

Forest Ecology

Program for Schools



2025 - 2026

School Field Trips and Educational Offerings

For over twenty-five years our programs have been connecting participants with the wonders and secrets of the forest. The Forest Ecology Program has provided history and science programming to well over 100,000 students.



Our Mission

The San Gabriel Mountains Heritage Association promotes conservation and wise use through education, events, and visitor services.

About Us

Through a participating agreement with the U.S. Forest Service, the San Gabriel Mountains Heritage Association offers programs to schools, scouts, and educational groups at two centers in the Angeles National Forest. Call (323) 646-6660 for more information.

Locations

Mt. Baldy Visitor Center

Located in scenic Mt. Baldy Village, the Visitor Center lies 8 miles north of Claremont on Mt. Baldy Road. This award-winning interpretive center is an historic 1920's schoolhouse which has been renovated to include an indoor nature trail, local history room, and gift shop. On site are the Mt. Baldy Environmental Education classroom, a native animal room, reproductions of an 1850's gold-mining camp and indigenous Native American village

San Gabriel Canyon Education Center

The Education Center, a renovated forest fire station, is in San Gabriel Canyon 12 miles north of Azusa on Highway 39 (Azusa Ave.). On site are: an environmental education classroom, reproductions of an 1850's gold camp and Native American village, nature trail, and native plant nursery. Not open to the general public, the Forest Service facility is used for educational programs and events.

Programs

Forest Adventures (preschool - 2nd grade)

Learn about local wildlife and plants on a nature walk. Make or paint a plaster animal track to take home. Meet some of our live animals up close and personal.

Eco Art (2nd - 3rd grade)

Combines art and nature as students design nature journals and fill them with artistic creations.

That's Not Just a Rock! (2nd grade)

Assemble a nine-piece rock collection and enjoy an introduction to earth science. Reinforces basic concepts of earth science: rock families and the formation of rocks from minerals.

Gold Fever (3rd - 5th grade)

Relive a formative period in California's history. Join the gold miners and pan for gold.

**All programs can include nature walk and live animal demonstration*



Programs

World of the Tongva (3rd - 5th grade)

Students are introduced to the culture of one of the early peoples of southern California through stories, art, and tool making.

Geology (6th grade)

Assemble a nine-piece rock collection and learn the fundamental concepts of geology. Builds on the 2nd grade program through introducing additional concepts, such as how the forces of plate tectonics effect geographic formations.

Water Ecology (4th-8th grade)

Practice the scientific method by testing for four parameters in a forest watershed.

High School Programs

Water Field Lab

Hands-on water quality testing in a canyon creek. Macro invertebrate study can also be included.

Geology Field Lab

A high-school level program utilizing field observation, and reviewing advanced geologic processes while creating a rock board.

Chaparral Studies Field Lab

Do the work of a botanist while setting up transects to study the unique characteristics of our chaparral habitat. Utilizes the principles of biometrics and species diversity.

The Forest Ecology Program utilizes a hands-on experiential approach to learning and links to the California State Curriculum Standards.

Planning your Trip

- ◆ Grade levels for programs are recommendations. Curriculum can be tailored to fit your needs
- ◆ Programs are flexible and easily adapted to unique schedules
- ◆ Payment is due on the date of your program, unless prior arrangements for a PO have been made. We accept cash or check
- ◆ Cost for formal and informal educational groups is \$10/student; no charge to teachers and chaperones
- ◆ Check the SGMHA website for an extended list of considerations when planning your trip

Other Programs

Scout badge programs

(\$10/badge, with \$100/group minimum)

Eagle Scout and Gold Star project opportunities

Corporate-sponsored volunteer work events



How You Can Help

Get involved with a fun group of people! If you would like to help us provide experiential learning opportunities to the widest audience, consider joining our team or making a donation. Most of our instructors and aides are volunteers. For more information about how you can help, please contact us.

For program information contact Marian Coensgen - info@sgmha.org

Find us on the web at www.sgmha.org

(Teachers can request dates through our website.)

San Gabriel Mountains Heritage Association

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SGMHA is a 501(c)(3)

