

SCVAS Educational Programs and Presentations Available for Schools:

1) Bird ID & Adaptation:

Details - An SCVAS representative will come to your classroom and bring our museum study skins, feathers, and preserved nests to discuss the differences between various birds, how they use and are adapted to different habitats and environments, and how to predict a bird's behavior by looking at its physical characteristics.

Grade Level – Can be adapted to any grade level.

Max Participants - 45 students or two full classrooms.

Location – Your school!

Timing - About 50 minutes for each presentation (including time for questions).

Cost – Free

2) Wetlands Discovery Program:

Details - This program teaches students the value of local wetlands. SCVAS volunteers introduce students to wetland habitats, wildlife, and ecology through classroom activities and then guide them in exploring nature during a 2-hour bird watching field trip at local baylands.

Grade Level – This program meets Next Generation Science Standards for grades 3-6.

Max Participants –2-4 classes; should not be scheduled for individual classrooms.

Location – In-class: cafeteria/multi-purpose room; Field-trip: Palo Alto Baylands (fall and/or spring) or Alviso Marina County Park (spring).

Timing – In-Class: 2-4 hours depending on the number of classes; Field Trip: 2-3 hours. This program takes places during the Fall (Oct-Nov) and the Spring (March-May) only. To see a calendar of available dates, go to www.scvas.org/wetlands.

Cost - There is no SCVAS cost to participate in this program, but schools may be required to pay for buses to the field trip location in Palo Alto or Alviso. Some financial assistance may be available –go to www.scvas.org/wetlands for more information.

Volunteer Needs - This activity requires additional adult volunteers/participants provided by the school/classroom. The rule is 1 additional adult for every 8 children.

3) Bird Walks:

Details - An SCVAS docent will come to your school with binoculars for the students to use, give a brief intro, then lead students on a short walk around the school or at a chosen location. *Please note: binoculars are used only with children aged 7 and up.*

Grade Level - Any grade level.

Max Participants - One classroom at a time; additional classrooms can be scheduled back-to-back on the same date.

Location – Your school or other location of your choice.

Timing - Flexible, but should be between 30-60 minutes. The best times of year for bird walks are Sept-Nov and Mar-May.

Cost - Free

4) Nest Box Building:

Details – With the assistance of SCVAS staff and/or volunteers, students use pre-cut kits to make nest boxes that they can put up in their school or back yards. The purpose of these nest boxes are to provide critically needed nesting locations for species of cavity-nesting birds experiencing population declines due to habitat loss.

Grade Level – This program can be adapted to all levels.

Max Participants - Up to one classroom.

Location – Your school!

Timing - At least an hour and a half, minimum.

Cost - \$9/kit - we generally recommend making 1 kit per 2-3 students unless there is a strong desire to have 1 kit per student.

Volunteer Needs – Additional adult volunteers provided by the school is required (i.e. teachers, parents, etc.) to help put the actual kits together. We generally recommend that there be a minimum of 1 adult per every 4 children; more for younger children.

5) Owl Pellet Dissection:

Details – With the assistance of SCVAS staff and/or volunteers, students dissect owl pellets and assemble a skeleton of the bones of the animal they find.

Grade Level – This program can be adapted to all levels.

Max Participants - Up to one classroom.

Location – Your school!

Timing - At least an hour.

Cost - \$2/pellet (so for 30 kids, the total would be \$60)

Volunteer Needs - Additional volunteers (i.e. parents, school aides) would be helpful to have!

6) Live Hawk Programs:

Details - Birds of prey are all around us, and bringing a live raptor into your classroom helps your students understand ecology, habitat, and adaptation besides creating a love of nature that lasts a lifetime. Valerie Baldwin, a biologist and master falconer, talks about how the Harris' Hawk she brings fits into our rich environment. Please specify science topic of interest when signing up: Habitat, Adaptation, Bird Ecology, Migration, Conservation, Raptor Ecology, or other.

Grade Level – 3rd grade and up

Max Participants - As many as can safely fit into a single classroom with a 3 foot distance in front of the hawk. Can do 2 presentations in one day if close together.

Location – Your school, in a classroom (no large auditoriums please).

Timing - About 60 minutes on Mondays or Wednesdays between 10AM and 2PM.

Cost – Free!

Needs from School - Table to set hawk box and wings.

Scheduling a Classroom Program with SCVAS

To schedule a program, please call Kelsey Frey, the Education Programs Coordinator, at (408) 252-3740 or email at programs@scvas.org.