



School Field Trips

THE RESERVE
AT
RANCHO MISSION VIEJO



ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING CAN BE FUN!

On a school field trip to *The Reserve*, students will have fun while learning in a native outdoor setting. Field trip highlights include a visit to a 500 year old "Mother Oak" tree, giant woodrat nests, seasonal displays of wildflowers, decoding animal tracks, and observing harvester ants at work. We offer several field trip themes, each keyed to a specific set of California Science Standards.



EARTH & ITS CHANGES (GRADE 2)

Students learn to distinguish rocks from minerals, compare soil types and compositions, discover surprising uses of minerals, simulate and observe natural erosion, and excavate their very own fossil. Students will view the results of erosion on an abandoned clay mine while hiking up a steep hill. Students also "dig" back in time while learning about changes in the earth's crust.

Covers CA Earth Science Standards 2a–2e.

ADAPTATIONS (GRADE 3)

Students learn about plant, insect, bird, and other animal adaptations while hiking a trail which traverses four distinct native habitats. Students get hands-on experience with binoculars, insect sweep nets, and plant measurement equipment. The field trip includes a surprise hands-on encounter with a native animal. Optional "Adaptations" school assembly provides helpful "preloading."

Covers CA Life Science Standards 3a–3d.

OPEN SPACE (GRADE 4/5)

This multi-part program highlights the effects of human choices on the environment. Students learn where urban water comes from, where trash ends up, and the effects of roads, buildings and lights on natural open space. The field trip trail leads students through four distinct native habitats. At wayside science stations, students conduct a water filtering experiment, learn about decomposers, food chains and food webs, and explore the diversity of plant populations. Students engage in critical thinking as they consider how their own personal choices affect the environment. Program provides an effective review of 4th and 5th grade science standards.

Covers CA Science Standards 4.2.a–c, 4.3.b, 4.3.c, 4.6.a–d, 4.6.f and 5.3.d/e, 5.6.f/g



THE RESERVE AT RANCHO MISSION VIEJO

The Reserve at Rancho Mission Viejo is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation which provides stewardship for wilderness reserve located in the coastal foothills just east of San Juan Capistrano. Our mission is to create awareness of rich local natural and ecological resources by providing opportunities for environmental education, research, and sensitive recreational access to *The Reserve*. The public is regularly invited to join us.

To learn more, visit www.theconservancy.org, email staff@rmvreserve.org or call us at 949-489-9778.

"All teachers commented that this was the best, most relevant and fun field trip they have taken, and none of us are beginning teachers! ...We are hooked!"

2nd Grade Teacher