



Escondido Creek Conservancy
Education Department offers a
number of programs...

PROGRAM OPTIONS:

Habitats

Price dependent on student numbers | 2.5 hours | appropriate for ages 8-13
Capacity: 60 students per trip date (multiple dates can be scheduled)
Aligns with 3rd grade Next Generation Science Standards

Students discover the interrelationships between native wildlife, native plants, the biological communities they inhabit, and the impact human activities have on these ecosystems.

Students rotate through three 20-minute stations and go on a guided hike:

- an investigation station where students assess the conditions of the creek to determine if it is suitable for steelhead trout
- an indicator species activity where students investigate what the presence and absence of larvae collected from the creek can tell us about the habitat suitability of the water (a simpler version of the one offered in the Watershed program)
- a litter lesson where students have a leaf race and learn how trash can travel downstream and harm habitats
- a habitat hike to investigate chaparral, coastal sage scrub, oak woodland, and riparian habitats
- (for an additional fee there is a fun pre-field trip escape-room style lesson where students use clues to unlock boxes and solve puzzles to learn about habitats)

Adaptations

Price dependent on student numbers | 2.5 hours | appropriate for ages 8-13
Capacity: 60 students per trip date (multiple dates can be scheduled)
Aligns with 3rd grade Next Generation Science Standards

In this highly interactive curriculum, students get outdoors and discover how different native plants and animals adapt and survive in their native habitat. What can the shape of a bird's beak tell you about its diet? Why are most of the trees in the Elfin Forest so small? Why is it so important to recycle and dispose of our trash properly? The program consists of different stations with hands-on activities where students will learn the answers to these questions and more.

Students rotate through four 20-minute stations and one 40-minute hike:

- a puzzle activity to demonstrate how bird beaks are adapted to the food they eat
- a microscope activity where students investigate the adaptation superpowers of mayfly and blackfly larvae collected from the creek
- a skull activity to show how skulls can tell us what animals eat and whether they are hunters or prey
- a short recycling relay race to demonstrate how to properly dispose of certain types of trash and learn how humans impact animals
- a short science hike to investigate plant adaptations

MORE PROGRAM OPTIONS:

Watersheds

Price dependent on student numbers | 3 hours | appropriate for ages 8 - 16
Capacity: 60 students per trip date (multiple dates can be scheduled)
Aligns with 3rd grade Next Generation Science Standards

Without water, there is no life—and faced with ongoing drought, water is quickly becoming one of San Diego County's scarcest natural resources. In this program, students learn about the Escondido Creek watershed, how human behavior can affect water quality, and ways to conserve water at home and in school.

Students rotate through five 30-minute stations:

- a watershed model activity where students see how pollution effects urban and rural communities
- a series of erosion, groundwater, and runoff experiments
- testing water quality in the Escondido Creek
- an indicator species activity where students investigate what the presence and absence of larvae collected from the creek can tell us about the habitat suitability of the water
- a short science hike to investigate how habitats are influenced by watersheds

Sardina Preserve Guided Hike

Price dependent on student numbers | 2.5 hours | appropriate for ages 8-17
Capacity: 25 students per trip date

Learn more about the Conservancy's efforts to preserve and restore land around the Escondido Creek watershed. In this program, students are led on a guided hike through land managed by our team.

Students are introduced to the robust history of our Sardina Preserve, Leave No Trace principles, and utilizing their observational tracking skills to find evidence of animals on the trail. They are then taken on a guided hike through the preserve showcasing the history of the land and the Conservancy's efforts to restore this former paintball and airsoft range back to wild and healthy habitat.

Trout in the Classroom

Any grade level | Capacity: N/A | <https://wildlife.ca.gov/CAEP>

In the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) supplies classrooms with salmonid eggs. Students and teachers take on the responsibility of incubating and nurturing these young fish until they are ready to be released into a waterway designated by the CDFW.

We are able to offer some equipment, classroom lessons, and assistance with the trout release through grants. Teachers must commit to facilitating the program in the classroom and meeting the CDFW requirements.



More information?
Contact our Education Director
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Visit our website!
www.escondidocreek.org

Escondido
Creek
Conservancy

