

Natural LAW

Connecting Students with Nature



LAND

Discover the vital species of the riparian ecosystem. Students will explore the diverse plant and animal life along the river and learn about their crucial roles in maintaining this unique environment's health and balance.

AIR

Explore how birds, bats, bees, and butterflies act as ecosystem engineers. Students will see how these wildlife builders contribute to pollination, pest control, and biodiversity, supporting ecosystem health.

WATER

Learn how aquatic animals reveal the river's health. By exploring bio-indicator species, students will assess water quality and understand how aquatic life helps monitor and maintain a healthy ecosystem.



Natural LAW is Here

At The San Diego River Park Foundation, we believe in the transformative **power of hands-on learning**. Our new **Natural LAW Education Program** immerses students in the ecology, culture, and significance of the San Diego River and watershed. All our **field trips are free**, making these **experiences accessible to everyone**. Join us in fostering stewardship and shaping future environmental leaders.

Curious About Our New Natural LAW Field Trips?

Our **Natural LAW Education Program** offers three specialized field trip options: **Land, Air, and Water**. Each option explores distinct facets of our natural environment. Schools can **choose themed field trip experiences** within each program, providing engaging and educational opportunities for your students.



Book a Field Trip



Choose Your Outdoor Field Trip Experience!



Deep Roots



Wildlife CSI

STAY TUNED!
COMING SOON



Pollinator Partners



Beyond Feathers

STAY TUNED!
COMING SOON

VIRTUAL
FIELD STUDY AVAILABLE



River Bugs are Cool!



River Detectives



Acorns in the Classroom



Trout in the Classroom

SEASONAL
PROGRAM

SEASONAL
PROGRAM

Deep Roots

Students will explore native plants and discover their traditional uses by the Kumeyaay people through hands-on activities. Combined with guided exploration, they will gain a deep understanding of these plants' ecological importance and cultural significance, including their uses for food, medicine, and tools, while appreciating the connection between Kumeyaay culture, nature, and the San Diego River.



2.5 hours



Tue, Wed, Thu



Multiple locations



Elementary & Middle School



Wildlife CSI

Students assume the role of detectives as they investigate and identify the diverse animals and plants that thrive along the river. Through careful observation and study, they uncover the intricate relationships between these species and their environment. This hands-on experience enhances their understanding of how these organisms interact, influence one another, and contribute to the health and balance of the entire riparian ecosystem.



2.5 hours



Tue, Wed, Thu



Multiple locations



Elementary & Middle School



Beyond Feathers

Did you know that San Diego is home to over 500 bird species? Our "Beyond Feathers" field trip provides students with an immersive experience in bird identification, adaptations, habitats, and their vital roles in the ecosystem. During the program, students will take a guided bird walk through the San Diego River estuary, which is recognized as a prime habitat and migration stopover for various aquatic bird species.



2.5 hours



Tue, Wed, Thu



Multiple locations



Elementary & Middle School



Pollinator Partners

Students will explore the essential role of bats, butterflies, bugs, and bees as pollinators and ecosystem engineers. They will learn how these fascinating creatures support biodiversity, aid in plant reproduction, and contribute to the overall health and balance of the river's ecosystems. By understanding these connections, students will develop a deeper appreciation for the complexity of nature and the importance of preserving these vital keystone species.



2.5 hours



Tue, Wed, Thu



Multiple locations



Elementary & Middle School



River Bugs Are Cool

Students will discover how river macroinvertebrates act as bioindicators of water quality. By participating in citizen science, they will actively sample live "river bugs" from the San Diego River. Through hands-on activities, students will identify and sort these invertebrates, collecting valuable data to assess the river's health and understand the impacts of human activity on the riparian ecosystem.



2.5 hours



Tue, Wed, Thu



Multiple locations



Elementary & Middle School

VIRTUAL

FIELD STUDY

AVAILABLE



River Detectives

Students will investigate live "river bugs" from the San Diego River to identify these macroinvertebrates as bioindicators of water quality. They will conduct physical and chemical analyses, including measuring pH levels, assessing turbidity, analyzing salinity, and performing other tests. Through engaging activities, students will analyze the collected data to evaluate water quality and understand its effects on the river ecosystem.



2.5 hours



Tue, Wed, Thu



Multiple locations



Middle & High School



Acorns in the Classroom

Acorns in the Classroom involves students in the growth and nurturing of native species from acorns to oak trees. This hands-on experience allows students to learn about plant growth and ecology. As the acorns mature, students participate in a field trip to explore oak trees and native plants in their natural ecosystem. This program enriches their understanding of plant life cycles, ecosystems, and the significance of local flora in maintaining biodiversity.



2.5 hours



Tue, Wed, Thu



Multiple locations



Elementary & Middle School

SEASONAL
PROGRAM



Trout in the Classroom

Students will have the opportunity to explore the life cycle of California Rainbow Trout by raising them from eggs to juveniles in the classroom. This process involves daily monitoring and care. Once the trout reach the appropriate size, the students will participate in a field trip to release them into a lake. During the field trip, they will receive hands-on training in fly tying and casting, which will enhance their understanding of the endangered trout and foster a sense of responsibility for aquatic ecosystems.



Classroom / Release



October or January



Lake Murray



Elementary & Middle School

SEASONAL
PROGRAM



What do people think about our Field Trips?

"I thought it was great! The best part was the hands-on experience where they used pipettes to capture and identify the macroinvertebrates to measure the health of the river."

Teacher

Cubberley Elementary

"Wow, what a wonderful field trip! Thanks to SDRPF's volunteers and staff for an informative, engaging, and great program. Students and parents loved it!"

Teacher

Mt. Everest Academy

Why Should You Choose Our Field Trips?

Complimentary Access:

Free field trips, ensuring equitable access for all students.

Hands-On Learning:

Students engage in scientific observation and experimentation.

Expert Guidance:

Our knowledgeable educators lead each session.

Interactive Exploration:

Each field trip is designed to be interactive, providing an engaging exploration experience.

Real-World Impact:

Participants help to conserve the San Diego River and watershed.

Curriculum-Aligned:

Meets state standards, enhancing learning with real-world applications.

Book a Field Trip!

STEP 1



[Available Dates](#)

STEP 2



[Submit Form](#)

STEP 3



[Repeat!](#)
Choose Another Field Trip

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