



Orange County CREEC

Volume 2, Issue 3

December 2004

Coordinator Communications

Our thoughts go out to the Aquarium of the Pacific who experienced a destructive break-in on November 7th or 8th. It is believed that four teenage males broke in and injured or killed several animals in the Aquarium's Shark Lagoon. Among the victims were a cownose ray that was jabbed with a pipe-like object and left on the concrete adjacent to the touch pool and a bamboo shark that was thrown on the top of the exit enclosure of Lorikeet Forest. Both of these animals died as a result of these actions. For more information about the incident, see http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/NEWS_EVEN_TS/FALL04NEWS/sharkraydeaths.htm

The Aquarium has used this sad event to encourage students in the local area to write essays explaining why these teenagers did what they did and how it could have been prevented.

It is incidents such as these that help us realize the critical need for fostering in our students a connection with their environment.

Wishing you the beauty of Nature this season,
Helen

Hidden Question

Congratulations to Connie McManus, a teacher at Holy Family Cathedral School who won a free *Inside the Outdoors'* Traveling Scientist program for 40 students at her school because she answered the November question. She has chosen the 4th grade "Magnets are Magnificent" program. Stay tuned for more news once they participate.

Embedded within the text of this newsletter, there is a hidden question. The first 10 educators or Providers who call (949-548-0772) or e-mail Helen (HdelaMaza@ocde.us) with the correct answer will receive water-related curricula developed by the Surfrider Foundation. The packet includes: "Sea to Summit: A Journey Through the Watershed" video and two curriculum units: "Beachology" and "Watershed Works." Good Luck! ☺

Education and the Environment Initiative (AB 1548) Update

TEACHER AND SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR INPUT NEEDED!

The Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) is seeking comments from teachers and school administrators on its draft of the standards alignment maps for K-12 science and history/social science. The purpose of these alignments is to ensure that the instructional strategies developed for teaching the EEI's environmental principles and concepts to help students achieve mastery of California's content standards. This alignment will be used to develop a scope and sequence for teaching the environmental principles and concepts in conjunction with other approaches to standards-based instruction. To view and comment on these draft documents, please visit: <http://calepa.ca.gov/Education/Alignment/> ☼

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Professional Development Opportunities

Project WET is an international, water science and education program for formal and non-formal educators of K-12 students. An activity guide is offered at all workshops. It contains over 90 activities that have been correlated to the state standards. All the activities are innovative, interdisciplinary, hands-on, easy to use, and fun. Go to <http://www.watereducation.org> for more information.

January 29, 2005; 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Location: Santiago Oaks Park
Sponsored By: Municipal Water District of Orange County, Project Pollution Prevention & The Discovery Science Center
Call Discovery Science Center (714) 913-5012 to register

National Teachers Enhancement Network

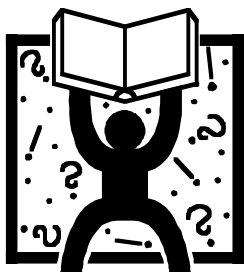
<http://www.scienceteacher.org/courses.htm>

A wide variety of on-line courses are offered for classroom teachers K-12, including: Plant Science, Weather and Climate for Teachers, Teaching and Learning About Ecosystems, and Water Quality in the Classroom - A Characterization of the Science and Issues.

Lesley University Online Science in Education Master's Program. Classes Start Jan. 10

Students in Lesley University's Science in Education online Master's degree program praise its important combination of science concepts and pedagogy. The Science in Education online program aligns with National Science Education Standards that call for inquiry-based learning and innovative teaching models. Each module is taught by two instructors-a scientist and a science educator. For more information on the 33-credit program, please visit <http://www.lesley.edu/soe/science> or e-mail science@lesley.edu

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Great Grants & Student Contests

The Education Foundation for Orange County Schools

<http://www.octfcu.org/effocs/criteria.asp>

Deadline: February 28, 2005; 5:00 PM

This non-profit organization was established by the Orange County Teachers Federal Credit Union (OCTFCU) and the Orange County Department of Education last year. It provides grants to Orange County teachers of core curriculum programs in both public and private Orange County schools, kindergarten through community college. All K-14, public and private school teachers in Orange County are eligible. Grants will enable teachers to purchase or create materials that inspire students to succeed in vital core subjects such as language arts, math, science, reading, writing, social studies, and technology. The grant money can be used to fund environmental and science education fieldtrips. (*Note: We have been advised to not use the word "scholarship" in the grant application.*) Call 714-258-4363 or email educationfoundation@octfcu.org with questions.

If you are an OCTFCU member, you may contribute to the Foundation by making a tax-deductible contribution at the website <http://www.octfcu.org>, through the Telephone Service Center at 714-258-4000 or at any OCTFCU branch.

Orange County Outdoor Science Foundation Student Sponsorship Grants for *Inside the Outdoors* Programs

[http://www.creec.org/region9b/stories/storyReader\\$180](http://www.creec.org/region9b/stories/storyReader$180)

Deadline: Grants are reviewed the first week of each month. Award recipients are notified by the second week of the next month.

The Orange County Outdoor Science Foundation (OSF), a non-profit 501(c)3 corporation, provides financial, educational, and advisory support to *Inside the Outdoors* (<http://www.insidetheoutdoors.org>). OSF has obtained several grants to sponsor students to attend *Inside the Outdoors* programs. Funding ranges from full to partial sponsorships. *Inside the Outdoors* K - 6 programs include Field Programs (field trips to natural sites in Orange County) and Traveling Scientist Programs (outreach programs held on-site at your school). Curricula is aligned with the California Science Content Standards.

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Rad Resources

Electronic Naturalist

<http://www.enaturalist.org/index.htm>

The Electronic Naturalist is an online education program providing a weekly environmental education unit. Each unit has artwork, text, activities, additional web sites, plus online access to a professional naturalist. Two reading levels are available for grades K-3 (Quick Read) and 4-8 (Full Read). The units cover insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, plants and environmental issues.

National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Preservice and New Teacher Headquarters

<http://www.nsta.org/newandpreservice>

NSTA is committed to helping teachers of science at all levels to grow, learn, and connect. This new website was specifically designed to engage more preservice teachers of science and connect them with incredible professional development opportunities.

A Resource Guide for Oceanography and Coastal Processes

<http://www.coast-nopp.org/toc.html>

Grade level: K-12

This Resource Guide is aligned with National Science Education Standards. There are 81 lesson plans, each complete with basic scientific background information, educational objectives, materials lists, instructions, evaluation and extensions for further learning. The Web site has served as a guidebook and primer providing major resources that have been widely used in classrooms across the nation by both teachers and students.

California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (CFAITC): What's Growin' On? California Feeds the World

<http://www.cfaitc.org/EMailForm/EMailForm.php>

While supplies last, request a set of last year's *What's Growin' On? California Feeds the World* educational newspaper. Bundled in groups of 30, this edition explores California agriculture at the fourth through eighth grade level. Topics include food safety, food origins, agriculture and technology, plus much more. Content standards are incorporated. The third edition of the newspaper, *What's Growin' On? California's Colorful Bounty*, will be available this spring.

ARKive Images of Life on Earth

<http://www.arkive.org/>

ARKive gathers together, into a centralized digital library, films, photographs and audio recordings of the world's species, creating a record of the world's biodiversity. The Web site also has lesson plans and background information. Updated versions of web navigation software are recommended for viewing images.

Department of Water Resources: Water Use Efficiency

<http://www.wue.water.ca.gov/>

A new Middle School Water & Energy Curriculum is available for download in PDF format.

Body Worlds: The Anatomical Exhibition of Real Human Bodies at the California Science Center, through January 23, 2005.

This is a first-of-its-kind exhibit in which visitors learn about anatomy, physiology and health by viewing real human bodies, preserved through an extraordinary new method called "plastination."

If you are a teacher you can visit the exhibit free of charge! To receive your free ticket voucher and free instructional materials including a DVD, classroom poster and brochures, please fill out the registration form at <http://www.californiasciencecenter.org/bweducators> For student field trip information call 213-744-7540. School groups are being offered a special price of \$5.50 per person (minimum 15 persons).

Bioscience Literacy

<http://www.actionbioscience.org/>

High School/College Students

This is an educational resource of the American Institute of Biological Sciences, designed to promote bioscience literacy. It provides articles by scientists, science educators, and science students on issues related to seven bioscience challenges: environment, biodiversity, genome, biotechnology, evolution, new frontiers, and bioscience education. In addition, the website provides educators with lessons and resources to enhance bioscience teaching. ❁



Great Grants & Student Contests

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Young Naturalist Awards

http://www.amnh.org/nationalcenter/youngnaturalistawards/?src=kf_h

Deadline: January 7, 2005

The American Museum of Natural History in New York City sponsors these awards to encourage middle and high school students to participate in expedition-based scientific inquiry. Two scholarships are awarded in each grade, ranging from \$500 to \$2,500 each depending on grade level. Winners also receive a trip to the museum and attend the awards ceremony. Each of the winners' teachers receive a collection of books and resources for the school. A \$50 award will be made to 36 finalists, and 300 semifinalists will receive a certificate of recognition.

Eligibility: U.S. and Canadian public or private school students in grades 7-12.

Areas: Students choose a topic area (biology, Earth science or astronomy); go on an expedition (a journey into the natural world) that will provide new data, questions, specimens or observations to inform their chosen topic; then present their results in the form of a narrative essay and visuals such as maps, illustrations, photographs, charts and tables.

Contact: Young Naturalist Awards Administrator, American Museum of Natural History/NCSLET, Central Park West and 79th St., New York, NY 10024-5192, 212-496-3498, yna@amnh.org

TOYChallenge

<http://www.TOYchallenge.com>

Sign up by December 15, 2004

TOYChallenge is motivated by the lack of gender and ethnic diversity in the field of engineering, and is designed to engage children in an engineering activity that is fun. As girls and boys create a toy or game, they experience engineering as a creative, collaborative process, benefiting from a diversity of perspectives, and relevant to everyday life.

To enter TOYchallenge, interested students in grades 5-8 must find a coach, form a team of between three and eight members - half of whom must be girls. There is a \$25 registration fee per team.

TOYChallenge (continued)

Teams choose from among several themed categories such as Build It!, Get Out and Play, or Remarkable Robots. Once a team signs up, they use the design process to create a toy or game to enter in the Preliminary Round. Entries consist of a written description and drawings of their creation and must be **submitted by January 28, 2005**. Teams will then be invited to participate in the West Coast Nationals scheduled to be held at the San Diego Aerospace Museum on April 30.

The top two teams from each Nationals will be invited, all expenses paid, to the TOYchallenge 2005 Awards Banquet at Hasbro Headquarters. In previous years, winners have received such prizes as a trip to Space Camp and Hasbro look-a-like figures in each team member's likeness.

Name NOAA's New Ship For Exploration

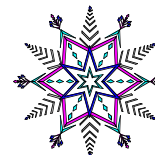
<http://www.education.noaa.gov/shipname/>

Deadline: December 30, 2004

For grades 6 - 12

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), with its partners, invites students to choose a name for a new NOAA ship. NOAA's new ocean exploration ship will be unique because it will be the only NOAA ship dedicated exclusively to exploration and research of our oceans. Ship names and supporting projects that capture the spirit of ocean exploration are encouraged.

The winning team and school will receive a visit from the Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and from a renowned ocean explorer. The students from the winning team will be invited for a day tour of one of NOAA's atmospheric or oceanographic facilities. During their visit, students will have the opportunity to learn about NOAA, environmental stewardship and the role they can play in protecting the ecosystem. The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation will provide the cost of transportation for this visit. The ship will carry a plaque with information about the winning team and its school. The school will also receive a plaque. ❁



Professional Development

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Fundamentals of Environmental Education: Online Course; February 7 - April 15, 2005

<http://www.uwsp.edu/natres/rwilke/eetap/>

This course was developed by the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) in collaboration with national environmental education (EE) experts and is appropriate for classroom teachers and non-formal educators.

Participants may obtain three undergraduate or graduate credits from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point. All students are eligible for the in-state tuition rate. The course is also offered at a reduced cost for those who are not interested in obtaining college credit.

This online course provides educators with the knowledge and skills necessary to incorporate quality environmental education into their instruction. Participants discuss the history, definition, and goals of environmental education; develop an understanding of the professional roles and instructional methods of environmental educators, and interact with other educators from across the country. For more information, visit the website or contact Angela Arkin at Angela.Arkin@uwsp.edu

Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education in California: Call for Presenters

<http://www.aeoe.org/conference/spr05/index.html>

Deadline: January 20, 2005

The theme of the conference is California's People and Places: How California's diverse ecosystems shape our population and how its people shape the landscape, past, present and future. It will be at Walker Creek Ranch in Petaluma, CA on April 15-17, 2005. For information and an application go to the website.

If you are interested in volunteering on the Conference Committee, contact Heather Butler at Hbutler@wolfschool.org or Aaron Rich at arich@yni.org

Registration forms to attend the conference will be available at <http://www.aeoe.org> at the end of February. ❁

Provider Highlight

The **Oak Canyon Nature Center** is a proud Member of the Orange County CREEC Provider Network; Cathy Glasgow, the Recreation Supervisor from Oak Canyon Nature Center is a CREEC Advisory Committee.

You can find out more about their programs online at the CREEC Resource Directory (http://creec.edgateway.net/cs/creec9bp/view/creec_org/125)

Location address:

6700 E. Walnut Canyon Road, Anaheim 92807

Mailing Address:

200 S. Anaheim Blvd., Ste. 433, Anaheim 92805

Call **714-998-8380** for fees and reservations

Open 7 days a week, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Nestled in 60 acres of scenic parkland in Anaheim Hills, Oak Canyon Nature Center is the perfect place for you to learn about the wonders of the natural world in a tranquil setting.

Programs and activities

Family Events & Programs

Heritage Day, Eco-Fun Faire, Discover Nature Saturday, Summer Nature Nights, and Seasonal Family Programs, Birthday Brigade

Programs for Youth ages 2-6

Hikes for Tykes, Tykes on the Go, and Junior Trailblazers

Programs for Youth ages 7-8

Canyon Explorers and Junior Trailblazers

Programs for Youth ages 9-12

Afternoon Adventures, Art a la Naturelle, and Junior Naturalists

Programs for Young Adults ages 12 & up

Roots & Shoots, VolunTeen Community Service Programs

Summer O.A.K.S. Day Camp Program

Group Tour Programs

For the hidden question, go to the CREEC Region 9b website at (<http://www.creec.org/region9b/>) and then click on the "Funding Opportunities" web page. What are the first two funding opportunities listed on this page? E-mail Helen at HdelaMaza@ocde.us or call 949-548-0772 and say what they are. You are also strongly encouraged to apply for either or both of them! ❁

Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Crystal Cove State Park

Crystal Cove SP
8471 Pacific Coast Highway (PCH)
Laguna Beach CA 92651
949-497-7647

Backcountry Hike

December 11, 12, 19, & 26; 9 AM

Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight "School-State Park").

Tidepool Walk

December 12; 3 PM

Meet at Pelican Point parking lot #2 (from PCH turn coastward at stoplight "Newport Coast," turn right at kiosk to the first lot).

Winter Native Plant Hike

December 18; 9 AM

Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight "School-State Park").

Winter Solstice Sunset Beach Walk

December 21; 4 PM

Meet at Pelican Point parking lot #2 (from PCH turn coastward at stoplight "Newport Coast," turn right at kiosk to the first lot).

Acorn Naturalists

155 El Camino Real
Tustin, CA 92780

<http://www.acornnaturalists.com/store/>

Mountain Lion Behavior and Ecology, by Donna Krucki

December 8; 7 PM

Environmental Nature Center

1601 16th Street
Newport Beach, CA 92663
949-645-8489

Toddler Time - Winter Wonderland

December 13, 10 - 11 AM

Cost is \$5/child for each Toddler Time program.
Call to make reservations



Environmental Nature Center (continued)

Family Holiday Campfire Program

December 17, 6-8 PM

Come sing carols around the campfire with friends and family. We'll tell stories, roast marshmallows and share our holiday memories. Coffee, cocoa and cider will be served. Cost is \$2. Call for reservations. Program can be cancelled due to weather, please call for updates.

Holiday Craft Workshop Enrichment Program

December 20-24, 9 AM - 3 PM

Students in grades K through 4 are invited to join the ENC for a pre-holiday craft workshop, where they will design special hand-made holiday gifts for family and friends, including picture frames, wreaths, centerpieces, jewelry boxes and a variety of holiday ornaments. Art projects will incorporate media such as paint, clay, and more. Two projects will be created each day! Students will also spend time playing games and participating in activities in the Nature Center. Cost (includes material fee): \$175 per student (10% discount for members: \$160). Register at 949-645-8489.

Survivors Enrichment Program

December 27-31, 9 AM - 3 PM

Students in grades K through 4 are invited to join the ENC in a world where there are no grocery stores, drive-thrus, or pizza delivery. Like the early Native Americans, students will learn to live off the land using only their wits and what Nature provides. Using flint rocks, wood, clay, bark, palm leaves, deer antlers and shells, students will create a variety of shelters, shape and decorate their own rabbit sticks, make tools and arrows, weave mats, and create their own games, toys, and crafts. Students will also learn how to make snares, make fire without matches, create cordage from plants and weave their own baskets. Cost (includes material fee): \$175 per student (10% discount for members: \$160). Register at 949-645-8489.

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Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Pacific Marine Mammal Center

20612 Laguna Canyon Road
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
RSVP to 949-494-3050

Annual Holiday Gathering

December 10; 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Cost: Adults (\$12 non-members, \$10 members)
Children 12 and under: \$8

Activities include:

- Holiday Craft Making
- Tours of the intensive care unit and wildlife viewing
- Opportunity drawing and silent auction for children and adults
- Hot drinks and holiday sweets
- Holiday shopping at Sea Lion Cove
- Photographs with the Mascot

The Donna O'Neil Land Conservancy

28672 Ortega Highway (office)
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693
laura@theconservancy.org
RSVP to 949-489-9778

Trail Clearing

December 11, 8 - 11:30 AM

Help clear the trails and discover the changes that fall has brought to the local wilderness. Drinks and sandwiches are provided. Free.

Mushroom Walk

December 11, 2 - 4 PM

Have you ever seen the "destroying angel"? The moist winter months are when you're most likely to find fruiting bodies of fungus. Join Gregg Miller, wildlife biologist, as he searches the reserve to see what's popping up.

Donation: \$5.00/adult, \$2.00/child

Members' Mistletoe Hunt

December 18, 10 AM - 12 PM

Become a member of The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy and enjoy this special event. Hunt for native mistletoe and see how it grows in wild Orange County. Enjoy holiday snacks and good cheer. Members only event - free.



The Donna O'Neil Land Conservancy

(continued from left column)

Family Starry Night

December 18, 6 - 8 PM

For years people have looked to stars to predict everything from the change of seasons to a change of leaders. Make your own star clock and find out what the night sky can tell you!

Donation: \$8.00/adult; \$6.00/child age 8 and up (not recommended for children 7 and under)

Holiday Hike & Picnic

December 26, 10 AM - 1 PM

Join in this three to four mile walk through the beautiful Conservancy. Hike to Wilson's Camp for a picnic and up the new trail to the North Ridge. You will experience the oak woodland, grassland and Coastal Sage Scrub communities.

Donation: \$5.00/adult, \$2.00/child

The Nature Conservancy

<http://www.irvineranchlandreserve.com/activities/>

Enjoy a wide variety of outdoor activities including hikes, mountain biking, horseback riding trails, and interpretive programs on the 50,000-acre Irvine Ranch Land Reserve! Most programs are free.

City of Irvine Open Space Programs

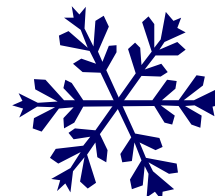
http://www.cityofirvine.org/depts/cs/openspace/event_calendar.asp

Second Saturdays Land Steward Program

9 AM - 12 PM

This is a drop in volunteer land steward program, and participants will assist in the restoration of open space through non-native plant removal, trail maintenance, and other site improvements. The program is open to those 16 and older; minors must be accompanied by an adult. Participants should meet at the Open Space Preserve Nature Center at 9 AM in comfortable field attire; no open-toed shoes are permitted. For additional information call 949-724-6835.

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Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

City of Irvine Open Space Programs

(continued)

Buggy Brigade (Course #18354)

December 8, 9 - 10:30 AM

At the Open Space Nature Center. Bring your babies and your buggies and challenge yourself to a brisk morning walk! Maximum distance is 4 miles. Free.

Hicks Canyon View Hike (Course #18343)

December 12, 9 AM - 12:30 PM

At Hicks Canyon. Join this interpretive hike in Irvine's northern wilderness and see remote Hicks Canyon. Hike the paved road and learn about the area's history and native habitats. Bring your binoculars. Distance is 6 miles and includes a long, steep hill. Ages 10+. Free.

Cardio-Conditioning Hike (Course #18335)

At the Open Space Nature Center. Get your blood pumping and enjoy the outdoors. This fast paced hike will take you into Irvine's Open Space. Maximum distance is 6 miles and includes some steep section. Ages 12+. Free

Orange County Zoo in Irvine Regional Park

1 Irvine Park Road
Orange, CA 92862

Event fees include admission for the enrolled child and one parent (only one parent can accompany the child). Parking Fee: Irvine Park gate entry is \$2 on weekdays and \$4 on weekends and holidays. Class registration can only be made by phone by contacting Marcy Crede-Booth, Education Coordinator, at 714-973-6846. The cost is \$5 per child. All fee payments are to be made the day of the scheduled class when you arrive at the zoo.

Creatures in the Cold

December 10, 10 - 11 AM

Learn which animals are adapted for living in cold weather: polar bears, reindeer, penguins and more! Ages: 3-4 years with a parent.

Feathery Friends

December 30, 10 - 11 AM

Learn all about the world of birds - even those that can't fly - and make some fun bird crafts. Ages: 3-4 years with a parent.

Oak Canyon Nature Center

6700 E. Walnut Canyon Road, Anaheim 92807
Call 714-998-8380 for fees and reservations
Open 7 days a week, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Hikes for Tykes

For ages 2-4 from 10-11 AM; \$3.00/participant

12/14 Everlasting Snow

What is snow and what does it do? Create an everlasting snow picture with fabrics and cotton that will not melt at home!

12/22 Snoozin' Through Winter

Learn more about these critters that snooze through winter and make a bear cave!

12/30 What's That You Say?

Rabbits have long ears, bats have pointy ears, and snakes don't have ears at all! Test your listening skills as you discover the different types of ears on animals. Then create a fun ear-rific craft!

Tykes on the Go

For ages 4-6 on specified days, from 2-3 PM, \$3.00 per participant.

12/9 Winter Visitors

When winter approaches thousands of birds make the long journey to warmer areas. Go on a bird walk to discover which birds may stop by the Nature Center for a visit, then make a special winter bird feeder to hang at home.

12/17 Rainy Day Fun

Bring your umbrellas and wear your galoshes as we discover why rain is so vital to the plants and animals of Oak Canyon Nature Center. You'll make a cloud craft and have some rainy day fun!

12/20 A Spider's Diner

Come have a meal at the Spider's Diner to discover what spiders have for dinner, then go on a search to find some real spider diners!

12/29 The Gift

In this wonderful tale, a wise man comes to a queen bringing her only his wisdom. The kind queen rewards the man with a huge gift. Does the man use his gift wisely? You will make beautiful art from useful recycled goods.

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Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Oak Canyon Nature Center *(continued)*

Canyon Explorers

For ages 7-8 on Tuesdays, from 3:30-5:00 PM, \$4.50 per participant.

12/7 Rainy Day Fun

Bring your umbrellas and wear your galoshes to discover why rain is so vital to the plants and animals of Oak Canyon Nature Center. You'll try different weather experiments.

12/14 Winter Warm Up

Discover how animals in the canyon use fat, fur, hibernation, and holes for keeping warm - whether they are swimming in a stream or weathering a cold snap.

12/21 Welcome, Winter!

The leaves are gone, the wind is chilly and the nights are longer - it must be winter! Explore our world in the season of winter.

12/28 A Spider's Diner

Come have a meal at the Spider's Diner to discover what spiders have for dinner, then go on a search to find some real spider diners!

Afternoon Adventures

For ages 9-12 on Thursdays, from 3:30-5:00 PM, \$4.50 per participant.

12/2 Mystery Mania

Listen to nature clues and find out which animal goes "whooo" and explore the trails of animals that have tails.

12/9 Winter Warm Up

See description above.

12/16 Magnificent Moon

Have you ever wanted to go to the moon? Take an imaginary trip to Earth's closest space neighbor and explore the moon's craters, gravity, and other unworldly wonders.

12/23 Welcome, Winter!

See description above.

12/30 Skeleton Trees

Many trees lose their leaves in the winter. However, these trees still provide for many canyon critters. Build your own tree skeleton.

Oak Canyon Nature Center *(cont'd. from left)*

Art a la Naturale

For ages 9-12 on Wednesdays, from 3:30-5:00 PM, \$4.50 per participant.

12/8 Dancing Snowflakes

No two snowflakes are alike, with their intricate details and glorious structures. Learn how these amazing feats of nature are made and create a whirling snowflake mobile.

12/15 Arctic Retreats

Many types of animals call the arctic region home. With the arrival of the intense cold of the Arctic Winter, many of them stay and try to survive. Explore the culinary arts as we design animal shelters using natural edible objects.

12/22 Accidental Art

In the early 1900's a group of artists known as the Dadaists created fun and "accidental" art. Come take a try at this accidental technique to create your own truly magnificent masterpieces!

12/29 Arctic Sensation

Discover the interesting array of plants and animals that call the Arctic and tundra regions home. Then learn the value scale of your favorite color while painting arctic landscapes.

Roots & Shoots

Young adults ages 12 & up on Mondays, 3:30-5 PM. Free.

12/13 Quail Trail Non-Native Plant Removal

Wear your grubbies to help the Nature Center's plant community by removing non-native plant species. Learn to identify which plants are the invasive tough guys that can out compete the natives for the limited resources of our arid environment.

12/20 Bluebird Trail Trash Clean Up

Wear your grubbies to help the Nature Center's plant and animal communities by removing trash that accumulates in the stream and drainage areas. Most trash can decompose - but not for a very, very long time. Some items can be harmful to animals by trapping them or clogging their digestive tracts. Clearing trash and debris keeps the Nature Center a safe haven for critters.

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Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Oak Canyon Nature Center (continued)

12/27 Heritage Trail Dry Brush Removal / Trail Maintenance

Wear your grubbies to help the Nature Center's plant community by removing dry brush that could become kindling for an unwanted wildfire. Although the chaparral and coastal sage scrub plant communities are adapted for periodic fire to rejuvenate, a fire in the Nature Center's wilderness island could be disastrous. You may also help to maintain trails by removing rocks and debris, or filling in ruts.

Junior Trailblazers - Winter Break Program

For ages 5 - 8 on specified days, 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, \$9.00 per participant.

If you love to explore and discover science, this program is for you! Each day will focus on a specific nature topic, which can include amazing activities, creative crafts, excellent experiments, nature hikes, and live animal demonstrations. Each participant will receive a participation memento, such as a Nature Center t-shirt, tote bag, water bottle carrier, hip pack, or backpack! Participants should bring along a sack lunch.

12/20 What's That, Habitat?

Food, water, shelter and plenty of space - these are the things that all animals need to survive - and so do you! Discover what all animals need and the places they call home as you explore the different habitats of Oak Canyon.

12/21 The Land of Sand

Deserts are some of the most inhospitable places on our planet. From the heat of Death Valley to the frozen land of Antarctica, travel to the harshest places for life on Earth to survive. Learn the extraordinary ways in which plants and animals cope with these extreme conditions.

12/22 Sand, Sea and Seashells

Where the land ends, the sea begins. Splash into the watery world of the ocean as you explore the deep blue sea for creatures. Explore tidepool seashells up close as you make a sand-tastic art project.

Oak Canyon Nature Center (continued from left column)

12/23 Watery Wetlands

In the area between land and sea, you can find a soggy place called the wetlands. Put on your wading boots as you discover who lives in these watery areas and why wetlands are so vital to our planet.

12/24 Fanciful Forests

Take an imaginary trip to uncover the wonders that lie within the world's forests. Discover the magnificent animals and plants that live in these airy kingdoms, high above the dark forest floors.

12/27 Finding Your Way

It's important when hiking to know where you are going. Learn the important skills of reading maps and using a compass.

12/28 The Real Thorns & Berries

Whether for cold remedies, a tasty meal, or emergency first aide - plants are important to have around. You will discover the special uses of the plants around the Nature Center.

12/29 Art in Nature

All sorts of everyday objects can be used in new and interesting ways to create beautiful prints. Use fruits, veggies, and even fish to make interesting ink prints to frame.

12/30 Walk on the Wild Side

Tracks, scat, trails, and homes! Discover animal evidence along the canyon trails. Learn to tell the difference between bobcat, squirrel, and deer tracks and explore what else they have left behind.

12/31 Winter Warm Up

Discover how animals in the canyon use fat, fur, hibernation, and holes for keeping warm - whether they are swimming in a stream or weathering a cold snap. Come investigate animal adaptations.

Junior Naturalists - Winter Break Program

For ages 9 -12 on specified days, from 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM, \$9.00 per participant.

If you love to explore and discover science, this program is for you! Each day will focus on a specific nature topic, which can include amazing activities, creative crafts, excellent experiments,

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Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Oak Canyon Nature Center (continued)

nature hikes, and live animal demonstrations. Each participant will receive a participation memento, such as a Nature Center t-shirt, tote bag, water bottle carrier, hip pack, or backpack! Participants should bring along a sack lunch.

12/20 Whose Habitat Is That?

Who would want to live in a patch of prickly cactus? Or in a stream's cold water? Or in a dry forest? Discover what it takes to survive in these habitats as you hike through the canyon communities.

12/21 Desert Discovery

Deserts are some of the most inhospitable places on our planet. From the heat of Death Valley to the frozen land of Antarctica, travel to the harshest places for life on Earth to survive. Learn the extraordinary ways in which plants and animals cope with these extreme conditions.

12/22 Down by the Sea

Where the land ends, the sea begins. Splash into this vast world of water that reaches from the shallow, sunlit waters at the shore's edge, to the frigid darkness of the ocean deep.

12/23 Watery Wetlands

In the area between land and sea, you can find a soggy place called the wetlands. Put on your wading boots as you discover who lives in these watery areas and why wetlands are so vital.

12/24 Fanciful Forests

Take an imaginary trip to uncover the wonders that lie within the world's forests. Discover the magnificent animals and plants that live in these airy kingdoms, high above the dark forest floors.

12/27 Let's Get Lost!

What would happen if you found yourself lost in the woods? Don't Panic! Nature will help you survive. Learn how to make a shelter, discover how to make water, and follow nature's signs as you "Get Lost" in Oak Canyon.

Oak Canyon Nature Center (continued)

12/28 Nature's First Aid Kit

Can a cactus plant actually sooth your sunburn? How about sagebrush keeping the bugs away from you? Plants are amazing first aid kits for humans - and animals! Hike through the canyon as you search for plants that can help you.

12/29 Natural Prints

All sorts of everyday objects can be used in new and interesting ways to create beautiful prints. Use fruits, veggies, and even fish to make interesting ink prints.

12/30 Walk on the Wild Side

Tracks, scat, trails, and homes! Discover animal evidence along the canyon trails. Learn to tell the difference between bobcat, squirrel, and deer tracks and explore what else they have left behind.

12/31 Animal Mania!

Come meet the animals of Oak Canyon as you discover why salamanders are slimy, snakes are dry and mammals are furry.

Discover Nature Saturday Program

12/11 Who Can Live at Oak Canyon? For families and individuals. 10-11 AM. Free.

The Wintry Canyon

December 18, check-in time: 1-3 PM

Fee: \$8.50 per participant (free for adults)

Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon of holly-jolly merriment and holiday celebration with your friends and family. Activities will include Holiday Folk Art Crafts, Cozy Storytelling by Grandma Frost, Photo Station at the Snowman Village, Snowflake Photo Frame craft, Jingle Bell Rock-n-Roll Games, and Marshmallow "S'more-men" Decorating. The self-paced activities are geared for ages 2-10 years and take approximately 2 hours. Adult helpers are recommended for younger participants. Pre-registration is required.



Would you like to see an event listed in the "Local Events Calendar"?

E-mail Helen de la Maza (Hdelamaza@ocde.us) with the event's date, time, location, cost, brief description, and contact information by the 15th of the month prior to the event occurrence.

