



NATURE BOWL 2009

Engaging Youth in Science, Conservation and Citizenship

What is the Nature Bowl?

- a cooperative team competition for **3rd - 6th grade students**
Teams of 3-7 students participate in two divisions:
3rd-4th grades and 5th-6th grades
- **science based** activities emphasizing local & regional environments correlated with the State Science Standards
- innovative strategies to **teach and reinforce conservation**
- engages students in **critical and creative thinking**
- a program in its **24th year**, with a 90%+ rate of return coaches

How do I sign up?

Fill out the registration form and send it to the site of your preference. The form, addresses and contact persons for each site are provided on pages 5-6. All new coaches are encouraged to attend a Coaches Workshop (\$5) and/or the Extended Coaches Workshop (\$15) in December or January, described in more depth on page 4. Also, there will be a \$10 fee to register your team.

Nature Bowl Semifinals Dates and Locations

Site	Date	Contact
Cosumnes River Preserve, Galt	Apr 21-24 TBA	Jackie DeLu (916) 978-0809
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area, Davis	March 17	Sarah Johnston (916) 679-0174
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area, Gridley	March 10	Lori Dieter (530) 846-7505
American River Nature Center, Coloma	March 26 and 31	Alice Cantelow (530) 621-1224
Placer Nature Center, Auburn	April 2	Linda Desai (530) 878-6053
Effie Yeaw Nature Center, Carmichael	March 12	Beth Etgen (916) 489-4918
Community Memorial Museum, Yuba City	April 23	Bruce Forman (916) 358-2353

****FINALS – May 16 at California State University, Sacramento!**

How Does the Nature Bowl Work?

- Teams of 3 – 7 students participate in two divisions: 3rd-4th grades and 5th-6th grades
- Only one team per division from any given school or club
- Any child with interest can participate
- The competitive aspect of the event is de-emphasized so all students feel comfortable, achieve success in learning, and enjoy the activities.
- Each new coach is encouraged to attend a winter workshop. Return coaches are welcome too.
- Mark your calendars for your semifinal event. A small number of teams advance to the finals to be held on the third Saturday in May at CSU Sacramento.

Activities & Time Schedule

Typically, the **3rd and 4th** grade division competes in the **morning, 8:30-12:30**, and the **5th and 6th** grade division competes in the afternoon from **1:00 to 4:30 or 5:30**, depending on the number of teams. At select sites, all grades participate at the same time (approx 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 pm).

NATURE INVESTIGATIONS: Each team answers a set of exploratory questions through outside investigations. Emphasis is on team work for problem solving as the team becomes nature detectives searching for un-natural items, living specimens, signs of wildlife and habitats.

NATURE RELAY: Items representing environmental terms or concepts are placed on a snow disk. Team members line up opposite the items and run one at a time to pick an item that represents the concept given. An all-time favorite of Nature Bowlers.

TEAM PROBLEMS: Each team will be given a series of hands-on questions to answer. Examples are constructing food chains, matching tools to adaptations, comparing products of renewable and non-renewable resources and deciding which can be recycled, reused and reduced, or even acting out a concept (charades).

BELL-RINGERS: Short answer questions will be given for all teams to answer on a “first ring” basis. Fun times for quick thinkers!

ENVIRO-MERCIAL: What’s an environmental issue in your area? Present it in one minute, including causes, effects, and solutions! Students use their ingenuity and creativity, with many leading to actions in their school, neighborhood or community.

NATURE GAME: Teams participate in true-false tag, predator-prey game or jeopardy) a debate, dilemmas or who knows! Prior preparation is not needed. Be ready for an active, thought provoking experience.

Testimonials

"I appreciate the lack of emphasis on competition, the amount of instruction, and the guidance and teaching done by the judges."

Cindy Fleming, Indian Diggings School

"A program like this provides motivation to the unifying concept and makes learning more fun. It also builds team work since the other students in the class contribute to the teams learning in cooperative activities and presentations."

Stephani Saranillo, Mariposa School

"Nature Bowl helps my students become environmentally conscious enough to change the choices they make in everyday life. Nature Bowl is a positive, exciting, nurturing activity for all participants."

Veronica Schwalbach, Deterding School

"The Nature Bowl inspires kids to take actions to practice conservation. They've become leaders for a "green" campus. Their choices reflect responsibility that they've learned which will last them a lifetime."

Lili Joy, Latrobe School

"The Nature Bowl helps to make learning fun and teaches cooperation. It uses the community where kids live as the classroom, and this helps to make everything they experience very relevant and meaningful."

Bobbie Winn, Wilton 4-H Club

"My underachieving students were turned upside down by Nature Bowl. Their excitement for learning and working together blossomed with this well conceived and well run program."

Alma Quesnal, Edward Kimble School

Coaches & Preparation

Coaches can be teachers, parents, youth leaders, senior citizens, seniors in high school, student teachers—anyone who wants to guide young team members through this discovery of nature.

How do I get started?

Attend an orientation workshop, which will provide you with the coach's packet & inspiration.

Coaches Orientation Workshop (Materials Fee - \$5)

These sessions are late afternoons on weekdays and provide coaches (new and returning) with a packet that includes a glossary and description of activities with sample questions and answers to any questions you may have. Time is also spent on resources to prepare. Contact the CREEC website for full listing of environmental education resources available in the region.

Coaches Workshop Schedule:

Site	Date & Time	Address	Contact #
Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area	December 2 4:30–5:30 p.m.	45211 County Rd. 32B Davis, CA 95617	(916) 679-0174
American River Nature Center	January 14 4:30–5:30 p.m.	348 Highway 49 Coloma, CA 95613	(530) 621-1224
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area	By Appointment Only	3207 Rutherford Rd. Gridley, CA 95948	(530) 846-7505
Effie Yeaw Nature Center	January 15 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.	Ancil Hoffman Co. Park. P.O. Box 579 Carmichael, CA 95609	(916) 489-4918
Cosumnes River Preserve	January 20 or 22 4:00 – 5:15 pm	13501 Franklin Blvd. Galt, CA 95632	(916) 978-0809
Community Memorial Museum	January 20 or 22 3:45-5:00	1333 Butte House Rd. Yuba City, CA 95993	(530) 822-7141
Placer Nature Center	January 10 –see below		

Extended Coaches Workshop (Fee-\$15)

This workshop is perfect for new coaches and a brush up for veteran coaches. The format begins with a natural history presentation familiarizing coaches with basic ecological concepts. It is followed by a mock Nature Bowl where coaches learn how each activity is presented and experience sample questions and investigations. The workshop closes with a discussion on how to get a team together and other sample activities.

Location & Date: Placer Nature Center, 3700 Christian Valley Rd., Auburn, 956702
Sat., Jan. 10, 2009, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m., (530) 878-6053

How do I sign up for workshops?

You can sign up for the workshops on the registration form on the next page and send it to the site of your preference.

NATURE BOWL REGISTRATION FORM

*Please make checks payable to: American River Natural History Association (ARNHA)

- I am registering ___ teams (\$10 per team registered).
- I plan to attend the Coaches Orientation Session (\$5 Materials fee)
- I plan to attend the Extended Coaches Workshop (\$15 fee) (Placer Nature Center)

Coach's Name _____
Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

School or Club Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

I plan to attend the following Coaches Orientation Session: (\$5 materials fee)

Time _____ Date _____ Site _____

I plan to attend the following Extended Coaches Workshop: (\$15 fee)

Time _____ Date _____ Site _____

Enroll my team(s) in the Nature Bowl Semifinals.

Date _____ Site: _____

- My team is in the 3rd/4th grade level. ____
- My team is in the 5th/6th grade level. ____

Where to Send Registration Form and Check

Mail the registration form and full payment (with workshop materials fee if applicable) to: Nature Bowl, c/o the site at which your team wishes to participate.

Nature Bowl
American River Nature Center
P.O. Box 562
Coloma, CA 95613

Nature Bowl
Gray Lodge Wildlife Area
3207 Rutherford Lane
Gridley, CA 95948

Nature Bowl
Placer Nature Center
3700 Christian Valley Road
Auburn, CA 95602

Nature Bowl (Yolo County)
California Waterfowl
4630 Northgate Blvd, Suite 150
Sacramento, CA 95834

Nature Bowl (Yuba City)
CA Dept. of Fish and Game
1701 Nimbus Rd.
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Nature Bowl
Effie Yeaw Nature Center
P.O. Box 579
Carmichael, CA 95609

Nature Bowl
Cosumnes River Preserve
c/o Save our Sandhill Cranes

The Nature Bowl Program is sponsored by:



American River Natural History Association
American River Conservancy
Cosumnes River Preserve
California Department of Fish and Game
California Waterfowl
Effie Yeaw Nature Center – Sacramento Regional Parks
Placer Nature Center
Save Our Sandhill Cranes
Yolo Basin Foundation

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The Wildlife Society – Sacramento Shasta Chapter

Coordinated by:

The Nature Bowl is coordinated by the California Dept. of Fish and Game in partnership with the organizations above.

For more information, please contact:

Bruce Forman
CDFG, 1701 Nimbus Rd. Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
Call (916) 358-2353 or Email Bforman@dfg.ca.gov