



# Placer Nature Center

## Environmental Education and School Programs Guide PreK–6th Grade

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**Why visit us?** Since 1991, Placer Nature Center has been a Sierra Foothills field trip destination for over 4,000 students annually. We have many Environmental Education Programs to offer, which can be offered at our center or brought to you at your facility. Our programs are fun and educational! PNC delivers community-based, volunteer-supported environmental education programs to children, families, schools, and community groups. Our goal is to help create the next generation of nature lovers and environmental stewards!

We keep up to date on and follow COVID-19 CA state guidelines regarding safety protocol. We offer private group programs so that we can meet the shifting needs of our community and provide safe outdoor education and exploration. We can adapt any of our programs to meet your specific preferences.

**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, so we offer:

- Affordable program fees (\$10 per student), some minimum program fees apply.
- Scholarships on a first-come first-served basis for Title 1 schools (as funds are available).

### Programs

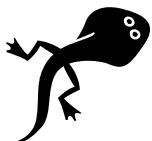
Terrestrial Explorers

Watershed Explorers

Field-Trip Enhancements

Environmental Science Travels

Learning from the Land



Explore Today... Protect Tomorrow

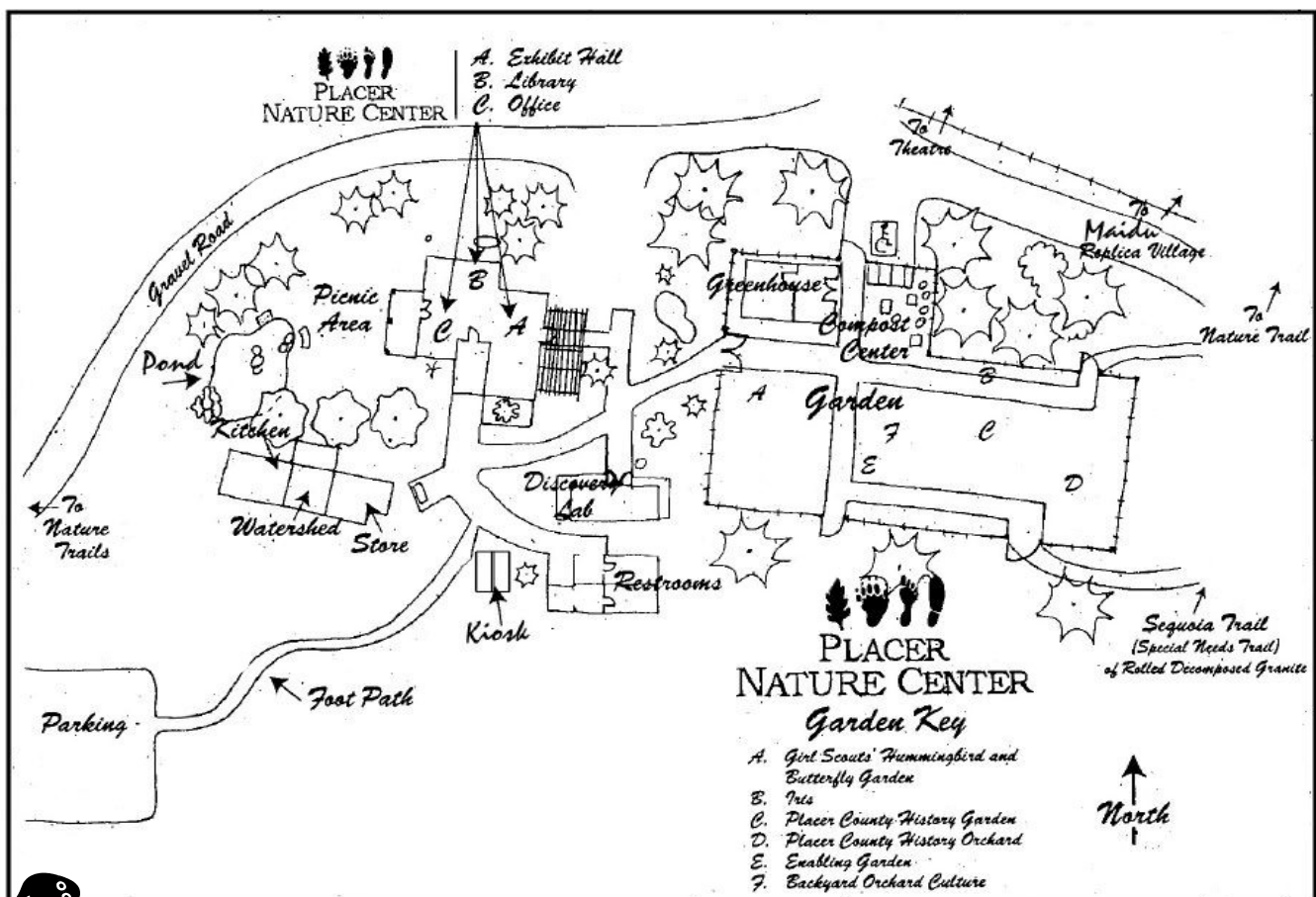
[www.placernaturecenter.org](http://www.placernaturecenter.org)

# Placer Nature Center Campus

Placer Nature Center is located a few miles east of Auburn, CA on the property of the California Conservation Corps in the heart of the Sierra Nevada Foothills. The rich diversity of foothill plant life is well represented on our site, and a variety of animal species 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 Room – a hands-on science room which delivers targeted activities for each program.
- Courtyard – bring your lunch for a picnic after your program, or explore the pond.
- First Peoples Village – Replica of a family summer encampment of the native peoples of this area, the Nisenan and Maidu.
- 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 upon request).



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# Field Trips to Placer Nature Center

## Terrestrial 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, Nature Trail and Courtyard to experience, explore and enjoy the environment.

**Grade Level: Pre-K**

**Length of Program: 1 hour**

### **Fur and Feathers – Foothill Discovery**

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 hours**

### **Exploring with Our Senses – Foothill Environment**

Animals and people use their 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 process information.

**Grade Level: 1st**

**Length of Program: 1.5 hours**

### **Habitat – A Place To Live**

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, water, shelter, space) and find how each is essential to the survival of living beings.

**Grade Level: 2nd**

**Length of Program: 1.5 hours**

### **Life Cycles – Growing Up, Seed or Frog**

Plants and animals go through a life cycle. Some stages appear 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 Nisenan and Maidu are Native Americans in the foothill area who had a flourishing culture before the Gold Rush. The native perspective and use of the environment was different than ours today. Students will examine native artifacts, explore their relationship to the earth and visit a replica first peoples family encampment.

**Grade Level: 2nd – 6th**

**Length of Program: 1.5 – 2 hours**

### **Geology Rocks**

Dig into the earth and explore rocks! Learn about the rock cycle, fossils and tools used by geologists. From earthquakes to exploding volcanoes, meteorites to crystals, rocks and minerals are all around us. See how geology rocks your world and affects plants and animals every day!

**Grade Level: 4th**

**Length of Program: 2 hours**

### **Food Chains – Who's Eating Whom?**

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 – Everything is Connected**

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

**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.

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# Field Trips to Placer Nature Center

## Watershed Explorers

Earth and life science incites wonder and discovery in our water education programs!

Our unique Watershed Learning Center is equipped with exhibits designed to challenge and engage students while thinking critically about our water resources.

### **Grade Level: Kindergarten**

**Length of Program: 1.5 hours**

#### **Pond Paddlers**

Follow a drop of water as it enters and flows through the watershed and the water cycle. By following the flow of water, students learn its importance and necessity for life.

### **Grade Level: 1st**

**Length of Program: 1.5 hours**

#### **Habitats in Water**

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

### **Grade Level: 2nd**

**Length of Program: 1.5 hours**

#### **Aquatic Life Cycles**

Where is water found in your 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**

How do salmon swim upstream and return to their place of birth? Who else depends on a salmon's habitat? Students investigate the adaptations of the salmon that help it survive in its ecosystem.

### **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 the answers to these questions.

### **Grade Level: 5th**

**Length of Program: 2 hours**

#### **Stream Swimmers**

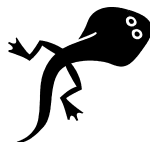
Explore water environments within a watershed to help define just what exactly a watershed is. Through hands-on experimentation, students will determine the special qualities of water and the importance of water quality on natural ecosystems and life itself. Students will develop an understanding of California's complex water distribution and identify their own watershed.

### **Grade Level: 6th**

**Length of program: 2 hours**

#### **River Runners**

Water is dynamic in a watershed! Students will observe and interpret how water transforms the landscape. Unseen, yet tapped, ground water will be explored through experimentation. Students will recognize major sources of aquatic pollution and make inferences about pollution effects on watershed health. Exploring water conservation strategies, students will develop critical thinking skills to resolve water resource issues.





## 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.*

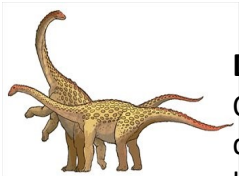


### Edible and Usable Plants:

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**

**Length of Program: 30 min**



### Dinosaur Discoveries:

On the land, in the sea, and in the air - dinosaurs are everywhere! Come and learn about their different sizes, names, behaviors, adaptations and habitats and what life was like during prehistoric times.

**Fee: \$100**

**Length of Program: 30 min**



### Gold Country Wildlife Rescue:

What does a habitat provide an animal? What happens when an animal's habitat is lost? Gold Country Wildlife Rescue will visit your class and bring raptors and other birds to teach about wildlife.

**Fee: \$200**

**Length of Program: 45 min**



### P.U.R.R.R.:

#### Pick Up, Reduce, Recycle, Reuse

Make mother earth PURRR! We energize environmental stewardship in the hearts and minds of the future through education on waste, recycling and compost.

**Fee: \$100**

**Length of Program: 30 min**



## Environmental Science Travels Programs

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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 max of 36 students. Two programs MAX per day. If more than 1 program is booked on same day, a 5-10 minute break is required. Schedule to be coordinated prior to confirmation.**

FEES: \$10.00 per student, plus mileage fee.

### Field Studies

**Grade Level: K – 4th**

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.

### P.U.R.R.R.: Pick Up, Reduce, Recycle, Reuse

**Grade Level: K – 8th**

Make mother earth PURRR! We energize environmental stewardship in the hearts and minds of the future through education on waste, recycling and compost.

### Food Chains

**Grade Level: 3rd – 5th**

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.

### Wings: Birds, Bats and Bugs

**Grade Level: 1st – 4th**

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

## Learning From the Land at Traylor Ranch

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Two hours of investigations and observations at Traylor Ranch Nature Preserve and Bird Sanctuary in Penryn, CA. 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.

Depending on the season and the age group, students may come together after a lunch break to perform a riparian restoration project or a reflective writing activity (upon request).

Grade Level: 3rd – 7th

Fees: \$10.00 per student

Length of Program: 2-3 hours field trip



## How to Schedule a Program

1. Select your desired program or programs.
2. Complete the registration form.
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

## 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.**

**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.

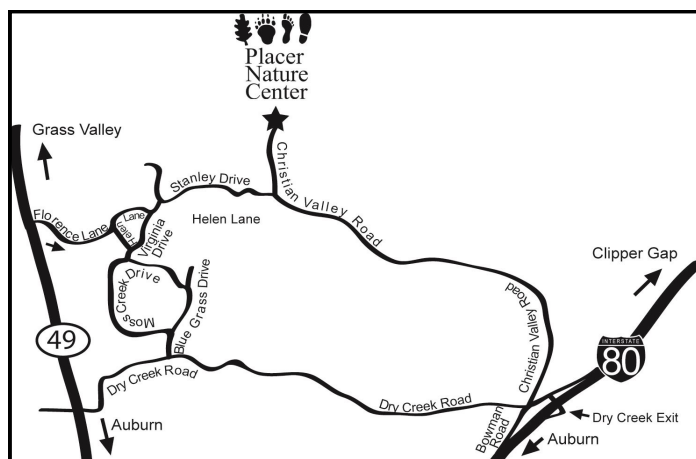
**Multiple core-themed programs on the same day requires additional charge of \$2.00 per student**

**Weather:** All programs are held Rain or Shine! Rescheduling of program will only occur if conditions are hazardous (smoke, lightning, 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 (please let us know if you plan to).

**Trash:** We practice “**Leave No Trace**” - You will be required to take your trash with you (you are welcome to bring your own trash bag).

**Directions and Parking:** Located behind the California Conservation Corps facility. Please follow the signs to PNC and do not park in the CCC parking lot. Parking is available for buses and cars. Parking is limited, so please plan to carpool.



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





# ON-SITE PROGRAM Registration Form

Return form by:

Email:

programs@placernaturecenter.org

Mail:

Placer Nature Center  
3700 Christian Valley Road  
Auburn, CA 95602

School or 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 Cell 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. 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:

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

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

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

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

A	B	C	D	E
# of Students	\$10.00 Per Student	Field Trip Sub-Total (\$120 minimum) <b>A X B</b>	Field Trip Enhancement Fee (if applicable)	Total Fees <b>C + D</b>
	<b>x \$10</b>			

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

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





# OFF SITE PROGRAM

## Registration Form

**Return form by:**

**Email:**  
programs@placernaturecenter.org

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

School or 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: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of Program: \_\_\_\_\_ Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Date of Attendance (in order of preference):

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

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

### Environmental Science Travels Program (grades K-5)

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 5 to 10 minute break is required. Schedule to be coordinated prior to confirmation. FEES: \$10.00 per student, plus mileage. (\$1.50 per mile).

A	B	C	D	E
# of Students (not to exceed 36)	Program Fee	Sub-Total (A X B)	Mileage from PNC to school \$1.50 per mile round trip	Total Fees (due the day of program) C+D
	\$10 per child		\$1.50 x	

### Learning From the Land at Traylor Ranch (grades 3-7)

A	B	C
# of Student (not to exceed 36)	Program Fee *\$200 minimum	Total Fees (due the day of program)
	\$10 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. Multi core-themed programs on same day requires additional charge of \$2.00 per student. Programs are delivered rain or shine.*

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