

# The Wetlands Discovery Program: Program Overview

3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students will learn valuable information regarding the ecology, habitats, and wildlife of wetlands. This program is designed to meet next generation science standards for those grades.

***There are 4 components to this program: pre-program materials, in-class activity stations, the field trip, and post-program materials.***

## Pre-Program Materials

Teachers complete these in their own time before the in-class activity to prepare students for better engagement and understanding during the program. Materials will be given out during a pre-program teacher meeting, which is scheduled based on ALL teachers' availabilities. Additional optional materials are available on the website: <http://scvas.org/wetlands> (click on "Program Materials.")

- **Pre-program Worksheet:** Students complete this before any material is covered. Can be done on paper or online here: <http://scvas.org/wetlands> (click on "Program Materials.")
- **"Wonders of Wetlands" Slideshow**
- **Wetlands Vocabulary List**
- **A set of "common birds" flashcards**

## In-Class Activity Stations

This activity takes place on a Tuesday morning around 8:00-8:30AM, and is administered by SCVAS staff and docents.

- 1 session requires approximately 75 minutes (60 minutes of activity stations, 15 minutes of binocular training) for up to around 70 students per session (about 2 classes).
- Students should be in groups of 3 and will work through 9 activity stations throughout the classroom using a worksheet provided by SCVAS.

## Field Trip

This approximately 2-hour field trip takes place on the Thursday and/or Friday morning the week of the in-class activity stations. Each field trip day can accommodate up to 70 students (2 classes). Trips are held at either the Palo Alto

Baylands or Alviso Marina County Park - location is dependent on teacher preference. Additional adult chaperones (teachers, parents, etc.) are required for each field trip; for a class of 35 students we ask for at least 4-5 chaperones.

- Students are bused to the field trip site and should arrive at approximately 9:30-9:45AM, already divided into groups of 10-12 students (group numbers will be confirmed with teachers during the in-class portion).
- Students will receive a morning snack (provided by SCVAS) and then will be given their binoculars.
- Docents take the students on a nature walk around the wetlands, pointing out local wildlife and discussing topics covered during the in-class sessions. We return to the bus around 11:45AM and students are generally back on the bus by 12:00PM.

## Post-Program

Please complete these materials after the programs are over and send them to SCVAS in order to be eligible for future participation.

- **Post-program Worksheet** – Same as the pre-test; used to determine how well students grasped the material. Pre-tests must be returned as well. Can be found online here: <http://scvas.org/wetlands> (click on “Program Materials.”)
- **Teacher Evaluation Form**, available on paper or online here: <http://scvas.org/wetlands> (click on “Program Materials.”)
- **Thank You Notes** to volunteer docents

## Bus Reimbursements

We may be able to offer financial assistance for a portion of the bus transportation to the field trip site. If not, the cost of bus transportation is the only expense.

If your school is a low-income school (defined as those with free/subsidized lunches or FRPM for at least 70% of their students) funding may be available through Environmental Volunteers. Details and additional information will be provided upon registration confirmation. If your school does not qualify for the funding above, SCVAS may have funding available for those that fall within 40-69% FRPM to provide transportation reimbursements for ONE bus per school UP TO A MAXIMUM OF \$330. Receipt of this funding is dependent on the receipt of the required pre- and post-program evaluation materials. SCVAS cannot support schools that fall below 40% FRPM at this time. We do ask that any schools which are able to cover any or all of the cost of their own transportation please do so. This will allow us to reach more schools that cannot cover transportation costs.

If you have any difficulties with your school district when scheduling a bus for your field trip, please let us know as soon as possible.