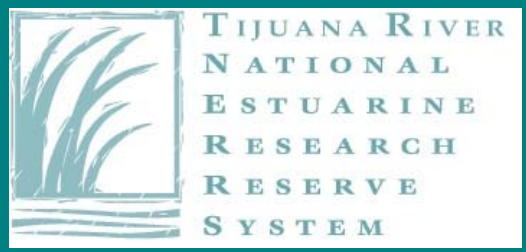
Elementary School Programs

Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve



The Tijuana Estuary has been offering education programs for about 20 years. The education staff works with teachers to provide programs that target their needs and convey our message. Education is a core program of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System.

Tijuana Estuary currently offers TWO programs for elementary schools:

1) M.A.R.S.H.

2) Tijuana Estuary Explorers

M. A. R. S. H.

Marsh Awareness with Resources for Slough Habitats

- A minimal hands-on program that doesn't require much preparation from the teacher.
- Targets grades 1-6th
- Teacher orientation required = 1-1 ½ hours
- Field trip length = 2- 2 ½ hours (usually 9:30-noon)
- Class size limited to 40 students
- Students rotate through 3 activities
- Program is FREE

M. A. R. S. H.

Teacher Orientation

- A teacher who has never brought their students to the Estuary for a field trip MUST attend a teacher orientation.
- The purpose is to make the teacher familiar with our facilities and go over the details of the field trip.
- The 1 hour orientation can be scheduled at the convenience of the teacher.
- At the orientation, teachers are given a curriculum packet with suggested pre and post visit activities, however it is not required that these activities be used.
- Mandatory worksheets that go along with the field trip are included in the packet and each teacher must provide copies of the worksheets for each student.

M. A. R. S. H.

Field Trips

- Field trips should be scheduled at least 2 weeks in advance on a first come, first serve basis.
- Field trip length depends on grade level.
  - Grades 1-2 = 1 ½ - 2hrs
  - Grades 3-6 = 2 ½ hrs

M. A. R. S. H.

Class Size

- Class size is limited to minimize impact on the resources and to work more closely with the students.
- Grades 1-3 = 40 students (2 classes).
- Grades 4-6 = 35 students (1 class).
- The entire group (35 or 40) will be divided into 3 groups for the field trip activities.

M. A. R. S. H.

Rotations

- Students broken into 3 groups
- Students rotate through 3 activities after a class introduction
- Grades 1-3:
  - Feeding Game/Exhibits
  - Bird Observation
  - Estuary Bingo

  (adaptable by teacher request)
- Grades 4-6:
  - Video/Exhibits
  - Bird Observation
  - Upland Plant Observation

Tijuana Estuary Explorers

- An involved, hands-on program that requires teachers to do classroom work in a journal with the students before coming for a field trip.
- Targets grades 3-6th
- Teacher training required = 3 ½ - 4 hours
- Field trip length = 2 ½ - 3 hours (usually 9:30-noon)
- Class size limited to 40 students
- Students rotate through 3 activities
- Program is FREE

Tijuana Estuary Explorers

Teacher Training

- A mandatory, one time, 4 hour training is required if teachers want to participate in this program.
- Training covers the in-class and field portions of the program.
- At the training, teachers are given a Teacher's Guide and they experience the field trip like the students will.
- All materials necessary for this program are given at the teacher training.

Tijuana Estuary Explorers

Field Trips

- Field trips should be scheduled at least 2 weeks in advance on a first come, first serve basis.
- Field trips are a minimum o f 2 ½ hours (usually 9:30-noon).

Tijuana Estuary Explorers

Class Size

- Class size is limited to minimize impact on the resources and to work more closely with the students.
- Grade 3 = 40 students (2 classes).
- Grades 4-6 = 35 students (1 class)
- The entire group (35 or 40) will be divided into 3 groups for the field trip activities.

Tijuana Estuary Explorers

Rotations

- Students are broken into 3 groups
- Students rotate through 3 activities after a class introduction
- There are 4 rotations to choose from:
  - Bird Observation
  - Plankton (dependent on water quality)
  - Salt Marsh Plants
  - Watershed Story (can be done in the classroom)