



Placer Nature Center

2015 - 2016 Environmental Education, School Programs
and Field Trips
Preschool - 6th Grade

Why visit us? Since 1991, Placer Nature Center has been the field trip destinations for over 4,000 students annually. We have many Environmental Education Programs to offer. We offer programs on-site at our facilities or we can bring nature to you at your facility. Our programs are fun and educational.

How do our programs help your students succeed? Our programs are interactive, hands-on and engaging. They connect your curriculum to nature. Your students benefit from increased environmental literacy while your academic standards are supported, from the sciences to history and social studies. Our programs follow the requirements set forth by the California Content Standards.

How much does it cost? We want to make sure ALL kids have access to our programs, that's why we do two things:

- 1) Program fees are affordable (\$6-\$10 per child)
*some minimum program fees apply
- 2) We offer scholarships on a first-come first-serve basis. To inquire about availability, please email: programs@PlacerNatureCenter.org

Programs

Ecosystem Explorers

Watershed Explorers

Field-Trip Enhancements

Environmental Science Travels

Learning from the Land

Nature Recess



Explore Today...Protect Tomorrow

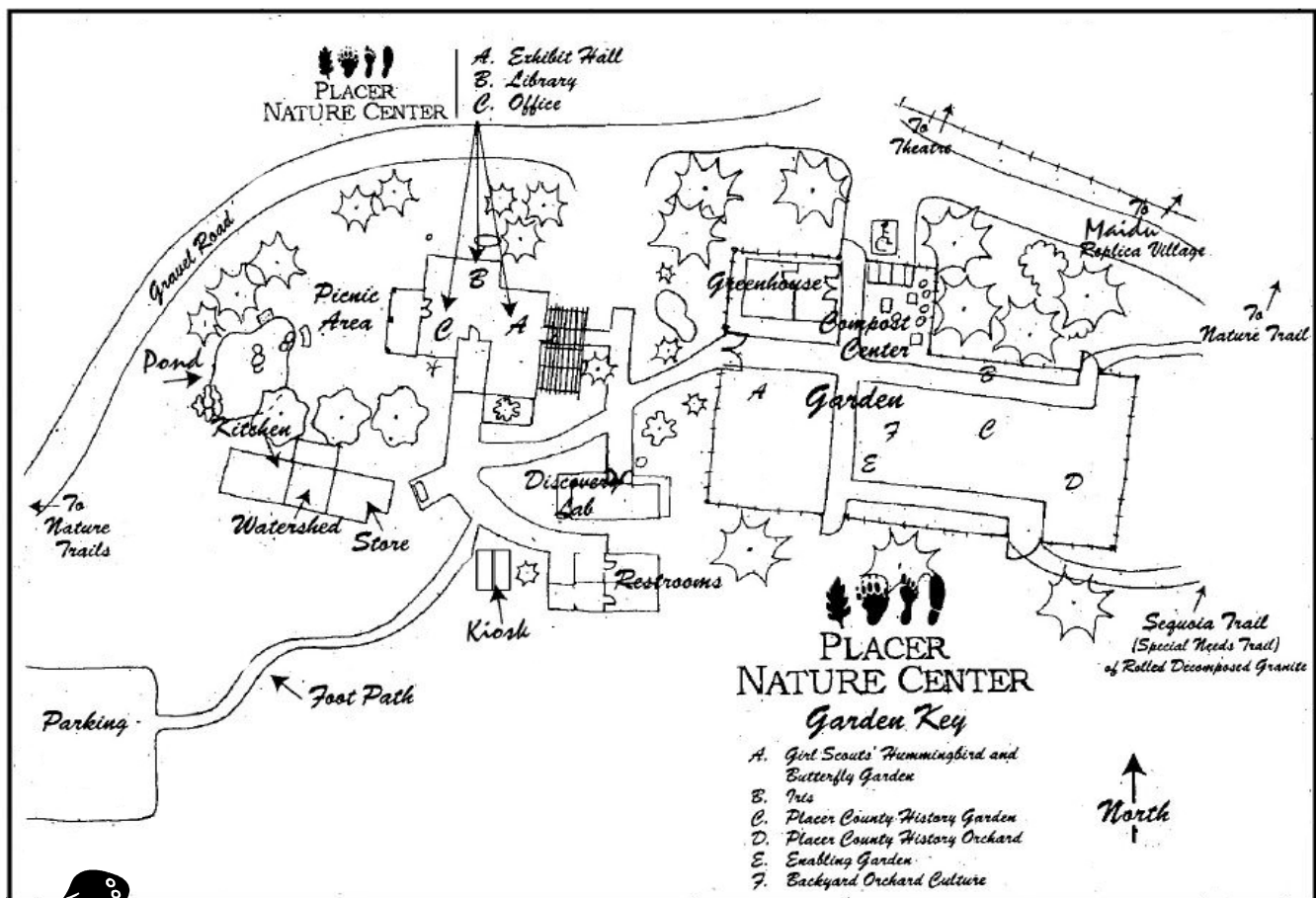
www.PlacerNatureCenter.org

Placer Nature Center Campus

Placer Nature Center is located a few miles East of Auburn, CA in the heart of the Sierra Nevada Foothills. The rich diversity of foothill plant life is well represented on our 60-acre site. It also offers a variety of animal species that live in or visit the preserve.

Our facilities include:

- Main Exhibit Hall ~ Changing Lands Exhibit and Energy Exhibit
- Watershed Learning Center ~ interactive exhibit that makes understanding water resources and complex water issues easy, engaging and applicable to our daily lives.
- Discovery Hall ~ a hands-on science room which delivers targeted activities for each program.
- Courtyard ~ bring your lunch for a picnic after your program.
- Maidu Village ~ Replica of a Maidu family summer encampment.
- Demonstration Garden ~ National Wildlife Federation Certified Wildlife Habitat™, our garden features themed beds of both native and cultivated plants as well as a compost and vermiculture education center.
- Amphitheater ~ Outdoor performance space.
- Nature Shop ~ A variety of nature items and educational toys for children of all ages.
*Only open by teacher request. Please indicate when you register if you would like the shop open.



Explore Today...Protect Tomorrow



Field Trips to Placer Nature Center

Ecosystem Explorers

Life and social science is engaging in our thematic nature explorations! These natural and cultural history programs are designed to promote an understanding and awareness of the natural environment, cultivate scientific literacy and stimulate a sense of stewardship for the earth. Groups rotate through activities in the Main Exhibit Hall, Discovery Lab, Courtyard and take a nature hike on our trail to experience, explore, discover and enjoy the environment first-hand!

Grade Level: Pre-K

Length of Program = (1 hour)

Fur and Feathers: How do humans and animals explore and get information from their environment? In this program, children will experience the environment in a multi-sensory approach designed to plant the seeds of life-long learning.

Grade Level: Kindergarten

Length of Program = (1.5 hour)

Exploring with Senses: Animals and people use senses to survive. Sensory awareness is emphasized as children discover the diversity of the foothill environment. Using all five senses, students will explore how living things get information.

Grade Level: 1st

Length of Program = (1.5 hour)

Habitat: What is your ecological address? By observing and discussing the places where animals live, students learn the concept of habitat. Students will explore the components of habitat (food, shelter, water, space) and find how each is important to the survival of living things.

Grade Level: 2nd

Length of Program = (1.5 hour)

Life Cycles: Plants and animals go through a life cycle. Some stages appearing deceptively unlike that of the adult. What is your life cycle? Does a rock have a life cycle? By investigating seeds and studying the various stages of animal development, students explore the interrelationships of plants and animals in their life cycles.

** additional information regarding curriculum for each program is available online.*



Grade Level: 3rd

Length of Program = (2 hours)

Native Americans of the Foothills: The Maidu are Native Americans in the foothill area who had a flourishing culture before the Gold Rush. The Maidu perspective and use of the environment was different than ours today. Students will examine Maidu artifacts, explore the Maidu's relationship to the earth and visit a replica Maidu family encampment.

Grade Level: 4th

Length of Program = (2 hours)

Food Chains: All creatures have an important place in the food chain, whether producers, herbivores, omnivores, carnivores or decomposers.. Students will create a food web using foothill plants and animals. They will explore the flow of energy from the sun to plants and animals through the food chain.

Grade Level: 5th

Length of Program = (2 hours)

Ecology: How do we humans fit into this interconnected world? The interrelationships of living things form a complex ecological drama. Students explore the relationships of living things within the abiotic world: in soil, among large species and through a microscope in a drop of pond water.

Grade Level: 6th

Length of Program = (2 hours)

Natural Resource Conservation: What are the 3 R's? What is a natural resource? What does conservation mean? Resources are either renewable or non-renewable. How can we use them wisely? Students explore what values humans have assigned to natural resources and ways we can reduce our impact on them through the 3 R's: reduce, reuse, recycle.

Field Trips to Placer Nature Center continued

Watershed Explorers

Earth and life science insights wonder and discovery in our water education programs! Our unique WaterShed Learning Center is equipped with stunning interactive exhibits designed to challenge and engage students in hands-on investigations and critical thinking about our water resources.

Grade Level: Kindergarten

Length of Program = (1.5 hour)

Pond Paddlers: Where does water come from? Where does it go? Students use their senses to explore our watershed.

Grade Level: 1st

Length of Program = (1.5 hour)

Habitat in Water: What's your water address? Through engaging activities, students learn who else needs water at our water address and how we can conserve it so there is enough for everything.

Grade Level: 2nd

Length of Program = (1.5 hour)

Aquatic Life Cycles: How is water in their life cycle? Students discover animals that use water for part of their life cycle and explore the nature trail for life cycle stages.

Grade Level: 3rd

Length of Program = (2 hours)

Swimming Salmon: Who else uses a salmon's habitat? Students investigate the adaptations of the salmon that help it survive in its habitat.

Grade Level: 4th

Length of Program = (2 hours)

Wetland Munchers: What are the food chains in the riparian zone? Who are the river dwellers and what do they eat? What role do the riparian plants play in this habitat? Students will investigate and answer these questions.

Grade Level: 5th

Length of Program = (2 hours)

Stream Swimmers: Through hands-on experimentation students will determine the special qualities of water and the importance of water quality in natural ecosystems.

Grade Level: 6th

Length of Program = (2 hours)

River Runners: How can a watershed become polluted? Students explore the dynamics of water in a watershed by observing and interpreting how it transforms the landscape.

** additional information regarding curriculum for each program is available online.*

Make full use of the Seasons!

Book a field trip in the Fall to learn about Ecosystems. Explore changes in leaves, search for seeds and much more. Follow-up in the Spring and learn about Water Shed. Explore the flowing streams, enjoy the wildflowers as they color our landscape and much more.

Each season brings new discoveries and learning opportunities!



Explore Today...Protect Tomorrow

On-Site Field Trip Enhancement Programs

Just when you thought it couldn't get any better...extend and augment your visit to the Placer Nature Center with an enhancement program! Program themes include animals, plants, rocks and more.

**Enhancement program fees are in addition to Field Trip program fees, please also note additional deposit information (noted in program descriptions).*

Enhancement Programs are available to "ALL" grade levels

My Lunch and the Landfill: What is a no garbage lunch? Explore issues of solid waste disposal and resource consumption. You'll never believe the life of everyday things or look at lunch the same way again.

Fee: \$60

Deposit: \$30 due 2 weeks from date of registration

*also available off-site at your facility

Length of Program = (30 minutes)

Water Color for Nature Sketchbooks: Artists have a unique way of seeing nature. Taught by a professional artist, learn watercolor painting in nature! Palette, fine watercolor paints, brushes and watercolor paper provided.

Fee: \$6 per student (Minimum Charge \$120)

Deposit: \$70 due 2 weeks from date of registration

Length of Program = (1 hour)

Wild Things: As development encroaches on natural habitats, contact between humans and wildlife increases. In this close-up, engaging experience, students meet and learn the natural history and life stories of live animals of the Sierra Foothills.

**available September to mid-December only)*

Fee: \$220 for all group sizes

Deposit: \$70 due 2 weeks from date of registration

Length of Program = (1 hour)

Beneficial Backyard Bugs: Take a close look at our native ladybug and its life cycle, habitat, natural defenses, camouflage and discuss how its population is declining. Students will learn "why" it is important to have these beneficial bugs in our environment.

Fee: \$140 (Maximum 30 students per program)

Deposit: \$30 due 2 weeks from the date of registration.

Length of Program = (1 hour)

Edible and Useable Plants: What are plants used for? Using the Placer Nature Center demonstration garden, students explore the parts of plants and make the connection between plants, food, medicine and clothing.

Fee: \$75 (maximum 40 students per program)

Deposit: \$30 due 2 weeks for date of registration

Length of Program = (45 minutes)

Geo Fun & Rock Cycles: In this interactive, hands on program we share rocks and discuss the differences between rocks and minerals. Students will learn the 3 types of rock, how they are formed and the rock cycle. A wide assortment of specimens for a hands on experience.

Fee: \$160 (Maximum 30 students per program)

Deposit: \$30 due 2 weeks from date of registration

Length of Program = (1 hour)



Environmental Science Travels Programs

Let us come to you! Children rotate through three hands-on, interactive stations where they engage in activities to enhance and reinforce concepts. We bring everything with us including visual aids as well as science and discovery tools.

Grade Level - Pre K & Kindergarten

Length of Program = (1 hour)

Nature in Your Schoolyard

Who are our furry and feathered neighbors? From stories and puppets to a schoolyard discovery hike, children use the tools of a scientist to explore with their senses. Each class decorates a birdbath to keep for further bird and furry friend watching!

Grade Level - 1st - 4th

Length of Program = (1.25 hours)

Wings: Birds, Bats and Bugs

Feathers, bat puppets and plastic bugs are all used to create an understanding of how winged creatures have adapted to a changing environment.

Grade Level - 3rd - 6th

Length of Program = (1.25 hours)

Food Chains

From bugs to mountain lions, there are many complex interrelationships in an ecosystem, whether it is aquatic or terrestrial! Children will gain a solid understanding of the web of life.

Grade Level - All

Length of Program = (1.25 hours)

Field Studies - custom

Explore your schoolyard! Students rotate between stations on bugs, birds and plants. Students will investigate the schoolyard using insect nets, binoculars and hand lenses to discover life all around them.

Nature Recess Programs below available December - March Only

Grade Level - All

Length of Program = (1.5 hours)

Science Lab - choose 3 activities

- **Birds**
- **Bugs**
- **Plants & Trees**
- **Soil & Rocks**
- **Composting**
- **Animal Signs & Tracks**
- **Vermiculture (worms)**
- **Schoolyard Scavenger Hunt**

Students rotate through 3 outside stations and use science tools while applying science concepts.

Fee: \$175.00 (up to 45 students)

Grade Level - 5th - 8th

Length of Program = (1.5 hours)

Earth Day - choose 1 or 2 activities

- **No Garbage Lunch**
- **Recycling at School of Home**
- **Composting / Vermiculture**

Let us train the trainers! Let the older students lead the way this year on Earth Day. This program is designed so that students in 5th - 8th grade lead the way in teaching younger students to be great stewards of the Earth.

Cross-Age Tutoring Benefits:

- **Learn Academic Skills**
- **Develops social behaviors**
- **Enhance peer relationships**
- **Improves self-esteem**
- **Leadership/stewardship opportunities**

Fee: \$175 (up to 45 students)



Explore Today...Protect Tomorrow

Learning From the Land at Traylor Ranch

A full day of investigations and observations at Traylor Ranch Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary in Penryn, CA. A one hour pre-visit classroom orientation by Placer Nature Center staff prepares students for a day on the land. Once on-site, PNC staff will guide students in small groups through three inquiry based discovery stations that explore stream and grassland ecology as well as the cultural history of the land. After a lunch break, students come together to perform a riparian restoration project and then end the day with a reflective writing activity.

Offered August - November & March - May only

Maximum 60 students per day

Grade Level - 5th - 8th

Length of Program - (1 hour in classroom before field trip) and (4+ hours at Traylor Ranch)



Just for Teachers: Grants, Workshops & more

Looking for inspiration & fun activities you can use across the curriculum? Placer Nature Center offers educator workshops that provide interdisciplinary lessons and activities for all grade levels. Get the skills and resources you need to introduce environmental awareness while teaching math, science, language arts and social studies. Programs include:

Project Learning Tree

Project Wild

Project Aquatic

Project WET

Nature Bowl

* Grants funds may be available for program & travel expenses.



Placer Nature Center is a partner with First 5 Placer to nurture children's natural curiosity for the outdoors in "Discovering Nature with Young Children". This unique and dynamic series of hands-on learning programs teaches strategies specially designed for preschool teachers, caregivers and guardians of children up to five years old.

Placer Nature Center awards received.....California Department of Fish & Game Director's Achievement Award, Sierra Club Environmental Education Award, State of California Governor's Environmental & Economic Leadership Award, REI Sustainability Award, National Project Learning Tree Outstanding Educator Award (Linda Desai, Education Director), Boys & Girls Club of Auburn Achievement Award.



www.PlacerNatureCenter.org

How to Schedule a Program

1. Select your desired program or programs.
2. Complete the registration form - located at the back of this brochure.
3. Submit your registration form via email, fax, or mail.

email: programs@PlacerNatureCenter.org

fax# (530) 878-3746

mail: Placer Nature Center, 3700 Christian Valley Road, Auburn, CA 95602

4. After we receive your Registration Form we will call or email to confirm the date and time of your program.

*if you have any questions regarding the programs or dates available, please call us at (530) 878-6053 Please leave a message if no one answers. You may also email: programs@PlacerNatureCenter.org

Important Information

Deposits and Payments: Program deposits must be received within 2-weeks from registration date. We understand that it is often easier to pay in full on the day of the program. A waiver of the deposit must be approved by Placer Nature Center staff.

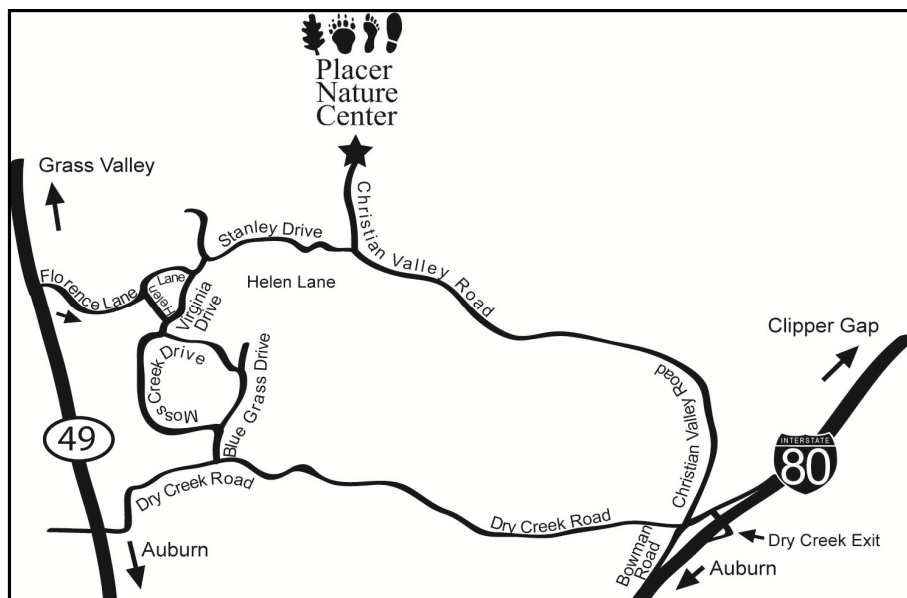
Cancellation Policy: A minimum 30 days notices is required for cancellation or rescheduling.

Weather: All programs will go on Rain or Shine! Rescheduling of program will only occur if conditions are hazardous (smoke, lightening, etc)

Snacks/Lunch: Our programs **do not** allow for a snack time or lunch during the program. You are welcome to use our picnic facilities for a snack or lunch before or after your field trip.

Trash: We practice “**Leave No Trace**”. You will be required to bring your own trash bag and to take your trash with you. Compostable, leftover food items can be fed to our worms.

Directions and Parking: Located behind the California Conservation Corps facility. Parking is available for buses and cars. Parking is limited, so please plan to carpool.



Explore Today...Protect Tomorrow





Registration Form

Environmental Education, School Programs &
Field Trips

PNC Staff Use Only:

Date: _____

Program: _____

of Students: _____

FAX: (530) 878-3746 , email: programs@PlacerNatureCenter.org , mail: 3700 Christian Valley Road, Auburn, CA 95602

School of Group Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ County: _____

School Phone: (____) _____ School Email: _____

School District: _____ School/Group is: Public Private

Coordinating Teacher/Contact Person Name: _____ Title: _____

Contact Phone: (____) _____ Contact Email: _____

Alternate Contact Person: _____ Phone: (____) _____

Do you have any special needs students?: Yes No If yes, please explain: _____

I acknowledge that my program is not confirmed until I receive confirmation by phone or email. A minimum of 30 days notice is required to cancel or reschedule a program. Programs are delivered rain or shine.

Signature of Coordinating Teacher/Contact Person: _____

Additional Questions: (if attending an On-Site Program)

Mode of Travel: Cars School Bus Private Bus Are you staying for lunch? Yes No

Nature Shop Open? Yes No

Step 1: Tell us who is participating and what programs you are interested in.

Program Title(s)	Teacher Name(s)	Grade Levels	# of Students	Start Time
1. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Please fill out the information below if attending an On-Site Program

Preferred Date of Attendance (in order of preference): *On-site programs only available Wednesday - Friday 9-4pm

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

A	B	C	D	E	F	G
		Field Trip Sub-Total (\$84 minimum)				
# of Students	\$7.00 Per Student	A X B	Field Trip Enhancement Fee	Total Fees C + B	Enhancement Program Deposit	Total Due E - F

Questions? programs@PlacerNatureCenter.org or (530) 878-6053

www.PlacerNatureCenter.org

Please fill out the information below if attending an Off-Site Program

Preferred Date of Attendance (in order of preference): *Off-site programs only available Wednesday - Friday 9-4pm

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____
 4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

Mileage Fees - record the distance from your school to Placer Nature Center (3700 Christian Valley Road, Auburn, CA 95602). To find the distance in miles, please use: www.MapQuest.com or www.Google.com/Maps.

Mileage: 1-way = _____ X 2 (round-trip) = _____ miles X \$1.50 (mileage fee) = \$ _____

Please note any additional information (directions, parking, etc): _____

Environmental Science Travels Program

How many classes? * Discount is applied to programs scheduled consecutively, same day.

1 class = \$150.00 (equates to \$6 per student for a class of 26)

2 classes = \$240.00 (Save 20%)

3 classes = \$270.00 (Save 40%)

A	B	C	D
# of Classes	Program Fee	Mileage Fee (enter amount from above)	Total Fee B + C

Nature Recess Program (available December - March Only)

Science Lab - Please choose 3 activities

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

A	B	C	D
# of Student (not to exceed 45)	Program Fee	Mileage Fee (enter amount from above)	Total Fee B + C
	\$175.00		

Earth Day - grades 5th - 8th (available December - March Only)

Please choose 1 or 2 activities

1. _____ 2. _____

A	B	C	D
# of Student (not to exceed 45)	Program Fee	Mileage Fee (enter amount from above)	Total Fee B + C
	\$175.00		

Learning From the Land at Traylor Ranch - grades 5th-8th (Fall & Spring Only)

A	B	C	D	E
# of Student (not to exceed 60)	Program Fee \$10 per child *\$200 minimum	Total Fee (A X B) unless minimum is not met then enter minimum \$200 only	Deposit = \$30.00 (due 2 weeks after registration is submitted)	Remaining Fees (due the day of first session) C-D

Questions? Please call (530) 878-6053 or email: programs@PlacerNatureCenter.org