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Field Learning Experience

Be a scientist for a day.

The goal of the field trip is to bring awareness to your students about the importance of conservation. Students will understand how sources of air, water and land pollution get into the bay, and how they impact the water quality and the wildlife. Most importantly, students will learn that we can make a difference by making better choices for our environment.

Your field learning experience will begin promptly at 9am. The program will end at 12:00 p.m. This timeframe can be adjusted to meet your needs, or to accommodate after-school programs. Your group is welcome to have lunch on Newport Sea Base property at the conclusion of your field experience. Lunch is not provided, however. The students must bring their own lunches.

During the program, students will rotate through a three-station schedule. Each station will allow students to use their observation and classification skills to learn new concepts about marine biology and ecology. Each station incorporates activities that support the California Education Standards for third grade science, math, and language arts.

Program Schedule

- 9:00 – Busses arrive
- 9:00-9:30 – Introduction to the program and staff
- 9:30-10:15 – Rotation 1
- 10:20-11:05 – Rotation 2
- 11:10-11:55 – Rotation 3
- 12:00 – Closing
- 12:00-1:00 – Optional Lunch

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Activity Stations

Our interactive, hands-on stations are designed so students will discover amazing facts about Newport Harbor. By being a “scientist for a day,” they will use their skills to learn about the species that live in the harbor, and the harmful effects of pollution on the environment.



Beginning Birding

Students will take a boat ride in the harbor and participate in a counting and classification exercise called a point count survey. Students will learn the fundamentals of bird watching, one of the most popular sports in the country. Using binoculars and bird identification cards, students will track birds in the harbor and make graphs of their findings. By seeing the wildlife in their habitat, we hope students will understand the effects that noise, water and land pollution have on the birds. They will understand that the harbor is an animal’s home.



Watershed Workshop

In this activity, students will learn about urban run-off and its negative effects on water quality. Using a water bottle, cooking oil and dish soap, they will create an “ocean in a bottle.” This experiment will illustrate the reaction that oil and soap have when combined with water. They will understand we have streams and rivers in our cities, but they run underground and empty to the ocean. We need to remember to be cautious of what we let go down our storm drains from our homes and yards, because this will all make its way to water resources.



Discover the Deep

Students will learn about a unique habitat in our harbor: the dock. They will understand that the dock is a man-made rather than a natural habitat. The students will receive a brief lesson on tides and how the tides affect biodiversity on the docks. They will make connections between the location of organisms and the conditions of their positions on the dock. Working with a buddy, they will find organisms, draw pictures and estimate how many total organisms are on the dock. They will share their findings at the end of their discovery time.