

ABOUT THE SAN DIEGO RIVER PARK FOUNDATION

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

OUR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

We believe that opportunities for youth to experience nature, contribute to real citizen science and connect with the San Diego River is essential for fostering a love of the outdoors and creating the next generation of stewards. Our programs use hands-on science at sites on the River to grow scientific understanding and, perhaps more importantly, inspire a sense of awe at the natural world that will last a lifetime. Our education programs will be housed at the planned San Diego River Discovery Center at Grant Park, a nature education facility and park in the heart of Mission Valley. To learn more about this project, visit: www.discovertheriver.org.



FAQs

What is the charge for participating?
These field trip opportunities are offered free of charge, thanks to support from our education program sponsors. However, any transportation expenses are the responsibility of your group. Keep in mind that our calendar fills up each month, so contact us early to book your dates.

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

My students don't have a lot of experience in the outdoors. Are these field trips safe?
Safety and enjoyment of the students is our highest priority. Our team leaders are certified in pediatric first aid and carry first aid kits and other safety supplies at all times. We will provide detailed information about dress codes and preparedness as well as on-site orientation to ensure everyone's enjoyment and safety.

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

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STAY IN TOUCH

To schedule a field trip, or for more information:

(619) 297-7380
coolriver@sandiegoriver.org

San Diego River Park Foundation
P.O. Box 80126
San Diego, CA 92138
www.sandiegoriver.org

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coolriver program



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PROGRAM OFFERINGS



RIVER BUGS ARE COOL!



3-DAY COOL RIVER FIELD TRIP SERIES

AGE RANGE: Grades K-8

SIZE OF GROUP: 20-30 students with adult chaperones

DESCRIPTION: Students join scientists from the San Diego River Park Foundation in a real bioassessment of organisms living in the San Diego River. Students will examine and sort living aquatic invertebrates using scientific equipment, learn about the biodiversity of the watershed and observe threats and physical condition of the ecosystem through a guided stream walk. Both the bioassessment and stream walk are based on protocols developed by the EPA and used by professional environmental scientists. Leaders will guide students in using their data to determine the health of the River ecosystem. This program can be held at several locations within the watershed, including Mission Valley and Santee, and typically takes 2-3 hours.

AGE RANGE: Grades 5-12

SIZE OF GROUP: 20-30 students with adult chaperones

DESCRIPTION: Through the 3-Day Cool River Field Trip Series, students participate in a progressive study of the San Diego River watershed through a series of three separate field trips along the watershed, beginning with a trip to one of our pristine preserves and culminating at the San Diego River estuary. Activities are designed to spark curiosity and a sense of place in our ecosystem as students explore hiking trails, collect data about ecosystem health and also complete a service-learning project to restore habitat impacted by people. These field studies can be coordinated to be three days in a row or over the course of a month or more, depending on school schedules, but must consist of the same student body participating in all three activities.

WHERE WE WORK

We are committed to providing opportunities for students to have hands-on interactions with the River and natural world. Our programs are offered at public parks and ecological preserves along the San Diego River or at preserves owned by the Foundation. We serve schools and youth groups within or very near to the San Diego River watershed (see map below) and groups that serve youth who live in or near the watershed. If you have questions about whether this includes you, please call us!



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

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

-Ezbai, age 12

AND NOW... HOW TO SIGN UP!



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

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

- program preference
- age or grade of students participating
- number of students in the group
- mode of transportation (walking, school bus, parent drivers, etc.)
- any limitations or special needs of the students
- number of adult chaperones expected

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

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

- Juli, teacher