

Please have the following information available to help us schedule your class:

Name of program: _____

Ages of children or grade level: _____

How many classes will be attending: _____

How many children in each class: _____

Knowledge of teaching areas available (i.e. classroom, playground, park area, multi-purpose room). Some programs utilize both indoor and outdoor spaces, while others use one or the other.

If teachers and parent helpers will be available and how many: _____

Possible dates or days of the week that work best for you: _____

Daily class schedule including lunch and recess breaks so we can work within your schedule:

School address (including zip code):

Phone number: _____

To schedule a nature program call:
408-846-5632.

To schedule a historic or cultural program please call the phone number listed below the site in which you are interested.

Santa Clara County Parks



Fieldtrips & Classroom Programs



Let Parks Bring Your Lessons to Life



Santa Clara County Parks are home to a large number of plants and animals that live nowhere else in the world. From our redwood groves on the ridge tops, through oak woodland and grasslands, down to the Bay's wetlands, the diversity to be seen and explored is astonishing.

Throughout the centuries, the land and people have evolved together. The Ohlone Native Americans lived in harmony with the valley's bounty and left the land relatively unchanged for thousands of years. The landscape and culture changed dramatically when settlers from the east poured into the valley seeking their fortune in gold. When wealth eluded many, they stayed to raise crops and livestock. Today, we find our natural environment altered due to these changing cultures, including our own modern-day, high-tech culture. If the people and the land are to survive, we must begin to learn and care about the natural world around us. Then our diverse community of people, wildlife and native habitats can continue to co-exist and thrive.

Park Interpreters can help you bring these lessons to life by guiding you and your class through visits to parks and historic sites or by bringing programs into your classroom.

All programs include interactive, hands-on activities, and thought provoking question and answer sessions. Programs are tailored for ages and group size. We prefer groups of 20-30 kids. Larger groups can be accommodated, if teachers or parents help lead some learning stations.

Programs are free. Call today!

Nature Programs

To schedule a nature program, call
(408) 846-5632.



= Fieldtrip in a County Park



= Classroom program

Nature Hikes

All ages.

Explore the natural world by hiking through a Santa Clara County Park. Nature hikes can focus on **Animal Homes, Animal Habitats, Animal Adaptations, Wildlife Awareness, Earth Science** or whatever your group would like to study. Park staff will bring along skulls, pelts, and other nature artifacts to increase sensory learning. Children will also be engaged in age-appropriate, hands-on activities and games that support the theme of the walk.

Time is dependent on age of group.

Creek Walk

1st through 4th grade

While hiking along a creek, children will discover animal homes and signs and learn how plants are important to the riparian habitat. By dipping nets in the creek, we'll explore the aquatic insect habitat and learn if our creek is healthy.

Time is dependent on age of group.

Healthy Creeks

4th through 5th grade

Students will delve deeper into a creek's riparian habitat by adding the use of chemical water tests to the creek walk described above. **2 hours, but can be shortened to 1 hour if only the chemical testing is desired.**

Wildlife Awareness

Pre-school to Kindergarten.

County parks are home to a variety of wildlife species. Handling pelts, viewing taxidermy specimens, inspecting skulls and teeth, and other nature artifacts introduces children to Santa Clara County's wildlife. This program helps little ones understand the differences between wild and domestic animals and teaches them to view wildlife safely.

½ hour to 45 minutes long.

Animal Homes

Pre-school to Kindergarten

Animals live in all sorts of homes: trees, caves, nests and hives are a few. Using props, nature artifacts such as nests, taxidermies and pelts, along with puppets, and a bit of imagination, children will discover what animals use for their homes and how they build them.

**½ hour for preschool
45 minutes for kindergarten**

Incredible Insects

K through 1st grade

Incredible Insects introduces students to the fascinating adaptations of insects. Using large plastic insect models, pictures, props and preserved insects students will learn the insect parts, how they eat, move and survive. Program is done half in classroom and half outside. Requires either an organic school garden or nearby "wild" area. If a "wild" area or garden isn't available, class can be done entirely inside without bug hunt.

½ hour inside and ½ hour outside or 45 minutes for inside only.

Magical Metamorphosis

2nd grade

Magical Metamorphosis introduces students to the fascinating life cycles of butterflies, ladybugs, ants and frogs. Using preserved insects and frogs, metamorphosis puzzle

boxes and life cycle sequence cards, students will learn the metamorphic stages and understand why they undergo this process.

1 hour.

Animal Habitats

1st through 5th

Students discover animal habitats, such as forest, pond or creek. By viewing and touching taxidermies, handling animal skulls & pelts, students will gain a better understanding of how animals obtain food, shelter and water, as well as learn the differences between herbivores, carnivores & omnivores.

45 minutes - 1 hour.

Adaptable Animals

2nd through 5th

Students discover how animals adapt to their environments using physical and behavioral adaptations, including their senses. By handling various animal skulls & pelts and participating in some sensory games, students will gain a better understanding of how animals survive in the wild. **The focus of this program can be adaptations of mammals, insects, birds or a combination.**

1 hour.

Birds of a Feather

3rd through 5th grade

What makes a bird a bird? Why aren't all birds the same? Are birds important to our lives? We'll look at several types of birds and compare their physiology, discover how they have adapted to different habitats, and learn how they enhance our lives.

1 or 2 hours.

Santa Clara County Parks Interpretive Programs

298 Garden Hill Dr.
Los Gatos, CA 95032
www.parkhere.org

Historic & Cultural Programs

Bernal-Gulnac-Joice Historic Ranch



A visit to the Ranch immerses you in the realities of living and working on a family ranch more than 100 years ago. Park staff will take you back in time on a tour of the restored farmhouse, barn, garden and the Santa Teresa Spring.

Call (408) 226-5453 to schedule a class tour.

Chitactac-Adams Heritage Park



Chitactac-Adams is the site of a former Ohlone Indian village. Park staff conducts school tours primarily for 3rd-4th grade classes. Tours include an introduction to the Ohlone culture, a walking tour of the site, and a variety of Ohlone activities that include games, food preparation and tasting, and tool usage.

An outreach program is available to bring into classrooms during rainy, winter months. Classroom materials are also available for loan to teachers.

Call (408) 323-0107 to schedule a park visit or Ohlone classroom program.

New Almaden Quicksilver Mining Museum



Park staff illustrates the story of mercury mining and its importance to the gold rush and local mining communities. Outreach programs are available to classes who cannot make a field trip to the museum.

Call (408) 323-1107 to schedule a classroom program.