

# The Wetlands Discovery Program: Program Overview

3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students will learn valuable information regarding the ecology, habitats, and wildlife of wetlands. This program is designed to meet science standards for those grades.

***The 4 components: pre-program materials, in-class activity stations, the field trip, and post-program materials.***

## Pre-program Materials

The teachers complete these in their own time before the in-class activity to prepare students for better engagement and understanding during the program. Materials will be given out during a pre-program teacher meeting, which is scheduled based on ALL teachers' availabilities. Additional optional materials are available on the website:

[http://scvas.org/page.php?page\\_id=6772](http://scvas.org/page.php?page_id=6772).

- Pre-test: Students will complete this before any material is covered. Can be done on paper or online here.
- "Wonders of Wetlands" Slideshow
- Wetlands Vocabulary List
- A set of "common birds" flashcards

## In-Class Activity Station

This activity takes place on a Tuesday morning around 8 or 8:30AM, and is administered by SCVAS staff and docents.

- 1 session requires approximately 75 minutes (60 minutes of activity stations, 15 minutes of binocular training) for up to about 70 students per session (about 2 classes).
- Students should be in groups of 3 and will work through 9 activity stations throughout the classroom using a worksheet provided by SCVAS.

## Field Trip

This approximately 2-hour field trip takes place on the Thursday and/or Friday morning the week of the In-Class Activity Stations. Each day is determined as one field trip, and can accommodate up to 70 students (2

classes). The site is either the Palo Alto Baylands or Alviso Marina County Park - location is dependent on preference. Additional adult chaperones (teachers, parents, teachers aides, etc.) are required for each field trip to help out; for a class of 35 students we would ask for at least 4-5 chaperones.

- Students are bused to the field trip site and should arrive at approximately 9:30/9:45AM, in groups of 10-12 students (group numbers will be confirmed at the In-Class).
- Docents take the students on a nature walk around the wetlands, pointing out the local wildlife and discussing the topics covered in the in-class sessions. We return to the bus at ~11:45AM and students are generally back on the bus by 12 noon.
- They will receive a morning snack (which we provide) and then will be given their binoculars.

## Post-Program

Please complete these and send them to us in order to be eligible for future participation.

- Teacher evaluation form, available online here, or on paper.
- Thank you notes to volunteer docents.
- Post-program test – same as the pre-test; used to determine how well students grasped the material. Pre-tests must be returned, too.

## Bus Reimbursements

We may be able to offer financial assistance for a portion of the bus transportation to the field trip site. If not, the cost of the bus transportation is the only expense for this program.

If your school is a low-income school (defined as those with free or subsidized lunches or FRPM for at least 70% of their students) funding may be available through our partners, Environmental Volunteers. Details and additional information will be provided upon registration confirmation.

If your school does not qualify for the funding above, SCVAS may have funding available for those that fall within 40-69% FRPM to provide transportation reimbursements for ONE bus per school UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$330. Receipt of this funding is dependent on the receipt of the required pre-and-post-program evaluation materials as described above. SCVAS cannot support those that fall under 40% at this time.

We do ask that any schools which are able to cover any or all of the cost of their own transportation please do so. This will allow us to reach more schools that cannot cover transportation costs.

If you have any difficulties scheduling a bus for your field trip with your school district, please let us know as soon as possible.