



Coyote Hills Regional Park

Naturalist-Led Programs



The Coyote Hills interpretive staff offers a variety of educational experiences complementing the park's 1,000 acres of grassland and wetlands.

The Center includes an information desk and gift shop, as well as exhibits on the birds, wildlife and wetlands of the park. A separate room is dedicated to the Ohlone Indians and serves as the media center where slides, films and videotapes can be shown.

The Visitor Center is open Tuesday through Sunday, 9:30 am to 5 pm.

In addition, staff conducts field trips to other EBRPD parklands including Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park in Hayward.

Following are the details of the available programs.

CULTURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

The place now known as the Bay Area has been home to the members of more than 50 tribes of Ohlone for at least 12,000 years. Our cultural programs introduce students to Ohlone cultures past to present.

□ OHLONE PEOPLES AND THE LANDSCAPE

Coyote Hills and Garin: 3rd grade to adults.
1½ hours. Limit 15/20 students with one naturalist.

Ohlone peoples thrived in diverse landscapes for thousands of years because they knew how to balance human needs with that of the land and all its other inhabitants. This walk through marsh and grassland environments will guide students' innate curiosity about the plants, animals and rocks they find in nature toward a deeper awareness of the way the first peoples interacted with and continue to interact with the land today. We'll include a discussion of the cultural values, rules, and skills that underpinned Ohlone lifeways, and teach your students how the local environment has changed in the last century. Depending on the season, the students will have an opportunity to see and hear various birds; taste greens, berries, seeds or nuts; and touch and smell several plants, as they learn about the many interesting ways culture and nature intersect.

□ CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM

3rd grade (Spring) and 4th grade. 5 hours; fee.

The Coyote Hills interpretive staff has incorporated into its school program format an expanded version of the standard Tuibun Ohlone Village Site visit. This program, which has been a popular curriculum enrichment tool for fourth grade social studies units for more than 30 years, now offers an all-day Cultural Immersion option for fourth graders (and third graders in the spring). Please see enclosed material for further information.

□ OHLONE CULTURES

3rd grade. 1½ hours.
Limit 20 students with one naturalist.

Local plants, animals, and even rocks, provided the necessities of a comfortable life in this abundant and varied region that nearly a million people now call home. This program will introduce students to Ohlone peoples and cultures past to present through discussion, demonstrations, and depending on your curriculum needs and available time, this program also includes:

- ~ the sharing of cultural objects in the Visitor Center, some made by contemporary Ohlone
- ~ the playing of Central California Indian games
- ~ a short walk to the marsh to look at tule and cattail and see and hear some of the local birds that provided sustenance to Ohlone peoples

When you sign up for the program, be sure to tell us which three out of the four listed activities you would like your students to participate in.

□ TUIBUN OHLONE VILLAGE SITE

3rd grade to adults. 2 hours.
Limit 15/20 students with one naturalist.



This program includes a 1½-mile walk to a village site the Tuibun Ohlone used for more than 2,000 years. On the side of the village that was excavated by archaeologists, staff, Ohlone, and volunteers have created four partially-built structures that show early Ohlone house-building techniques. To set the stage for the walk to the village site, at the visitor center students will be introduced to

Ohlone peoples past to present, and Ohlone village life of the past, through discussion, and the sharing of cultural objects. Third grade classes of 20 are acceptable.

NATURAL HISTORY PROGRAMS

Our nature walks combine a variety of seasonally-based components that can help you meet your state standards curriculum.

☐ COYOTE HILLS DISCOVERY HIKE

K-2nd grade. 1-1½ hours.

Limit 20 students with one naturalist.

Children will use their five senses to explore the park in a fun and interactive way. The following are examples of some of the activities students might engage in (depending on the season):

- ~ See animal habitats, wetlands, and birds
- ~ Hear birds and other nature sounds
- ~ Smell fennel, flowers
- ~ Touch animal furs and animal skull reproductions
- ~ Taste sweet fennel, pickle weed

We have many exciting habitats and places to visit, but due to time constraints, we can't visit them all. You'll have a choice of:

- ~ The Bird and Butterfly Garden (early fall and spring)
- ~ The visitor center for a snake talk
- ~ Castle Rock, an uphill walk to a chert outcrop for an expansive marshland view and experience grassland habitat
- ~ The boardwalk for marsh habitat access
- ~ Lizard Rock

Teachers can also request a topic.

☐ COYOTE HILLS NATURE WALK

(3rd grade to adult) 2 hours.

Limit 15/20 students with one naturalist.

The diversity of the habitats found here at Coyote Hills creates wonderful opportunities to study wetlands, ecology, and adaptations. The changing seasons always bring something different to the landscape. On a walk through the same habitat at different times of the year we may see wildflowers, nesting birds, or animals preparing for the winter. A variety of topics such as interdependence, animal and plant adaptations, or watersheds can be tailored to meet your grade level's science standards.

We have many exciting habitats and places to visit, but due to time constraints, we can't visit them all in one field trip. You'll have a choice of:

- ~ The Bird and Butterfly Garden (recommended in early fall and spring)
- ~ The visitor center for a snake talk
- ~ Castle Rock, an uphill walk to a chert outcrop for an expansive marshland view and experience grassland habitat
- ~ The boardwalk for marsh habitat access
- ~ Lizard Rock

Teachers can also request a topic.



☐ GARIN NATURE WALK

3rd grade to adult. 2 hours.

Limit 15/20 students with one naturalist.

Garin/Dry Creek Pioneer Regional Park offers a fantastic opportunity for your students to study a variety of habitats in one beautiful park! A 3-mile stroll through a cool, wooded streamside canyon climbs up to grassland vistas of the whole Bay Area, allowing students to observe diverse plant and animal life as they move from one habitat to another. Depending on the season, a natural history walk through Garin can be populated with showy wildflowers, give students a chance to learn about useful and edible plants, or delight students by having possible interactions with California newts.

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Educator's Resources: East Bay Natural and Cultural History

The East Bay Regional Park District naturalists have developed an educational resource "*Parkland Discoveries*" (\$4.33, tax included, mailed \$5.85 with tax, postage, and handling included). This booklet contains background information on East Bay natural and cultural history.

Fees for Schools Outside of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties

Schools outside of Alameda and Contra Costa Counties are charged a fee of \$40/hr per naturalist (1 naturalist per 15 students). A two-hour Shellmound Program for a class of 30 would be \$160.

Field Trip Scheduling

Field trip scheduling is done by random drawing. Requests (attached) must be received at the park of your choice no later than 5 pm on the following days:

Summer: Deadline is the first Monday in May
(For programs from **June 15 to September 15**)

Fall/Winter: Deadline is the first Monday in August
(For programs from **September 15 to January 31**)

Spring: Deadline is the first Monday in December
(For programs from **February 1 to June 15**)

Mail your request for program forms for both Garin and Coyote Hills (along with your self-addressed, stamped envelope) to: School Programs, Coyote Hills Regional Park, 8000 Patterson Ranch Rd., Fremont, CA 94555.

If you have any questions about this process, please feel free to call us at (510) 795-9385, or email us: chvisit@ebparks.org, subject line: Field Trip.



COYOTE HILLS STAFF thanks you for your interest in our programs.

The Cultural Immersion Program

The Coyote Hills interpretive staff has incorporated into its school program format an expanded version of the standard Tuibun Ohlone Village Site visit. This program, which has been a popular curriculum enrichment tool for fourth grade social studies units for more than 30 years, now offers an all-day Cultural Immersion option for fourth graders (and third graders in the spring). The Cultural Immersion Program provides an in-depth, hands-on cultural learning experience focusing on Central California Indian lifeways, with particular emphasis on the Ohlone. Targeted to the California State Standards for third and fourth grade, this class is limited to no more than 30 students per day accompanied by their teacher and a minimum of three adults. The program is staffed by two naturalists, and often involves one or more docents in order to provide an optimum student/adult ratio. This program is offered only once per week on Wednesdays (although other weekdays can be pre-arranged for this program if requested early in the scheduling season).

- TIME:** 9:30 am to 2:30 pm
- FEE:** \$200 (non-res. \$220)
- FILM:** Tache and Wéchikit Yokuts Culture (22 minutes)
- DISCUSSION:** How can we learn about old ways and ancient culture through the knowledge of contemporary Ohlone peoples, historic resources, archaeology, and cultural anthropology?
- HIKE:** 1.5 miles round trip to a more than 2,000-year-old Tuibun Ohlone village site, with stops along the way to discuss Ohlone interactions with plants and animals.
- LUNCH:** 11:30 am to 12:30 pm
- CULTURAL ACTIVITIES:** Three or more of the activities listed below will be available to your students on a seasonal and materials-available basis:
- Acorn Top Making
 - Bead Drilling
 - Fire Making Skills
 - Games
 - Habematolel Bittern Toys
 - Stories
 - String Making

A \$50.00 deposit is required at the time your reservation is booked. Full refunds are available for cancellations made two weeks prior to the program date.

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Portable Dioramas, Video and California Indian Material Culture Kits

The Coyote Hills visitor center has two portable dioramas, a 22-minute video, and one Ohlone Cultural Objects and Handouts Kit available for loan to schools, libraries, community and senior centers.

DIORAMAS

The dioramas are approximately 18" x 28" x 14" and include an interpretive panel. The two scenes are:

1. First People of the Bay – Village Life
2. First People of the Bay – Fishing Scene

There is a use fee of \$15.00 per week for each diorama. A security deposit of \$10.00 will be held for each diorama loaned.

VIDEO

Filmed on the banks of the Kern River in 1954, this 22-minute video features Tach and Wéchikit Yokuts individuals sharing a wide variety of cultural skills, including tule house building, arrowhead making, hunting, coiled and twined basketry, acorn processing, and the hoop and pole game. Ohlone peoples would have made similar, although not identical objects, using similar techniques. The use fee is \$10.00 per week for the video. A security deposit of \$20.00 is required to borrow the video. A guide to this videotape is available on request and in the Ohlone Cultural Objects and Handouts Kit.

OHLONE CULTURAL OBJECTS AND HANDOUT KIT

The kit contains a selection of cultural objects made since 2005 that children can view and handle to gain a better appreciation of Ohlone cultures past to present, including foods, jewelry, a model tule boat, basketry materials, dogbane string, stone tools, and bone tools. The kit also contains handouts about each object and its maker, including contemporary Ohlone, as well as extensive background information about Ohlone cultures past to present.

The kit use fee is \$25.00 per week, plus a \$35.00 security deposit.

All materials are reserved for one week at a time; Sunday through Saturday. Items may be picked up anytime the visitor center is open (Tuesday through Sunday, 9:30 am to 5:00 pm) and must be returned by 5:00 pm Saturday.

For more information, or to reserve a diorama, video, or kit, please call the Coyote Hills visitor center at (510) 795-9385.

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New Program!
Sign up now!

Natural History Immersion

This brand new, all-day experience is designed to make the science standards for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade come alive! Topics can include Ecology, Wetlands, Watersheds, Animal Adaptations, and Geology. The afternoon focuses on Butterfly Life Cycles and Habitats.

For further details contact the interpretive staff at Coyote Hills.



Each class
may take home
milkweed &
a caterpillar!



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Self-guided Field Trips to Coyote Hills Regional Park

If you were not able to schedule a naturalist-led program at Coyote Hills, you may be interested in scheduling a self-guided field trip for your class. In the visitor center your students will be able to see exhibits about Ohlone peoples (there were more than 50 Ohlone tribes) and the area's natural history. They will also be able to explore the park's marsh and grassland habitats. By calling in advance to schedule your field trip, staff will be able to help you select a date and time when your group will have exclusive use of the visitor center, as well as waive the parking fee. Visitor center staff can show your students a video or give your class a 15-minute talk with a live snake or turtle. See the Possum's Pocket handout for information about our gift shop.



Here are a few tips for getting the most out of a self-guided trip:

1. The visitor center is open Tuesday through Sunday, 9:30 am – 5:00 pm. Please phone us at (510) 795-9385 to discuss the best time for your class to tour the center. Some naturalist-led programs take place in the “Ohlone Room,” so the exhibits there aren't always available. Also, the building is small, so we like to avoid having more than two classes in the building at the same time. (On rainy days, Tuibun Ohlone Village Site programs may have to be moved into the Ohlone Room. Self-guided groups can use the room after the program.)
2. Consider making up a worksheet for students to complete during their visit to the center. Many teachers have put together excellent ones, and we've noticed that their students seem to be more focused while they're studying the exhibits. We have sample worksheets available upon request.
3. Decide ahead of time which video(s) you would like to watch. A list with descriptions and recommended grade levels is enclosed.
4. For optimum wildlife viewing, you may want to break into small groups for your hike. We have a Muskrat Trail Guide booklet available for loan. The booklet gives information about plants and animals seen along a one-mile trail. (*Please note:* Currently, due to a collapsed bridge, you will only be able to take your students on part of the trail; when you arrive at the visitor center, staff can explain which parts of the trail are still accessible.)
5. We have binoculars and bird field guides available for loan that may enhance your self-guided field trip. To borrow these items, you must leave your driver's license or major credit card with visitor center staff.
6. The Tuibun Ohlone village site is surrounded by a security fence and can only be entered as part of a naturalist-led interpretive program. Self-guided classes can see the site through the fence, with its partially-built structures that show early-day Ohlone building (partial sweat house, sunshade, partial pit house, tule house framework). The best view is from the trail on the south side of the mound. The site is about 3/4 of a mile from the visitor center.
7. If you have arranged a self-guided field trip date with us in advance, go directly to the visitor center to obtain your parking permits. If you have not arranged a date with us in advance, you should be prepared to pay a \$5.00 per car parking fee at a machine located at the park entrance. The fee can be paid with quarters, and one, five, and ten dollar bills. No twenty dollar bills will be accepted.

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Videos Shown On Request

NATIVE PEOPLES:

Indians of California (22 minutes)

Filmed on the banks of the Kern River in 1954, this video features Tache and Wéchikit Yokuts individuals sharing a wide variety of cultural skills, including tule house building, arrowhead making, hunting, coiled and twined basketry, acorn processing, and the hoop and pole game. Ohlone peoples would have made similar, although not identical objects, using similar techniques. Recommended for 3rd grade to adult.

NATURAL HISTORY:

Amphibians (35 minutes)

Leap into the fascinating world of frogs, toads, and salamanders, and get a close-up look at the amazing variety of colors, shapes, and sizes in the amphibian family through this *Eyewitness* video.

Endangered Species (30 minutes)

Explore the cause and effects of human impact and scope of the endangered species problem in California. See and learn what is pushing more and more California native species to the brink of extinction. Recommended for 6th grade to adult.

Squirrels and Rattlesnakes (25 minutes)

Learn about the relationship between ground squirrels and their most dangerous predator, the rattlesnake, filmed at Sunol-Ohlone Regional Wilderness. Recommended for 6th grade to adult.

See How They Grow (30 minutes)

Watch the growth process of a ladybird beetle, spider, butterfly, and grasshopper unfold right before your very eyes. Recommended for Kindergarten to adult.

Understanding Birds: Adaptation (11 minutes)

See how birds in nature use their feet and beaks to their advantage as they adapt to their surroundings. Recommended for 4th grade to adult.

Understanding Birds: Behavior (13 minutes)

Learn why the American kestrel fans its tail while feasting on prey or the northern gannet strives to be in the center of the breeding colony. Recommended for 4th grade to adult.

Understanding Birds: Nesting (12 minutes)

Nesting behavior of a variety of North American birds. Recommended for 4th grade to adult.

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WETLANDS

Estuary (15 minutes)

Discover the plants and animals in a wetland where salt and freshwater meet. Recommended for Kindergarten to adult.

Marsh Life (15 minutes)

Join in on a naturalist-led field trip through the Coyote Hills marsh. Recommended for Kindergarten to adult.

Secrets of the Bay (28 minutes)

Learn about inevitable conflicts that ensue when people and animals share the Bay. Recommended for 4th grade to adult.

Wetlands Stewardship: A Call to Action (28 minutes)

See the importance of wetlands to the environment and people and how they are being saved and restored from total destruction. Recommended for 4th grade to adult.

CONSERVATION

Kids Talkin' Trash (14 minutes)

See how youngsters learn to make less garbage by practicing the four R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot. Recommended for 3rd grade to adult.

Do the Rot Thing

Demonstrates the basic steps and shares simple tips that make composting at home fun and easy. Recommended for 6th grade to adult.

Kids by the Bay

Featuring multi-ethnic school children on field trips organized by Estuary Action Challenge, the film includes rare footage of endangered species. The film shows how much fun it is to pitch in and restore the environment. Recommended for Kindergarten to 5th grade.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Universe (60 minutes)

A video tour of over 200 amazing astronomical objects, featuring images from the Hubble and other orbiting space telescopes. Recommended for 4th grade to adult.

Tornado! Hurricane! Flood! Wonders of Weather (60 minutes)

Learn about these amazing weather occurrences and join professional storm chasers that charge into the eye of the storm. Recommended for 6th grade to adult.

Cougar: Ghost of the Rockies (50 minutes)

Watch award-winning filmmakers get a rare glimpse of the world of the cougar. See an intimate portrait of a five-year-old cougar and her three kittens in the wilds of Idaho. Recommended for 4th grade to adult.

Yellowstone: Realm of the Coyote (60 minutes)

Learn about the coyote in this video shot in Yellowstone Park that takes you into their secret world. Recommended for 4th grade to adult.

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Possum's Pocket Possum's Pocket Nature Store Nature Store

The Possum's Pocket Nature Store has a variety of items available for purchase for everyone. The shop is open Tuesday through Sunday from 9:30 am to 5 pm. We are closed on Mondays, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

To make Possum's Pocket a fun and affordable experience for your students, our items start for as little as ten cents. Items available for ten to 50 cents include arrowheads made recently in Mexico, bookmarks with nature themes, magnifying lenses and more.

For teachers, we can suggest books and other items to complement your curriculum needs. We have a number of books written for both children and adults that discuss area plants and animals, as well as nature-related games and posters. We also have books, CDs, videos, song recordings, posters, and other items that feature Ohlone and other California Indian cultures and history.

Shopping is not included in your scheduled program time. If your group will be shopping, please take this into consideration when planning your length of stay.

Due to space limitations, we request that groups no larger than ten shop at any given time. Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times.

To make the shopping experience flow smoothly, we ask that you first have the children select the items they want to purchase. Once they have made all of their selections, please have them get their money ready and form a single file line at the counter.

If you decide to shop, payment may be made by cash, check or credit card.

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