series which compiles K-12 environmental curricula.

www.cde.ca.gov/pd/ca/sc/oe/introd.asp

Conservation Connection

Simon Eching
seching@water.ca.gov
www.owue.water.ca.gov/docs/StudentBook.pdf

Provides a curriculum focused on water and energy conservation.

Banana Slug String Band

P. O. Box 2262, Santa Cruz, CA 95063
(888) 32-SLUGS, (888) 327-5847 phone and fax
www.bananaslugstringband.com

School assemblies integrate music, poetry, drama, and movement with hands-on science. Teacher trainings, presented in a variety of formats, are open to Pre K-6 classroom teachers and outdoor educators.

Waste Free Lunch Program

info@wastefreelunches.org
www.wastefreelunches.org

Information and products enabling parents and schools to develop waste-free lunches: tips, brochures, recipes, strategies, lunch kits, and free e-newsletters.

Cornell University Waste Management Institute Trash Goes To School, Youth Resources

Ellen Harrison, CWMI Director
(607) 255-1187
cwmi@cornell.edu

cwmi.css.cornell.edu/resources.htm#youthteacher

Provides K-12 activities, lesson plans, ideas for using solid waste issues in other subject areas, glossaries, videos, and publications on solid waste issues, recycling, composting, and garbage.

Recycling Rechargeable Batteries Corporation

7 Lilac, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656
Sean Burchill
(949) 215-4620

sburchill@rbrc.com
www.rbrc.org/consumer/education.html

Free lesson plans focused on rechargeable battery recycling for students age 10 and beyond.

Youth Science Institute

296 Garden Hill Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070
Marion Blair
(408) 356-4945

info@ysi-ca.org
www.ysi-ca.org

Offers flood lessons for grades 5-8, and field trip locations.



Environmental Education

Earth Balloon Portable Classroom

San José Beautiful
1601 Foxworthy Ave., San José, CA 95118
Annie Gambelin
(408) 723-4114

The Earth Balloon is a 19 foot walk-in balloon replica of the Earth, with images of the continents created from thousands of NASA photographs. It holds up to 30 students inside, providing a unique learning environment. A nominal rental fee brings the Earth to your school.

Walden West — Environmental Education Santa Clara County Office of Education

(408) 573-3050

www.sccoe.k12.ca.us/waldenwest/

Outdoor Science School: Grades 5-6, natural sciences camp at two outdoor school sites

Windows to Our Watershed (WOW): Grades 3-6, interactive, flexible learning opportunities

Growing Gardens for Growing Minds reintroduces students to their school gardens.

Santa Clara County Office of Education Educational Resources Database

1290 Ridder Park Dr., MC 232, San José, CA 95131-2398
(408) 453-6800

www.santaclaracountylib.org/database/subjects/green_rpa.html

Directory of 300 environmental field trip locations in the South Bay (including Recycling Centers).

Hidden Villa

26870 Moody Rd., Los Altos Hills, CA 94022
(650) 949-8650

Hidden Villa is the site of a 1,600 organic farm and wilderness preserve with miles of hiking trails, a Youth Hostel, summer camp and other landmark programs. Founded in 1970, Hidden Villa's Environmental Education Program (HVEEP) has served thousands of children each year through two core programs and other educational offerings. On-site naturalists and community educators provide focus on environmental education along with the wonderment and exhilaration of hiking alongside a creek, milking a cow or goat, or harvesting garden vegetables. Through age-specific activities, children learn about ecology, natural history, and energy systems/ cycles, striking a balance between scientific investigation and wonder, awareness, and appreciation.

Children's Discovery Museum: BioSITE

180 Woz Way
San José, CA 95110
Environmental Science Educator
Sandy Derby
(408) 298-5437 ext. 261

sderby@cdm.org

www.cdm.org/biosite/

BioSITE is a partner of the San José Children's Discovery Museum. The BioSITE program is based on the belief that through the process of scientific inquiry all children can successfully grow and learn to make sense of the world in which they live. At BioSITE K-12 students explore and observe the creekside environment, collect and test water samples, look for plant and animal species and document their findings along the Guadalupe River.

Hooked on Nature

4848 San Felipe Rd., # 150-230
San José, CA 95135
(866) 340-4623

www.hookedonnature.org/

A non-profit organization whose mission is to offer inspiration, training, workshops, and resource materials for adults who wish to help children develop loving relationships with the earth. Workshops, Nature Circles and Resource materials are available.

Slow the Flow

Don Edwards National Wildlife Refuge, Alviso

Mailing address only, call for reservations and directions to Alviso site:

9500 Thornton Ave.
Newark, CA 94560
(408) 262-5513

www.fws.gov/desfbay/environ.htm

The free Slow the Flow Field Trip Program is designed for Grades 5-12 and takes place at the Alviso site of the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge, "a wildlife island in an urban sea." Staff lead students in activities that explore water use, water treatment and habitat preservation. The curriculum is correlated to California standards. Staff are also available to make in-classroom presentations at local schools.



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Children and Nature Network

7 Avenida Vista Grande B-7, #502
Santa Fe, NM 87508

www.cnaturenet.org/

The Children & Nature Network (C&NN) was created to encourage and support the people and organizations working to reconnect children with nature. C&NN provides access to the latest news and research in the field and a peer-to-peer network of researchers and individuals, educators and organizations dedicated to children's health and well-being.

Environmental Volunteers

3921 E. Bayshore Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303-4326
(650) 961-0545

www.EVols.org

Volunteer natural science educators provide hands-on science education to K-8 schools in Santa Clara and San Mateo counties so that all children can become responsible stewards of the earth. Programs include: eight in-classroom presentations and field trips; Science and Nature Adventures for Kid Explorers (SNAKE), an exploratory nature camp; and Weekend Service Program at the Palo Alto Baylands for hands-on education outside of school hours.

Guadalupe River Park and Gardens

438 Coleman Ave.
San José, CA 95110
(408) 298-7657

Guadalupe River Park and Gardens connects children with nature in a beautiful natural setting near downtown San José. Packaged field trips address California curriculum standards, showcasing the Guadalupe River, the Heritage Rose Garden and the Historic Orchard, and teach environmental stewardship through the River Testing Program. Seasonal events like Pumpkins in the Park and Spring in Guadalupe Gardens offer additional environmental education opportunities.

ZunZun

(831) 426-0684

zunzuntunes.com/getintouch.php

A performing arts group that celebrates the environments and cultures of the Americas through music and is available to perform at schools.

Last Child in the Woods:

Saving our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder

Book by Richard Louv. The author directly links the lack of nature in the lives of today's wired generation — he calls it nature-deficit — to some of the most disturbing childhood trends, such as the rises in obesity, attention disorders, and depression. **Last Child in the Woods** is the first book to bring together a new and growing body of research indicating that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults. More than just raising an alarm, Louv offers practical solutions and simple ways to heal the broken bond—and many are right in our own backyard.