



Orange County CREEC

<http://www.creec.org/region9b/>

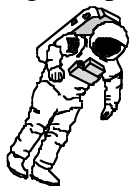
Volume 3, Issue 5

December 2005

Hidden Question

Congratulations to Amanda Gable, the Director of External Affairs for the Irvine Ranch Land Reserve Trust, our November OC-CREEC hidden question winner! She was very excited about receiving her **Skulls** book. Thanks to the other participants who earned themselves free curricula, including: Candice Dickens-Russell from Earth Resource Foundation. October winners included: Ethan Fisher from the Santa Ana Zoo; Linda Salata, Principal from Imperial Elementary School in Orange; and Crystal Fountain, a teacher at Rosemary Kennedy in Riverside.

Embedded within the text of this newsletter, there is a hidden question. The first educator (classroom or nonformal) who contacts Helen at 714-708-3889 or HdelaMaza@ocde.us with the answer to the hidden question **will receive The Big Golden Book of Space**. This 48-page book includes text and photographs about the planets, rockets, constellations, comets, stars, telescopes, and much more. A glossary helps readers discover the meaning of 'space words.'



Thanks for playing!



Coordinator Communications: Giving Thanks

During this time of thanks giving, OC-CREEC gives thanks to all of you who dedicate your time and energy to educating the minds of those who are young and those who are young-at-heart. Education is a powerful tool for creating change and empowering individuals. May you continue to share your lives and wisdom with those around you so their passion for the pursuit of knowledge is ignited.

The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you. - *B.B. King*

The whole art of teaching is only the art of awakening the natural curiosity of young minds for the purpose of satisfying it afterwards.
-*Anatole France*

A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops. - *Henry B. Adams*

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire. - *W. B. Yeats*



May you light many fires!
-Helen



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Hidden Question
- 1 Coordinator Communications: Giving Thanks
- 2, 5 Training Time!
- 2, 4 Great Grants & Cool Contests
- 3 Rad Resources
- 6 Noteworthy News
- 6 Provider Highlight: Inside the Outdoors
- 7 Volunteers Wanted!
- 8 Provider Perspectives
- 9 Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events: Highlights
- 10 Holiday Hoopla: Local Holiday Events
- 11-16 Local Event Calendar



This newsletter is a monthly publication of the California Regional Environmental Education Community (CREEC) Network in Orange County. The CREEC Network is administered by the **California Department of Education**, Environmental Education Program, in partnership with numerous agencies. In Orange County, CREEC is housed by the **Orange County Department of Education** and OCDE's *Inside the Outdoors* (<http://www.insidetheoutdoors.org>).

The information included is compiled from a variety of sources, including NSTA Express, EE-NEWS@NAAEE, CREEC, Information Exchange for Marine Educators, Energenius, Project Learning Tree, GLEF Edutopia News, and others.

Training Time!

Teacher's Open House Every First Monday of the Month at Discovery Science Center

Every first Monday of the month (October - May), Discovery Science Center hosts a free Teachers' Open House from 4:30 PM - 6:30 PM. This educational event includes a guided tour of the exhibits and a hands-on, science workshop. During this year, the hands-on workshops will focus on concepts addressed on the 5th grade science test and most commonly misunderstood science concepts. Call 714-913-5012 for more information.

December 5, 2005: Water sources; water movement; forms of water

January 9, 2006: Chemical reactions; chemical & physical properties

UCI Professional Development for Teachers

The workshops generally have a "lecture" presentation in the morning followed by a lab activity. Lunch and parking are provided. If you are part of the FOCUS partnership, you will also receive a \$100 stipend upon completion of the workshop. Workshops are Saturdays from 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM. Contact Dr. Debra Mauzy-Melitz at 949-824-6499 or dmauzyme@uci.edu for an application.

December 17, 2005 Geo-cycles of carbon, water and nitrogen

January 14, 2006 Photosynthesis

February 11, 2006 Classical Genetics

March 11, 2006 Molecular Genetics

April 15, 2006 Ecology and Food webs

May 13, 2006 Physiology- skeletal system

June 17, 2006 Evolution of Viruses

American Museum of Natural History: Seminars on Science: January 16 - February 26, 2006

<http://learn.amnh.org>

Registration is now open for the Winter Semester. Graduate credit is available.

Courses Offered

- *Earth: Inside and Out: Dynamic Earth Systems*
- *Genetics, Genomics, Genethics: Molecular Biology*
- *Space, Time and Motion: Physical Science*
- *The Diversity of Fishes: Classification, Anatomy and Morphology*
- *The Ocean System: Integrated Science*

Registration closes January 5. Sign up by December 19 and receive a \$50 discount off the price of each course. If you have additional questions, e-mail seminfo@amnh.org

(continued on page 5)

Great Grants & Cool Contests

Olympus and Tool Factory Grants

http://www.toolfactory.com/olympus_contest/

Deadline: December 30, 2005 or June 2, 2006

Grants sponsored by Olympus America Inc. and Tool Factory Inc. are available for K-12 educators who demonstrate creative use of digital cameras and software. Each grant recipient will win \$3,500 in prizes, which include digital cameras, software, and a \$500 cash award.

Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award

<http://www.kinderaward.org>

Nomination Deadline: December 31, 2005

A cash prize will be awarded to an extraordinary teacher in an underserved community. The Kinder Excellence in Teaching Award seeks to recognize innovative and results-oriented teaching and to raise public awareness of the importance of effective and committed teachers. Nominees must be currently employed in a K-12 school, public or private, in the U.S. where at least 50 percent of students qualify for the free-and reduced-price meal program.

Captain Planet Foundation Grants

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

Applicants: School and community groups

Deadline: December 31, 2005; March 31, 2006; June 30, 2006; September 30, 2006

The Captain Planet Foundation provides grants to support hands-on environmental projects. The objective of the Foundation is to encourage innovative programs that empower children and youth around the world to work individually and collectively to solve environmental problems in their neighborhoods and communities. Grant rewards up to \$2,500 are available.

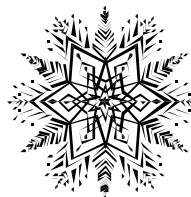
State Farm Grants

<http://www.statefarm.com/foundati/foundati.htm>

Deadlines: January 15, 2006; May 16, 2006; September 1, 2006

The State Farm Companies Foundation offers grants to K-12 public schools for projects focused on one of three areas: improving teacher quality, integrating service learning into classroom curriculum, and incorporating established criteria to improve the effectiveness of school systems.

(continued on page 4)



Rad Resources

DonorsChoose.org

<http://www.donorschoose.org>

This not-for-profit website matches requests for classroom supplies with private citizen donations. Proposed projects must be for resources that are used by students or directly provide a student experience. Donors can choose to fully or partially fund a project. Feedback from teacher and students, including photos, are mailed to donor(s) who completed the project or made a partial contribution of \$100 or more.

EPA's Make a Difference Campaign (Grade 6-8)

<http://www.epa.gov/teachers/order-publications.htm>

The Environmental Protection Agency's "Make a Difference" campaign is aimed at educating and engaging young people in resource conservation and environmental protection. It encourages teens to make informed decisions in their day-to-day lives to help protect the environment. As part of the campaign, EPA is offering free copies of a resource kit, "Your Life, Your World, Your Choices." Many other free materials and resources are available at this website.

Place-Based Education - New Edition

http://www.oriononline.org/pages/ob/index_ob.html

Orion Society has recently issued a 2nd edition of its popular *Place-Based Education—Connecting Classrooms and Communities*, by David Sobel. The book builds a persuasive case for getting kids out into nature and their community and allowing the environmental education to serve as an integrating context for all kinds of coursework.

Freecycle.org

<http://www.freecycle.org> (home page)

For O.C. info: <http://www.freecycle.org/display.php?region=US%20West%20Coast>

This is a grassroots recycling program that strives to save landfill-bound, still-usable items.

Freecycle.org is up and running in over 3,000 cities and more than 1.5 million subscribers. Everyday, tons of good stuff is kept out of the landfill.

Freecycling is simple, just post on the website and others who need the item reply. You may also post a "wanted" notice on the website and those who have the item reply. No money changes hands!

The giver, the receiver, the city, the county and the environment all benefit from such a simple idea.

Science for English Language Learners: Now Available from NSTA Press

<http://store.nsta.org/showItem.asp?product=PB194X>

This comprehensive guide will expand your expertise in teaching science content and processes, in language development and literacy, and in inquiry-based teaching. Plus it will help you integrate best practices from the very different but highly complementary fields of science education and English language teaching.

Children's Environmental Literature Bibliography

<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/ce/ee/teacher/childlit.htm>

The Children's Environmental Literature Bibliography is available online courtesy of Wisconsin's Project WILD, Project Learning Tree, and Project WET programs. This popular resource was initially developed in 1997 and has been revised as a reading list for early childhood providers and to help teacher's meet the requirements of the No Child Left Behind legislation. The bibliography contains more than 400 books, over 300 of them new additions. For easy teacher reference, the books are grouped according to topic area and age group.

Hurricane Katrina Resource Guide - Lessons and Information to Educate and Support Students' Understanding of Hurricane Katrina

<http://www.lacoe.edu/historysocialscience>

For more information, contact

Herczog_Michelle@lacoe.edu or

Lefler_Karen@lacoe.edu

The Los Angeles County Office of Education, acting as a clearinghouse, has compiled a list of resources to provide schools with a curriculum framework to help students understand the cause of Hurricane Katrina and its effect on the environment and the social, political and economic institutions that directly and indirectly impact the lives of everyone in our nation. Resources are organized within the following categories: curriculum/lesson plans, web sites to support relief efforts and informational items about Hurricane Katrina. The resource guide will be updated regularly. ❁



Great Grants and Cool Contests *(continued from page 2)*

Toyota Tapestry Grants

<http://www.nsta.org/programs/tapestry>

Deadline: January 19, 2006

These annual grants are distributed to K-12 science teachers for innovative projects in: Environmental Science Education, Physical Science Application, and Literacy and Science Education. Toyota awards 50 grants of up to \$10,000 and 20 or more mini-grants of up to \$2,500 each.

15th International Painting Competition on the Environment: "Deserts, Drylands and Desertification Through the Eyes of Children."

<http://www.unep.org/tunza/paintcomp15>

Deadline: January 20, 2006

Children (ages 6-14) around the world are invited to express their views about the future of the world's deserts and the issue of desertification.

Submissions accepted at Regional United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) offices.

Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence

<http://www.amgen.com/citizenship/aaste.html>

Nomination Deadline: January 31, 2006

Amgen invites educators with a minimum of three years teaching science in grades K-12 to apply for this award. Each year, 19 science teachers are awarded an unrestricted cash award of up to \$5,000 for their creativity, effectiveness, motivation, and teaching ability. As winners, their schools also receive a restricted grant of up to \$5,000 to be used to expand or enhance the school's science program, purchase new science resources, or further the professional development of their science teachers.

California Coastal Art and Poetry Contest

<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/pendx.html>

For information, e-mail coast4u@coastal.ca.gov, or call 800-Coast-4U.

Postmark Deadline: January 31, 2006

The California Coastal Commission invites California students in kindergarten through 12th grade to submit artwork or poetry with a California coastal or marine theme to the annual contest. Up to eight winners will be selected to win \$100 gift certificates to an art supply or book store, and each winner's sponsoring teacher will receive a \$40 gift certificate for educational supplies. Students may have their work featured on Commission webpages and materials. Submissions become the property of the California Coastal Commission.

Volvo Adventure Awards

<http://www.volvoadventure.org/site/locationchoice.asp>

Deadline: January 31, 2006

The Volvo Adventure is an environmental award for teams of young people ages 10-16 that rewards environmental action. Awards are given for practical action plans in the categories of biodiversity, waste, water, and energy.

2006 American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) Recycling Awards

<http://www.paperrecycles.org/recycling/awards>

Deadline: February 17, 2006

Those engaged in successful recycling programs in the following categories are encouraged to apply:

Ed Hurley Memorial Paper Recycling Award

Individual

AF&PA Business Leadership Recycling Awards

Large and Small Businesses

AF&PA Community Recycling Awards

Community (city or county)

AF&PA School Recycling Awards

School-wide recycling program

Classroom recycling program

EarthWatch Educator Fellowships

<http://www.earthwatch.org/education/educator/fellowships/apply.html>

Educator fellowships for EarthWatch science expeditions, in which successful applicants travel with a team of volunteers to work with leading scientists on their research and conservation efforts, are selected based on financial need, funding in the applicant's geographic region, and the benefits that would result from participating on an EarthWatch expedition.

Grants Available for *Inside the Outdoors*

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

No Deadline

The Orange County Outdoor Science Foundation 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.



Training Time! (continued from page 2)

Marine Mammal Seminars

Location: Camp Ocean Pines, 1473 Randall Drive, Cambria, CA 93428. Phone: 805-927-0254.

<http://www.campoceanpines.org/upcoming/>

Camp Ocean Pines is hosting three weekend retreats in January 2006 focused on Marine Mammals, featuring leading researchers sharing their latest research and discoveries.

January 6-8: "Tagging of Pacific Pelagics"

January 13-15: "Sleuthing Mother Nature"

January 20-23: "Sea Otters"

Cost of the weekend workshop (\$250/person) includes 2 nights lodging in passive solar designed cabins made with strawbale construction, six excellent meals, materials and instruction.

Teacher Features: Mini Workshops and Pizza Dinners at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden January 6, 2006; 6:00 - 9:00 PM

Who: K-8 educators (formal and non-formal)

Where: Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, 1500 N. College Ave., Claremont 91711

Cost: \$10/session

Teachers are invited to the Garden on the first Fridays of each month for an evening mini science workshop and pizza dinner. Workshops will focus on the natural sciences – plants, animals, geology and ecology of California. Selected lessons will address specific grade level content standards and teachers will take away ideas and materials for lessons. Gatherings are informal. Learn and have fun over pizza and soda. Contact Rachel Kau-Taylor for more information or to sign up for classes at 909-625-8767 x224 or rachel.kau-taylor@cgu.edu

Water Education Course at Discovery Science Center for 5th - 8th Grade Teachers, sponsored by Orange County Project Pollution Prevention January 12, 19, and 26, 2006; 4:30 - 7:50 PM

(a light dinner is provided)

During this standards-based course, learn integrated science concepts, such as (1) the chemistry of water (2) water sources, retrieval, purification, and usage; (3) human impact on water; and (4) water conservation. Teachers receive kits of resource materials valued at \$250 for the students to use to conduct experiments and activities in the classroom. These resource materials include chemical test kits for measuring nitrates, phosphates, pH, and dissolved oxygen, as well as other science-based materials and equipment ~ enough free supplies for up to 200 students. Call 714-913-5012 to take advantage of this FREE educational enrichment program.

University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point "Fundamentals of Environmental Education"

Online Course; February 6 - April 21, 2006

For information, visit <http://www.eetap.org> and click on "Online EE Courses," or contact Angela Arkin (Angela.Arkin@uwsp.edu) or Jennifer Jenquin (Jennifer.Jenquin@uwsp.edu).

Participants: classroom and nonformal educators
The "Fundamentals of Environmental Education" online course was developed by the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) in collaboration with national EE experts. It 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. Graduate credits are available.

Dig Soil? The National Teachers Enhancement Network (NTEN) at Montana State Introduces New Online Courses in Soil Science

Who: K-12 teachers

Cost: Varies; National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) members receive a 10% discount.

Call 800-282-6062 for more information.

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

Secondary Teachers: *Understanding Soils in the Environment* is aimed at increasing understanding about soil science as it relates to land and the diversity of plant communities, landforms and climates found in natural systems. Teachers will gain experience using aerial photography, satellite imagery, and 3-D mapping programs that are ideal for sharing with students.

Elementary Teachers: *The Dirt on Soil Science* will examine concepts of soil science and use soil as a platform to teach other science disciplines.

Other Courses are available in biology, entomology, microbiology, astronomy, and physics.

For the Hidden Question, contact Helen at HdelaMaza@ocde.us or call 714-708-3889 with the answer to the following question: What are the challenges you encounter either: (teachers/principals) taking students on field trips or (Providers) having students take field trips to your facility/site? Bonus question: Any solutions? ❁



Noteworthy News

Study Bolsters Research that Nature Helps Students with ADHD

<http://my.webmd.com/content/article/93/102307.htm>

“A Potential Natural Treatment for Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder: Evidence from a National Study” by Frances Kuo, PhD, and Andrea Faber Taylor, PhD, of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign shows that hands-on structured outdoor activities improve behavior and produces positive results for students with ADHD. The complete report is available in the American Journal of Public Health, September 2004, vol 94, No. 9. Nature Helps Fight ADHD

Achievement Gap Persists

http://news.pacificnews.org/news/view_article.html?article_id=ce73e446d875ec7ac0416fc3ddfb8f78

Students across California are making significant gains on standardized tests, but black, Latino, and poor children are still lagging far behind their white, Asian, and more affluent counterparts, according to data released by the state superintendent of public schools. Despite reform efforts and a strong standards-based curriculum, which have lifted scores among all groups by an average of twenty points over last year, an achievement gap persists that threatens to grow larger, educators say.

Ed-Data

<http://www.ed-data.k12.ca.us>

Wondering how your local school or district fared in last spring's round of testing? The latest update on the Ed-Data website is in the Accountability section for schools, districts, and the state as a whole. The Academic Performance Index (API) growth results are now available for schools and the state. Reports on the 2005 Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) status for schools, districts and the state are also updated.

“There is a great danger in the present day lest science- teaching should degenerate into the accumulation of disconnected facts and unexplained formulae, which burden the memory without cultivating the understanding.”

- J. D. Everett in the preface to his 1873 English translation of Elementary Treatise on Natural Philosophy by A Privat Deschanel. (D. Appleton and Co.)



Provider Highlight

Inside the Outdoors is a proud Member of the Orange County CREEC Provider Network. Pam Johnson, Administrator, and Dave Raetz, Program Manager, are members of the CREEC Advisory Committee.

Inside the Outdoors is administered by the Orange County Department of Education and annually serves approximately 120,000 students in Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties.

Three types of programs are offered by *Inside the Outdoors*:

- 1) Outdoor Science School: a week-long residential experience for fifth and sixth grade students at one of five sites in the San Bernardino Mountains.
- 2) Field Programs: students in kindergarten through seventh grade take a one- to five- hour field trip to one of 12 locations in Orange County where they learn about the ecology and history of the area.
- 3) School Programs: a Traveling Scientist goes to the school site and brings live animals and/or science activities. Sixteen different one-hour programs are offered and are available for students in pre-K through eighth grade. Assembly-style programs are also available.

For more information on *Inside the Outdoors*, go to <http://www.insidetheoutdoors.org>, visit the CREEC Resource Directory entry at http://creec.edgateway.net/cs/creec9bp/view/creec_org/759 or call 714-708-3889.

Funding Available! The Orange County Outdoor Science Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that provides financial and advisory support to *Inside the Outdoors*, is currently offering several mini-grant sponsorships to *Inside the Outdoors* participants. To learn more about the partial- and full- sponsorships available, go to [http://www.creec.org/region9b/stories/storyReader\\$180](http://www.creec.org/region9b/stories/storyReader$180)



Volunteers Wanted!

For more information on the opportunities below, call the site or go to <http://www.ocparks.com>

Caspers Wilderness Park
33401 Ortega Hwy.
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675

Opportunities:

- Join the Caspers Park Preservation Foundation: Call 949-923-2203 for information
- Guide Nature Walks: Call 714-973-6871
- Exotic Plant Removal: Call 949-923-2210 or 714-973-6870 for information

Clark Regional Park
8800 Rosecrans Ave.
Buena Park, CA 90621
714-973-6871 or 714-973-6671

Opportunities:

- Interpretive Center Volunteer
- Volunteers Interested in Fossils

Craig Regional Park
3300 State College Blvd.
Fullerton, CA 92835
714-973-6871

Opportunities:

- Cactus Garden Volunteer (create a cactus garden!)
- Native Garden Maintenance Volunteer
- Volunteer Irrigation Assistant (modify and upgrade the existing irrigation system)

Thomas F. Riley Wilderness Park
30952 Oso Parkway
Coto De Caza, CA 92679
714-973-6871 or 949-923-2266

Opportunities:

- Riley Nature Center Volunteer Staff
- Butterfly Garden Volunteer

Santiago Oaks Regional Park
2145 N. Windes Drive
Orange, CA 92869
714-973-6871 or 714-973-6622

Opportunities:

- Santiago Oaks Interpretive Center Volunteer
- Trail and Park Maintenance Volunteer

Yorba Park
7600 E. La Palma
Anaheim, CA 92807
714-973-6615 or 714-973-6838

Opportunities:

- Pampas Grass Removal (labor intensive!)

Bolsa Chica Stewards

<http://www.bolsachicalandtrust.org>

For more information, contact Marc Stirdivant at bclt@bolsachicalandtrust.org or call 714-846-1001. The Bolsa Chica Stewards, the restoration team of the Bolsa Chica Land Trust, has worked for ten years planting more than 8,000 native plants on the Bolsa Chica mesa using only community volunteers. The Stewards have twelve core leaders who ensure that each work day is productive, safe, educational, and fun for everyone who chooses to participate.

Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
20101 Laguna Canyon Road
Laguna Beach, CA 92651
949-923-2235

Wilderness Access Volunteer (WAV) Training
December 17, 2005; 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Join the fun! Become a Wilderness Access Volunteer and join the Laguna Coast volunteer team who assist visitors at the park information/sign-in table. Its a wonderful opportunity to help out while meeting new people and enjoying a pristine wilderness experience! Call or e-mail the park office to sign up!

Open Space Preserve Nature Center (Irvine)
2nd Saturdays; December 10, 2005; 9 AM - 12 PM
To register visit <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org> or call 949-724-6738.

Bring the family for some fresh air and exercise and join us for our monthly land steward day! Projects vary and include: trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, and general conservation. Bring your own tools (labeled), hat and closed toed shoes. Other tools, water, and light refreshments provided. Parents must accompany children under 18. Call for additional project information. Ages 14+.

Sierra Club Youth Outings

<http://angeles.sierraclub.org/ocico/>

Please e-mail lhellman@hmausa.com or call 714-964-4488 for more information and a volunteer application form

Adult volunteers are needed to participate in Sierra Club's "Orange County Inner City Outings" outdoor education program benefiting lower-income/at-risk youth. The volunteers work with groups of 5-15 youths aged 2nd grade and up, and/or support the PR and fundraising efforts. They offer 2-5 mile day hikes, habitat restoration activities and will soon offer overnight camping trips. OCICO collaborates with expert docents from other organizations, and has a variety of teaching aides so can work with educators to tailor the educational goals of the outings. ❁

Provider Perspectives

This section of the newsletter is specifically for naturalists, docents, interpreters, and any other staff of Environmental Education and Science Education Providers.



Save the Date!



Service-Learning Workshop for Providers

March 10, 2006; 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Orange County CREEC was awarded a generous grant by the Disney Cast Community Fund to provide a service-learning workshop for environmental and science education providers. The cost will be \$20 and will include a full day of training on service learning (what it is, how to implement it into your existing programs, brainstorming of site-specific projects, and more), all materials, a light breakfast, lunch, and an afternoon snack. Please plan on joining us! Details will be available soon at the Orange County CREEC website.

Certified Interpretive Guide Workshop at Acorn Naturalists (155 El Camino Real; Tustin)

January 11 - 14, 2006

This workshop is offered through the National Association for Interpretation (NAI). The four-day course covers everything you need to know - from theory to application - to become certified as an Interpretive Guide through NAI. Topics include: the principles of effective interpretation, what ensures audiences pay attention, building great presentations in 10 easy steps, and more. The cost is \$310 for NAI members, and \$355 for non-members. Contact the instructor, Rici Peterson, for further information at 505-466-0656 (9AM - 5 PM Mountain Time) or rici@attendingmarvels.com A registration form is available at <http://www.attendingmarvels.com>

Interpreting to Diverse Audiences (Pacific Palisades, CA)

January 23 - 27, 2006

Registration: \$300 (includes meals and on-site transportation)

Join fellow interpreters for this 36-hour workshop and explore new ways to connect your agency's resources and stories to increasingly diverse audiences. During the workshop you will observe programs and get practical strategies for identifying and reaching new audiences. For more information or to register for the workshop, contact Wes Chapin at wchap@parks.ca.gov or 805-585-1845. Download a flyer and an agenda at the "Providers" section of <http://www.creec.org/region9b/>

Nonformal Environmental Education Resources Available

The recently revised "Guidelines for the Preparation and Professional Development of Environmental Educators" is a resource to help you design and implement effective high-quality EE professional development programs. Other titles are available, including "Nonformal Environmental Education Programs: Guidelines for Excellence." These were developed by the National Project for Excellence in Environmental Education (NPEEE), an initiative of NAAEE. Download them for free at: <http://www.naaee.org/npeee> or order hard copies from NAAEE (for a fee): 202-419-041, <http://naaee.org/pages/publications/pubdescriptions.html>

Applied Environmental Education Program Evaluation Online Course, February 20 - May 5, 2006

This 10-week on-line course will be offered through the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The course is designed to assist environmental educators and natural resource professionals in evaluating their education programs. Participants have the opportunity to develop and apply skills in designing evaluation tools such as surveys, observation forms, and interview and focus group guides. This course was developed as a cooperative effort between the Environmental Education and Training Partnership (EETAP) at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) National Conservation Training Center. The course may be taken for undergraduate or graduate credits, or non-credit. For more information, visit <http://www.eetap.org> and click on "Online EE Courses" or contact Angela Arkin (Angela.Arkin@uwsp.edu) or Jennifer Jenquin (Jennifer.Jenquin@uwsp.edu) for a registration form.

Scholarships are available - deadline December 16, 2005. Community and state environmental education leaders are eligible. For more information on the scholarships, contact Dr. Rick Wilke at rwilke@uwsp.edu or 715-346-4766. ❁

Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events: Highlights and More!

Human Broom Beach Clean Up December 10; 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Pacific Coast Hwy and Brookhurst in Huntington Beach

Who: High School Students

Contact: volunteer@earthresource.org or 949-645-5163.

The itinerary for the students' day is as follows:

8:30 - 9:00 AM	Registration & Breakfast
9:00 - 9:05 AM	Welcome
9:05 - 10:00 AM	Beach Cleanup
10:00 - 10:15 AM	Break
10:15 - 10:25 AM	Intro: Speakers and VIP's
10:30 - 11:30 AM	Empowerment Workshops
11:30 AM - 2:00 PM	Lunch, Beach Activities & Raffle

Earth Resource Foundation's mission is to teach environmental responsibility where we live, work and play. In order to achieve this goal, we actively work to empower students with the information they need to change their current habits to be more environmentally friendly.

Family Fossil Day at Clark Regional Park December 3, 2005; 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

The County of Orange Harbors, Beaches and Parks and Ralph B. Clark Regional Park presents Family Fossil Day. Come explore Clark's rich fossil history. Meet at the parks' Interpretive Center.

This three hour program begins promptly at 9:30. Reservations are not needed - it is first come, first serve. Bring a picnic and stay and enjoy the park afterwards. Parking Fee: \$5.00

Location: 8800 Rosecrans Ave. Buena Park 90621
714-973-3170 or 714-973-6871

Cactus and Succulent Sale

December 3 and 4, 2005; 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Call 714-278-3579 for information.

The Potting Shed at the Fullerton Arboretum will be partnering with the Orange County Cactus and Succulent Society (OCCSS) to present this sale and show featuring hundreds of unusual and hard-to-find cactus and succulents, plus over 30 varieties of cycads. To support a holiday theme, beautiful living succulent wreaths, handcrafted by the Arboretum's Potters, plus decorative cactus and succulent dish gardens and plants will be available for sale.



Nature Craft Workshop at the Environmental Nature Center

December 26 - December 30; 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost (includes material fee): \$175 per student (10% discount for members: \$157.50).

Call 949-645-8489 to register.

Students in grades K - 4 are invited to join us for a nature craft workshop, where they will design special hand-made crafts for family, friends and themselves! Crafts include picture frames, soap, candles, a pencil holder, a paperweight, and more! Children will even create their own stationary so they can send personalized thank you letters for all those holiday gifts! Art projects will incorporate natural items like pinecones, sand, rocks, and clay. Two projects will be created each day!

Girls in Ocean Science Teen Conference

February 4, 2006

Ocean Institute (in Dana Point)

Cost: \$20/girl

<http://www.ocean-institute.org> (follow links)

For more information, e-mail Sara Earhart at smarisla@aol.com or call 949-496-2274 x 345. Starting **January 1, 2006**, the Ocean Institute will be accepting 120 middle and high school girls to participate in this day-long conference. Ten prominent female ocean scientists, from all around the country will interact with the girls on the R/V Sea Explorer and in the laboratories. Girls will explore careers in engineering, veterinary and health fields, ocean conservation, marine biology and education. Scientists include a marine mammal veterinarian from Sea World, an engineer from CalTech that designs underwater robots based on squid shapes and a biochemist who will show girls how to make lipstick from algae.

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed at the Natural History Museum

(900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles 90007)

Exhibit through January 16, 2006

For more information, call 213-763-DINO or visit

<http://www.nhm.org>

This groundbreaking exhibit examines how human societies have recognized or ignored – and solved or failed to solve – key environmental issues, including those that concern contemporary global society. A dynamic collage of images, graphics and live interviews asks the visitor to consider the environmental challenges facing Southern California, and how decisions today may shape its future. ❁

Holiday Hoopla: Special Local Events for the Holiday Season

(Disclaimer: Most of the events I encountered taking place in O.C. public venues are related to Christmas.

My apologies for the lack of diversity.)

24th Annual Victorian Christmas

December 3, 2005; 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Location: Heritage Hill Historical Park (25151 Serrano Road; Lake Forest 92630)
949-923-2230

Cost: \$4 Adults, \$3 Children 3 - 12 years. Tickets available at the gate

Begin your holiday season enjoying traditions of the past. All of the park's historic buildings will be decked for the holidays with turn of the century decorations and are open for walk through visitation, hosted by costumed docents. Amigos de la Colina docents offer children's holiday arts and crafts to make and take home for free. Participate in hands on activities such as butter churning and candle dipping, purchase unique homemade items at the craft booths and enjoy holiday entertainment featuring local talent.

Fullerton Arboretum Celebration

December 4, 2005; 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Location: Fullerton Arboretum (1900 Associated Road (at Yorba Linda Blvd.) Fullerton. Call 714-278-3579 for information.)

Cost: Free

Children—on a first-come, first-serve basis—can sit with Santa Claus and give him their special holiday present requests. Parents are actively encouraged to take pictures with either Santa or Mrs. Claus or other places on the grounds of the beautiful Arboretum. A very special handmade edible Gingerbread House will be raffled to visitors.

Holiday Crafts with Hilda

December 10, 2005; 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Tree of Life Nursery (33201 Ortega Hwy, San Juan Capistrano); 949-728-0685;

<http://www.CaliforniaNativePlants.com>

Cost: Free demonstration, \$10/person for wreath
Hilda Evans will be using California Native Plants to create beautiful Holiday wreaths and garlands. Customers can watch the demonstration, purchase finished crafts or participate in making their own wreath for a small fee. All materials will be provided. As usual, coffee and cookies will be served in Casa 'La Paz'.



Holiday Nature Crafts for Kids

December 11, 2005; 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Location: Peter & Mary Muth Interpretive Center (2301 University Drive; Newport Beach, CA 92660)
949-923-2275)

Cost: \$7.00/child (5-11 yrs.); parent required
Come learn about how nature can be part of holiday tradition. Make nature crafts for gifts or to decorate your home.

20th Annual Candlelight Tour

December 10, 2005; 5:30 PM - 9:30 PM

Location: Heritage Hill Historical Park (see left)

Cost: \$4 Adults, \$3 Children 3 to 12 years.

Grab your mittens and coats for a winter's stroll through the park paths as over 1000 luminaries light the way. Meander along and enjoy carolers and bagpipers as they fill the air with holiday music. Gather 'round as storytellers spin holiday tales in the one room grammar school. Enjoy the hand bell choir, harpist, flamenco guitarist and dancer as you visit the park's historic buildings. The Amigos de la Colina docents host the beautifully decorated buildings and offer homemade cookies, comforting cocoa and cider.

Santa at the Orange County Zoo!

December 17, 2005; 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Irvine Regional Park (1 Irvine Park Road Orange, CA 92862; 714-973-6846)

Cost: \$2/person zoo admission; \$5/car parking
Celebrate the holiday season at the zoo! Activities will include making holiday crafts, story telling with Mrs. Claus, face painting and visits with Santa. Activities are for children of all ages.

"Winter Wonderland" (ages 2 - 10)

December 17, 2005, check-in 1 - 2 PM

Location: Oak Canyon Nature Center

Cost: \$8.50 per participant (no charge for adults)
Adult helpers recommended for younger participants. Pre-Registration Required.

Contact: 714-998-8380

Enjoy a fun-filled afternoon *Walking in Winter Wonderland* at Oak Canyon Nature Center with your friends and family. Sleigh bells ringing, birds singing, popcorn stringing, and snowman building.... You can create family memories of a very special holiday event. Children's activities will include a wonderful variety of Holiday Folk Art Crafts, Cozy Storytelling by Grandma Frost, and Marshmallow "S'more-men" Decorating. ❄️

Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Local Event Calendar

(For a listing by Facility/Provider, go to <http://www.creec.org/region9b/>)

- » **Every first Monday of the Month: Residents of Santa Ana with a valid ID can receive free admission to Discovery Science Center.** Call for details! 714-542-CUBE
- » **Every second Tuesday of the Month: Residents of Santa Ana with a valid ID receive free admission to the Santa Ana Zoo.** Also available are free train rides on the Zoofari Express (11:00 AM - 2:00 PM). For more information, call 714-836-4000 or visit <http://www.santaanazoo.org>
- » **Every Wednesday, 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Steward Days at Upper Newport Bay's Shellmaker Island.** Join in to maintain the restoration projects around the Upper Newport Bay. Activities vary each week and may include working in the native plant nursery or watering plants at restoration sites. Gloves, tools, snacks and water are provided. For more information (including directions to the work site) and to register as a volunteer, please contact Matt Yurko at 949-640-0286 or myurko@coastal.ca.gov
- » **Every Saturday, 8:30 AM: Canoe the Back Bay.** Take a 2-hour, naturalist-guided tour of the Back Bay. The cost is \$10 per person. Call 949-923-2269 to make reservations.
- » **Every Saturday, 10:00 AM: Kayak Tours at Upper Newport Bay.** Meet at the Newport Aquatic Center on Northstar Beach for a 2-hour, naturalist-guided kayak tour of Back Bay. The fee is \$15 per person. Call 949-923-2269 for reservations.
- » **Saturdays and Sundays: The Nature Conservancy has hikes, bike rides, equestrian rides, and more.** A few events are included below. For all their events, go to <http://www.creec.org/region9b/> "Calendar."
- » **Every Saturday and Sunday, 12:00 PM - 12:30 PM and 2:30 PM - 3:00 PM: "Critters for Conservation" Animal Shows at the Santa Ana Zoo.** Come meet some of the zoo's animal ambassadors up close and personal and learn how you can help save endangered species. The show is free with zoo admission. For more information call 714-836-4000 or visit <http://www.santaanazoo.org>
- » **Every Sunday, 10:00 AM: Kayak Tours at Upper Newport Bay.** Meet at the Newport Dunes Resort for a 2-hour, naturalist-guided kayak tour of Back Bay. The fee is \$20 per person. There is also a parking fee. Call 949-729-1150 or 949-729-3863 for reservations.
- » **Every First Saturday of the Month, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Restoration at Shipley Nature Center.** Everyone is invited to participate in planting, weeding, and other restoration activities. Bring a pair of gardening gloves and any gardening tools you have available such as shovel, hoe, or rake. *Please label tools clearly with your name.* Wear sturdy closed toe shoes and clothes you don't mind getting dirty. Call 714-842-4772 or visit <http://www.fsnc.org> for information.
- » **Every First Saturday of the Month, 11:00 AM: Tour of Shipley Nature Center.** Hear descriptions of the Center's planned restoration to its historical native plant habitat with the addition of water conservation gardens. Meet at the front gate to the Shipley Nature Center. Large groups should e-mail shipleynature@yahoo.com Visit <http://www.fsnc.org> for information.
- » **December 3, 8:00 AM: Laurel Loop hike at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, Willow Canyon Staging Area.** Hike with Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. guides. Call 949-923-2235 for information.
- » **December 3, 8:30 AM: Animal Tracking Hike in Baker Canyon.** Call The Nature Conservancy for information at 714-832-7478.
- » **December 3, 8:30 AM - 11:00 AM: Mountain Bike Ride at Bommer Canyon.** Load up your mountain bike and join us on this moderate to advanced ride into the Open Space. We'll venture into Irvine's urban wilderness on a docent-led ride. Distance is approximately 11 miles. Participants must wear a helmet and possess above-average mountain biking skills. Recommended for ages 16+. To register sign up for #29658 at <http://www.irvineopenspace.org> or call 949-724-6738 for information.
- » **December 3, 9:00 AM: Guided Nature Walk at O'Neill Regional Park.** Then, enjoy exploring the native habitats of O'Neill Regional Park through a guided nature walk. Discover which plants and animals thrive at O'Neill and how we can protect them for future generations to come. Hikers of all ages are welcome to join in. Close-toed shoes, long pants and water are recommended. Parking fee: \$5.00. Call 949-923-2260 or 949-923-2256 for information or visit <http://www.ocparks.com>

Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Local Event Calendar

- » **December 3, 9:00 AM: Nature Walk in Round Canyon.** Call The Nature Conservancy for information at 714-832-7478.
- » **December 3, 9:00 AM: Mostly Plants Hike at Crystal Cove State Park.** Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight “School-State Park.”). Day use parking fee is \$10. Call for information: 949-497-7647.
- » **December 3, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Family Nature Discover and Draw at The Donna O’Neill Land Conservancy.** Walk along the trail and discover the fall. See how the plants change with the seasons. Look for insects, spiders, and birds. Make quick drawings of your fall discoveries! Donation: \$5/adult, \$2/child. Call for reservations and directions: 949-489-9778. For information visit <http://www.TheConservancy.org>
- » **December 3, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Winter Birds in the Canyon at Oak Canyon Nature Center.** Join this guided nature walk with a professional naturalist. Free. Call 714-998-8380 for information and directions.
- » **December 3, 7:30 PM – 9:30 PM: Astronomy Night at The Donna O’Neill Land Conservancy.** Make your own star clock and find out what the night sky can tell you! Donation: \$8/adult, \$6/child. Call for reservations and directions: 949-489-9778. For information visit <http://www.TheConservancy.org>
- » **December 4, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM: Hicks Canyon View Hike.** Participate in our interpretive hike in Irvine’s northern wilderness of Hicks Canyon. Hike the paved road and learn about the area’s history and native habitats. Bring your binoculars. Hike distance is 6 miles and includes a long steep hill. Recommended for ages 10+. Free. To register go to <http://www.IrvineQuickReg> or call 949-724-6738.
- » **December 4, 9:00 AM: Backcountry Hike at Crystal Cove State Park.** Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight “School-State Park.”). Day use parking fee is \$10. Call for information: 949-497-7647.
- » **December 4, 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Painting Alla Prima at the Muth Interpretive Center.** Enjoy a wonderful afternoon painting the Back Bay with family and friends. Jean Marie will demonstrate and present traditional Alla Prima technique from photographs. You will return home with your completed original oil painting. If weather permits, we will move outside and paint en Plein Aire. All materials are provided. Dress in comfortable, layered, painting-appropriate clothing with sun hat. Bring drinking water. Event fee: \$15/child aged 8-18; \$20/adult. Call 949-923-2275 to register.
- » **December 9, 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM: Buggy Brigade at Bommer Canyon.** Bring your babies with buggies and challenge yourself to a brisk morning walk! Join us for this fun program where you and your baby can get outside and meet new friends. Maximum distance is 4 miles. To register go to <http://www.IrvineQuickReg.org> or call 949-724-6738.
- » **December 9, 4:15 PM: “Full Moon” Hike to the Sinks.** Call The Nature Conservancy for information at 714-832-7478.
- » **December 9, 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM: Asteroids and Comets and Meteors, Oh My! at the Environmental Nature Center.** Come to the ENC to learn all about flying rocks that orbit the sun! Join Andreas Dandler to explore the wonderful world of asteroids, comets and meteors. Make a comet to take home, and create craters in our “lunar surface.” Cost is \$5/person. Call 949-645-8489 for reservations.
- » **December 10, 8:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Trail Clearing at The Donna O’Neill Land Conservancy.** How often do you get a chance to do important work in beautiful surroundings? You can help us clear the trails while we discover the changes that fall has brought to the local wilderness. Drinks and sandwiches provided. Free. Call for reservations and directions: 949-489-9778. For more information visit <http://www.TheConservancy.org>
- » **December 10, 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM: Cardio Conditioning Hike at Bommer Canyon.** Get your blood pumping and enjoy the outdoors. This fast paced hike will take you into Irvine’s Open Space to explore local wilderness areas. Maximum distance is 8 miles and includes some steep sections. Recommended for ages 12+. This program is free and will leave from the Turtle Rock Nature Center. To register sign up for #29648 at <http://www.irvineopenspace.org> or call 949-724-6738 for information.

Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Local Event Calendar

- » **December 10, 8:00 AM: Laurel Loop hike at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, Willow Canyon Staging Area.** Hike with Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. guides. Call 949-923-2235 for information.
- » **December 10, 9:00 AM: Guided Nature Walk at O'Neill Regional Park.** It's time to grab your hiking boots, water and binoculars! Then, enjoy exploring the native habitats of O'Neill Regional Park through a guided nature walk. Discover which plants and animals thrive at O'Neill and how we can protect them for future generations to come. Hikers of all ages are welcome to join in. Close-toed shoes, long pants and water are recommended. Parking fee: \$5.00. Call 949-923-2260 or 949-923-2256 for information or visit <http://www.ocparks.com>
- » **December 10, 9:00 AM: Walk in Baker Canyon.** Call The Nature Conservancy for information at 714-832-7478.
- » **December 10, 9:30 AM - 10:30 AM: Young Gardeners (ages 3-5) at Fullerton Arboretum.** Learn to garden through storytelling, planting and harvesting in the Children's Garden. Take home plant or seeds included. Parent participation is required. Saturday Gardening Classes for young people offer a variety of hands-on projects designed to introduce children to gardening and the natural environment. Each class offers new and exciting activities. Attend as many classes as your schedule permits. Reservations are requested for groups of 4 or more by calling 714-278-3579, press 0. Meet in the Children's Garden. Fee is \$3 per child per class.
- » **December 10, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Trackin' in the Canyon at Oak Canyon Nature Center.** Join this guided nature walk with a professional naturalist. Free. Call 714-998-8380 for information and directions.
- » **December 10, 10:00 AM: Guided Tours of the Fullerton Arboretum.** These tours cover all major sections of the Arboretum and last approximately one hour. A \$2.00 donation per person is requested. Groups of 10 or more should call the Arboretum a week in advance at 714-278-3579 to reserve a space.
- » **December 10, 2:00 PM - 4:30 PM: Members' Mistletoe Hunt at The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy.** For our members and members to be: you are invited to enjoy this special event. Hunt for native Mistletoe and see how it grows in wild Orange County. Search for the fruit of our native "Holly Berry." Enjoy holiday snacks and good cheer. Free and for members only. Call for reservations and directions: 949-489-9778. For more information visit <http://www.TheConservancy.org>
- » **December 11, 9:00 AM: Backcountry Hike at Crystal Cove State Park.** Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight "School-State Park."). Day use parking fee is \$10. Call for information: 949-497-7647.
- » **December 11, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM: Geology Walk at Crystal Cove State Park.** Meet at Los Trancos Lot (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight "Los Trancos;" then meet at the trailer). Day use parking fee is \$10. Call for information: 949-497-7647.
- » **December 14, 7:00 PM: Wildflowers and the Critters that Love Them - Natural History Lecture by Bob Allen.** Location: Acorn Naturalists' Center for Science and Environmental Education, 155 El Camino Real, Tustin 92780. For information, go to <http://www.acornnaturalists.com> or call 714-838-4888.
- » **December 15, 7:30 PM: "The Native Plants of Mount Diablo" by Yulan Chang Tong. Chapter Meeting of the Orange County California Native Plant Society.** Meetings are held at the Irvine Ranch Water District headquarters (15600 Sand Canyon Ave., Irvine). Go to <http://www.occnps.org/> for details.
- » **December 17, 6:30 AM - 5:00 PM: Christmas Bird Count at The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy.** Every year, with the help of South Coast Audubon, we go out and count the birds at the Conservancy. Over the years, we have found more than 80 species of birds on the reserve - more species than at Yosemite National Park! This work takes quiet and patience. Bring your binoculars. Donation: \$5/adult. Call for reservations and directions: 949-489-9778. For more information visit <http://www.TheConservancy.org>
- » **December 17, 8:00 AM: Laurel Loop hike at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, Willow Canyon Staging Area.** Hike with Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. guides. Call 949-923-2235 for information.
- » **December 17, 9:00 AM: Autumn Plant Hike at Crystal Cove State Park.** Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight "School-State Park."). Day use parking fee is \$10. Call for information: 949-497-7647.

Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Local Event Calendar

- » **December 17, 9:00 AM: Insect Hike to the Sinks in Limestone Canyon.** Call The Nature Conservancy for information at 714-832-7478.
- » **December 17, 9:00 AM: Guided Nature Walk at O'Neill Regional Park.** It's time to grab your hiking boots, water and binoculars! Then, enjoy exploring the native habitats of O'Neill Regional Park through a guided nature walk. Discover which plants and animals thrive at O'Neill and how we can protect them for future generations to come. Hikers of all ages are welcome to join in. Close-toed shoes, long pants and water are recommended. Parking fee: \$5.00. Call 949-923-2260 or 949-923-2256 for information or visit <http://www.ocparks.com>
- » **December 17, 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM: Mushroom Walk at the Environmental Nature Center.** 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 Center to see what's popping up. Find out how experts identify fungi! Cost is \$2/person. Call 949-645-8489 for reservations.
- » **December 18, 9:00 AM: Backcountry Hike at Crystal Cove State Park.** Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight "School-State Park."). Day use parking fee is \$10. Call for information: 949-497-7647.
- » **December 21, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM: Winter Solstice Walk at The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy.** The winter solstice is the shortest day of the year. Celebrate the returning of the light, a cosmic event celebrated by people throughout history. Donation: \$5/adult, \$2/child. Call for reservations and directions: 949-489-9778. For more information visit <http://www.TheConservancy.org>
- » **December 21, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM: Winter Solstice Ritual & Drum Circle at the Environmental Nature Center.** Communities have traditionally gathered to observe the changing seasons. Join Cynthia Niermann and friends at the ENC for a Winter Solstice Ritual and drum circle around the fire. Drums and percussion instruments are provided; you are also welcome to bring your own drum and instruments. Cost is \$15 per participant. For reservations and directions call the ENC at 949-645-8489.
- » **December 22, 8:00 AM: Laurel Loop hike at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, Willow Canyon Staging Area.** Hike with Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. guides. Call 949-923-2235 for information.
- » **December 24, 8:00 AM: Laurel Loop hike at Laguna Coast Wilderness Park, Willow Canyon Staging Area.** Hike with Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. guides. Call 949-923-2235 for information.
- » **December 24, 9:00 AM: Guided Nature Walk at O'Neill Regional Park.** It's time to grab your hiking boots, water and binoculars! Then, enjoy exploring the native habitats of O'Neill Regional Park through a guided nature walk. Discover which plants and animals thrive at O'Neill and how we can protect them for future generations to come. Hikers of all ages are welcome to join in. Close-toed shoes, long pants and water are recommended. Parking fee: \$5.00. Call 949-923-2260 or 949-923-2256 for information or visit <http://www.ocparks.com>
- » **December 24, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Trekkin' through the Canyon at Oak Canyon Nature Center.** Join this guided nature walk with a professional naturalist. Free. Call 714-998-8380 for information and directions.
- » **December 26 - December 30, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM: Nature Craft Workshop at the Environmental Nature Center.** Students in grades K through 4 are invited to join us for a nature craft workshop, where they will design special hand-made crafts for family, friends and themselves! Crafts include picture frames, soap, candles, a pencil holder, a paperweight, and more! Children will even create their own stationary so they can send personalized thank you letters for all those holiday gifts! Art projects will incorporate natural items like pinecones, sand, rocks, and clay. Two projects will be created each day! Students will also spend time playing games and having fun in the Center. Cost (includes material fee): \$175 per student (10% discount for members: \$157.50). Call 949-645-8489 to register.
- » **December 26, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM: Holiday Hike & Picnic at The Donna O'Neill Land Conservancy.** Join us for a three to four mile walk through the beautiful Conservancy. We will hike to Wilson's Camp for our picnic and back through Shady Canyon. Enjoy the beautiful oak woodlands. Experience the warmth of the exposed grassland and Coastal Sage Scrub communities. Bring a picnic lunch. Donation: \$5/adult, \$2/child. Call for reservations and directions: 949-489-9778. For more information visit <http://www.TheConservancy.org>

Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Local Event Calendar

- » **December 31, 9:00 AM: Backcountry Hike at Crystal Cove State Park.** Meet at El Moro Visitor Center (from PCH turn inland at the stoplight "School-State Park."). Day use parking fee is \$10. Call for information: 949-497-7647.
- » **December 31, 9:00 AM: Guided Nature Walk at O'Neill Regional Park.** It's time to grab your hiking boots, water and binoculars! Then, enjoy exploring the native habitats of O'Neill Regional Park through a guided nature walk. Discover which plants and animals thrive at O'Neill and how we can protect them for future generations to come. Hikers of all ages are welcome to join in. Close-toed shoes, long pants and water are recommended. Parking fee: \$5.00. Call 949-923-2260 or 949-923-2256 for information or visit <http://www.ocparks.com>
- » **December 31, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Animal Homes of the Canyon at Oak Canyon Nature Center.** Join this guided nature walk with a professional naturalist. Free. Call 714-998-8380 for information and directions.
- » **December 31, 3:00 PM: Tidepool Walk at Crystal Cove State Park.** Meet at Pelican Point Parking Lot #2 (from PCH turn coastward at the stoplight "Newport Coast," then turn right at the kiosk to the first lot on the left). Day use parking fee is \$10. Call for information: 949-497-7647.

Weekday Toddler/Children's Programs

Environmental Nature Center (<http://www.encenter.org>)

1601 16th Street; Newport Beach 92663

Open Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM and Saturday, 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Call 949-645-8489 for reservations and information.

Programs listed below are for 3 - 5 year olds. Cost is \$5/child. Call for reservations.

- » **December 8, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Little Naturalists - Magnificent Mammals at the Environmental Nature Center.** Join the ENC's early childhood expert Rainbow Pharaon for this parent and child playtime with a mammal theme! We'll learn all about what makes a mammal a mammal, and hike through the Center in search of our furry friends. We'll stop to read "Coyote Dreams" and howl at the moon, then make animal tracks to take home. Enjoy hands-on fun for 2-5 year olds. Younger siblings are welcome!
- » **December 13, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Little Naturalists - Winter Wonderland at the Environmental Nature Center.** Join the ENC's early childhood expert Rainbow Pharaon for this parent and child playtime with a winter theme! We'll learn all about the changing seasons, and hike through the Center to jump on crunchy leaves and spongy soil. We'll stop to read "Sky Tree," then make pinecone bird feeders to take home. Enjoy hands-on fun for 2-5 year olds. Younger siblings are welcome!

Oak Canyon Nature Center (<http://www.anaheim.net/ocnc>)

See chronological calendar for family Saturday events.

Nature Hikes for Tykes. For ages 2-4, from 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM. \$3/participant.

12/6 Marshmallows in the Sky
12/14 Dressing for Winter
12/19 Wide-Eyed Nature Walk
12/26 When Winter Comes
12/30 Everlasting Snow

Tykes on the Go. For ages 4-6, from 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM. \$3/participant.

12/8 When Winter Comes
12/15 Winter Warm Up
12/23 The Gift (nature story)



Exciting Environmental & Science Education Events!

Local Event Calendar

12/26 Marshmallows in the Sky
12/30 The Hat (winter nature story)

Canyon Explorers. For ages 6-9; from 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM. \$4.50/participant.

12/3 Alien Invaders (invasive plants)
12/28 Super Science Sleuths!



Art a la Naturelle. For ages 9-12; from 1:00 PM - 2:30 PM. \$4.50/participant.

12/10 Dancing Snowflakes
12/30 Arctic Retreats

Canyon Trailblazers. For ages 9-12; from 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM. \$4.50/participant.

12/27 Trekkin' Through the Canyon
12/29 Finding Your Way
1/3 Let's Get Lost!

Roots & Shoots. Ages 12 and up on Sundays, 1:00 - 2:30 PM. Free.

12/4 "Dig-In" Trash Clean Up
12/11 "Dig-In" Trash Clean Up
12/18 "Dig-In" Dry Brush Removal & Trail Maintenance



Orange County Zoo in Irvine Regional Park

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 \$3 on weekdays and \$5 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. Location: Orange County Zoo; 1 Irvine Park Road; Orange 92862.

These classes are for toddlers 3-4 years old:

- » **December 2, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Feathery Friends.** Learn all about the world of birds! Class includes hands-on learning and fun crafts.
- » **December 9, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Creatures in the Cold.** Learn which animals are adapted for living in cold weather - polar bears, penguins, reindeer and more! Class includes hands-on learning and fun crafts.
- » **December 15, 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM: Animal Art.** Join us for an hour of creativity and fun with an animal theme! Come ready to get a little messy. Wear clothes you don't mind getting a little dirty.

Story Time at the Zoo for All Ages: The Orange County Zoo invites children of all ages to join us for story time. Come learn more about animals and enjoy storytelling under the oak trees! Event Fee: Free with zoo admission (\$2.00 per person, ages 2 and up). Irvine Park entry fee: \$3.00 weekdays.

» **December 1, 12:30 PM**
» **December 8, 11:30 AM**
» **December 14, 11:30 AM**
» **December 22, 11:30 AM**
» **December 30, 11:30 AM**



» **December 7, 11:30 AM**
» **December 10, 12:00 PM**
» **December 15, 11:30 AM**
» **December 28, 11:30 AM**



Muth Interpretive Center (at Upper Newport Bay)

2301 University Drive; Newport Beach
Call 949-923-2275 to register.

- » **December 14, 10:30 AM - 11:15 AM: Toddler Time "Holiday Nature Crafts."** Come learn about how nature can be part of holiday tradition. Make nature crafts for gifts or to decorate your home. Parent participation required. \$5/child ages 3-5. ❁