

cool river program



PROGRAM OFFERINGS



RIVER BUGS ARE COOL!

Age Range: Grades K-8

Group Size: 20-30 students with adult chaperones

Time: 2-3 hours

Through this program, kids are empowered to do real, hands-on science. Working alongside San Diego River Park Foundation scientists, students will conduct a bioassessment of the San Diego River by examining and sorting living aquatic invertebrates ("River Bugs")! They will also complete a stream walk and learn about biodiversity of the watershed. Through this exciting field experience, kids will gain tools to understand human interaction with nature and draw conclusions about the health of this ecosystem.



3-DAY COOL RIVER FIELD TRIP SERIES

Age Range: Grades 3-9

Group Size: 20-30 students with adult chaperones

Time: 3 hours

What better way to learn about a watershed than to see it firsthand? Through this progressive series of visits, students will visit a pristine preserve at the top of the watershed, followed by an urban preserve and the coastal estuary at the River Mouth. Each site will have a different activity, including recreation, scientific research and volunteerism. These activities can be scheduled three days in a row, or over the course of a month or more, but must be the same student body for all three days.



HOW TO SIGN UP!

For questions or details, contact us at coolriver@sandiegoriver.org, or call our office at (619) 297-7380.

Booking for these programs is subject to scheduling availability, so please contact us early to assure your preferred dates!

If you are ready to book for your class or group, please have the following information ready:

- program preference
- age or grade of students participating
- number of students in the group
- mode of transportation
- any limitations or special needs of the students
- number of adult chaperones expected



ABOUT THE SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK FOUNDATION

The San Diego River Park Foundation is dedicated to improving the quality of life of our region by creating a River Park and Trail system along the 52-mile San Diego River. Our programs, projects and events are aimed at engaging and educating the community in order to foster stewardship and to celebrate our historic River. www.sandiegoriver.org

OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

We believe that opportunities for youth to experience nature, contribute to real citizen science, and connect with the San Diego River are essential for fostering a love of the outdoors and creating the next generation of stewards. Our programs use hands-on science at sites on the River to grow scientific understanding and, perhaps more importantly, inspire a sense of awe at the natural world that will last a lifetime.

Our education programs will be housed at the planned San Diego River Discovery Center at Grant Park, a nature education facility and park in the heart of Mission Valley. To learn more about this project, visit: www.discovertheriver.org.

FAQs

What is the charge for participating?

These field trip opportunities are offered free of charge, thanks to support from our education program sponsors. However, any transportation expenses are the responsibility of your group. Limited assistance may be available to qualified groups to help with transportation expenses. Contact us to learn more.

What happens if it rains?

Weather conditions, including rain or extreme heat may affect availability of these unique programs, as they are all held outside. We strive to accommodate schedule changes if needed due to seasonal weather, but a few sprinkles usually don't stop us from being outside.

My students don't have a lot of experience in the outdoors. Are these field trips safe?

The safety and enjoyment of the students is our highest priority. Our team leaders are certified in pediatric first aid and carry first aid kits and other safety supplies at all times. We will provide detailed information about dress codes and preparedness as well as on-site orientation to ensure everyone's enjoyment and safety.

What do field trip participants need to bring?

Any tools or supplies needed for field experiments and stewardship activities will be provided. We require participants to wear closed-toe shoes, and long pants are recommended. We also suggest bringing a snack and a reusable water bottle.

Don't just trust us... Take it from them!

"I felt cared for. I never knew that people that don't even know you would take the time to teach you about nature and the environment. It makes me think that someday I want to teach people about nature."

-Ezbai, age 12

"[The 3-day field trip] has literally changed the way [my students] think and act. Some are starting to study wilderness rehabilitation, some want to look at the way pockets of nature can coexist within an urban environment and many are interested in native and non-native species and pollution."

- Juli, teacher

