

Wildlife Exploration: Session 2 - Wetland Habitats

Instructors: Rachel Ameche and Jenni Buchanan

Course Description: Ventura County is rich in biodiversity, teeming with fascinating wildlife and diverse habitats. In this immersive class, we will explore and discover the unique species that inhabit our region, the habitats they rely on, and the important conservation efforts underway to protect them.

In our second session we will venture outdoors to explore the habitats formed by Ventura County's watersheds. These habitats are crucial for species that ensure the health of our local wildlife. Students will engage in hands-on activities as we observe local flora and fauna, discuss the significance of ecosystems in and around water, and learn how they are all connected. We will visit a riparian corridor, look for invasive species in a creek, see the wildlife of coastal wetlands, and visit a water treatment facility to see what happens to water humans have used.

Materials Needed: A nature journal will be provided, and the students will need to bring it to each class. Students also need to be prepared to walk outdoors and will need to come with walking shoes, sunscreen and weather appropriate clothing. A pair of binoculars is highly encouraged. We will have some available to borrow, but students may end up sharing.

Important Note: This is a field class, and some classes will be held off campus. We need to be in touch with parents to update them on field trip plans which may depend on the weather.

Additionally, we need permission to drive your student in our cars to and from the locations of the field trips. As field trips are somewhat dependent on availability of the sites and the weather, they will be confirmed the previous week. A text message or email confirmation of parental permission **will be requested for each field trip.**

Two field trips this session require us to leave early from campus to have enough time.

Field Trips and Dates: * Please note two dates that need early departure from campus

10/24: Hill Canyon wetlands

11/7: Hill Canyon Water treatment facility * Early Departure. Be at school at 8:30am

11/21: Arroyo Conejo creek at Conejo Community Park

12/12: Ormond Beach Wetlands * Early Departure. Be at school at 8:30am

Grading: grading will be based on participation