



# Placer Nature Center

2017- 2018

Environmental Education and School Programs Guide

K- 6th Grade

**NEW INFORMATION INSIDE**

**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. Programs are offered 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 (\$8-\$12 per child)  
\*some minimum program fees apply
- 2) We offer scholarships on a first-come first-serve basis for Title 1 schools (as funds are available). To inquire about availability, please email:  
programs@PlacerNatureCenter.org

## Programs

Ecosystem Explorers

Watershed Explorers

Field-Trip Enhancements

Environmental Science Travels

Learning from the Land



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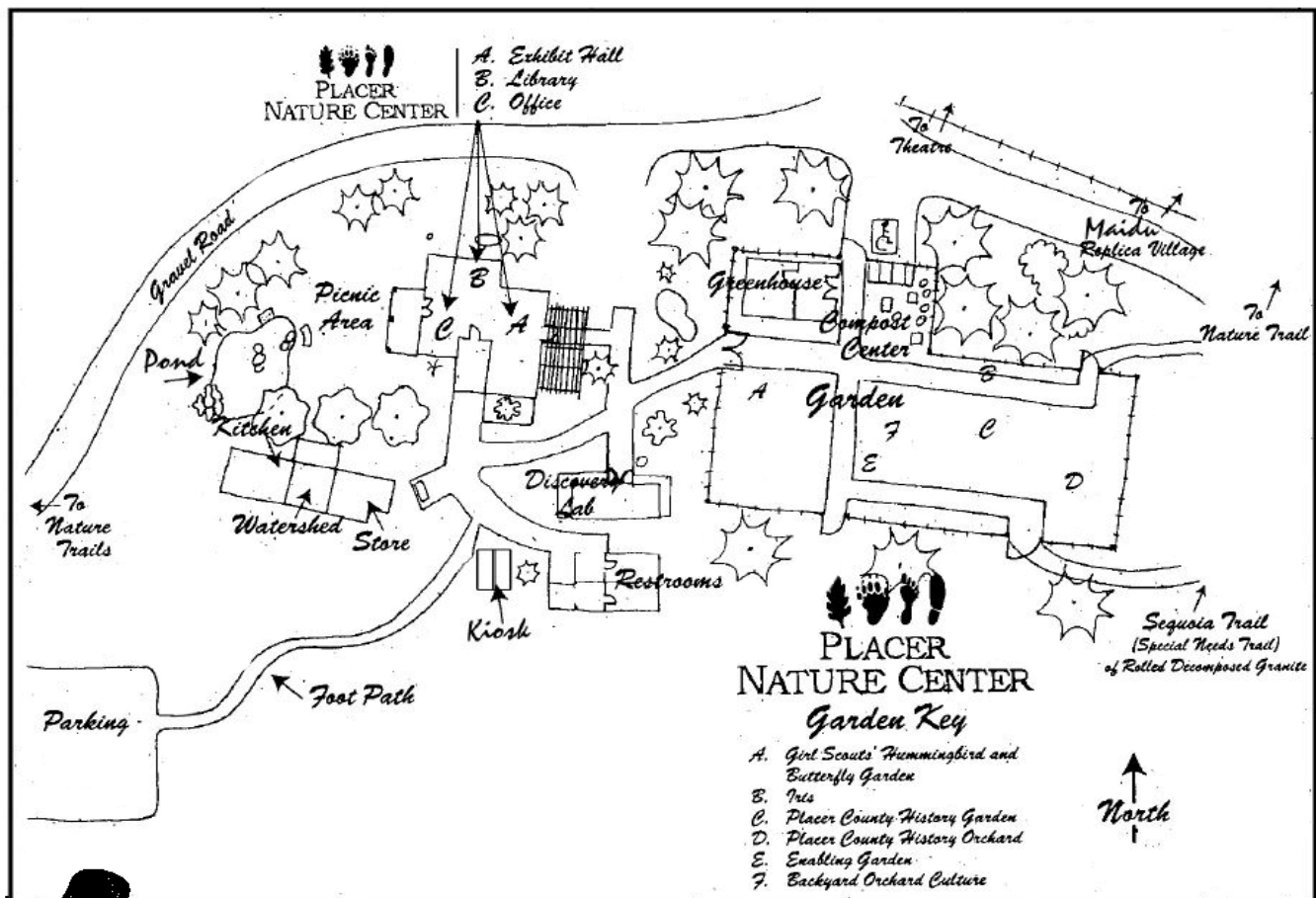
[www.PlacerNatureCenter.org](http://www.PlacerNatureCenter.org)

# 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 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, Nature Watcher Exhibits
- Watershed Learning Center ~ 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 Gift Shop ~ A variety of nature items and educational toys for children of all ages.  
\*Only open by teacher request. .



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# Field Trips to Placer Nature Center

## Ecosystem Explorers

Our 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, and Courtyard followed by nature hike on our trail to experience, explore, discover and enjoy the environment first-

### Grade Level: Kindergarten

#### Length of Program = (1.5 hours)

**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 hours)

**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 hours)

**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.

### 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.



### 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!

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

[www.PlacerNatureCenter.org](http://www.PlacerNatureCenter.org)

## 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. **Programs are 1 hour in length with a maximum of 36 students. Two programs MAX per day. If more than 1 program is booked on same day, a 30 minute break is required. Schedule to be coordinated prior to confirmation. FEES: \$8.00 per student , plus mileage fee.**

**Grade Level: 1st - 4th**

**Length of Program = (1 hour)**

**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: K - 4th**

**Length of Program = (1 hour)**

**Field Studies**

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.

**Grade Level: 3rd - 5th**

**Length of Program = (1 hour)**

**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.

## Learning From the Land at Traylor Ranch

Four hours of investigations and observations at Traylor Ranch Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary in Penryn, CA. A one hour pre-visit classroom orientation by staff prepares students for a day on the land. Once on-site, PNC staff will guide students in small groups through 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.

Maximum 36 students

Grade Level - 4th - 7th, **Fees: \$12.00 per student**

Length of Program - 1 hour in classroom prior to field trip and 3-4 hours at Traylor Ranch.



## 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 exhibits designed to challenge and engage students while critically thinking about our water resources.

**Grade Level: 1st**

**Length of Program = (1.5 hours)**

**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 hours)**

**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

**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.

### On-Site Field Trip Enhancement Programs

Just when you thought it couldn't get any better...extend and augment your visit with an enhancement program! *\*Enhancement program fees are in addition to Field Trip program fees.*

**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: \$100.00

**Length of Program = (30 minutes)**

**Gold Country Wildlife Rescue:** What does a habitat provide an animal? What happens when an animal's habitat is lost? Learn answers to these important questions and more. Education animals include raptors, corvids and desert tortoise. \*Not all animals may be available.

Fee: \$200.00 for all group sizes

**Length of Program = (45 minutes)**

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# How to Schedule a Program

1. Select your desired program or programs.
2. Complete the registration form - (on-line at [placernaturecenter.org](http://placernaturecenter.org)).
3. Submit your registration form via email, or U.S. mail.

email: [programs@placernaturecenter.org](mailto:programs@placernaturecenter.org)

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

4. After we receive your Registration Form you will receive written confirmation via e-mail.

\*If you have any questions regarding the programs or dates available, please call us at 530 878-6053

## UPDATED Important Information

Payment in full is due on or before the day of the program.

**Changes to student count (total number) must be made 15 days or more prior to program date or full charges will apply.**

**Reservations made less than 30 days prior to program date are charged an additional 15% of total fee.**

**Cancellation Policy:** Cancellations made less than 30 days prior to program date are charged a 25% cancellation fee. Rescheduling of the program may be permitted upon request at a reduced rate.

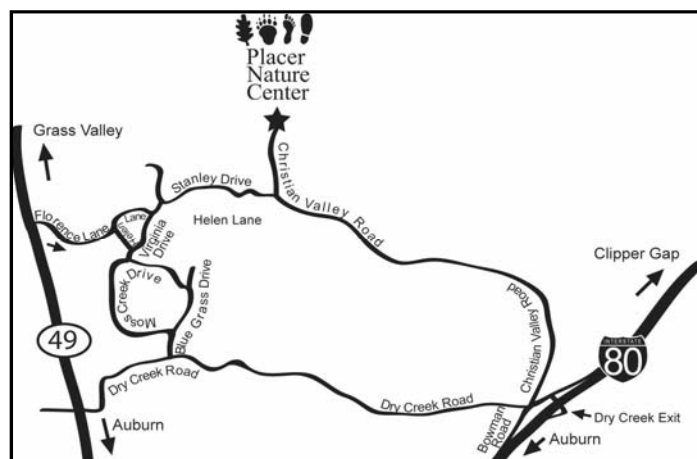
**Multi core-themed programs on same day requires additional charge of \$2.00 per student**

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

**Snacks/Lunch:** 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.

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



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# ON-SITE PROGRAMS

## Registration Form

PNC Staff Use Only:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Program: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Students: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmed/ date/by: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: [programs@PlacerNatureCenter.org](mailto:programs@PlacerNatureCenter.org) , US 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 written confirmation.. I acknowledge that my program is not confirmed until I receive written confirmation. Cancellations made less than 30 days prior to program date are charged a 25% cancellation fee. Rescheduling of the program may be permitted upon request at a reduced rate. Changes to student count (total number) must be made 15 days or more prior to program date or full charges will apply. 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 Tuesday - Friday 9-4pm

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

| A             | B                  | C                                   | D                          | E          |  |  |
|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------|--|--|
|               |                    | Field Trip Sub-Total (\$84 minimum) |                            | Total Fees |  |  |
| # of Students | \$8.00 Per Student | A X B                               | Field Trip Enhancement Fee | C + D      |  |  |
|               |                    |                                     |                            |            |  |  |

Questions? [programs@PlacerNatureCenter.org](mailto:programs@PlacerNatureCenter.org) or (530) 878-6053

[www.PlacerNatureCenter.org](http://www.PlacerNatureCenter.org)



# NEW OFF SITE PROGRAMS Registration Form

Email: [programs@placernaturecenter.org](mailto:programs@placernaturecenter.org) , mail: 3700 Christian Valley Rd, Auburn, 95602

School of Group Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level \_\_\_\_\_

|                                                                          |          |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Preferred Date of Attendance (in order of preference):                   |          |          |
| 1. _____                                                                 | 2. _____ | 3. _____ |
| Please note any additional information (directions, parking, etc): _____ |          |          |

## Environmental Science Travels Program

**Programs are 1 hour in length with a maximum of 36 students. Two programs MAX per day. If more than 1 program is booked on same day, a 30 minute break is required. Schedule to be coordinated prior to confirmation. FEES: \$8.00 per student , plus mileage. (1.50 per mile).**

| A                                  | B             | C                    | D                                                       | E                                             |
|------------------------------------|---------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| # of Student<br>(not to exceed 36) | Program Fee   | Sub-Total<br>(A X B) | Mileage from PNC to school<br>1.50 per mile around trip | Total Fees<br>(due the day of program)<br>C+D |
|                                    | \$8 per child |                      |                                                         |                                               |

## Learning From the Land at Traylor Ranch - grades 4th-7th

| A                                  | B                             | C                    | D                                                       | E                                             |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| # of Student<br>(not to exceed 36) | Program Fee<br>*\$230 minimum | Sub-Total<br>(A X B) | Mileage from PNC to school<br>1.50 per mile around trip | Total Fees<br>(due the day of program)<br>C+D |
|                                    | \$12 per child                |                      |                                                         |                                               |

I acknowledge that my program is not confirmed until I receive written confirmation. Cancellations made less than 30 days prior to program date are charged a 25% cancellation fee. Rescheduling of the program may be permitted upon request at a reduced rate. Changes to student count (total number) must be made 15 days or more prior to program date or full charges will apply. Programs are delivered rain or shine.

Signature of Coordinating Teacher/Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_