



Elements of Excellent Environmental Education



Administered by the Orange County Department of Education

Inside the Outdoors

Bringing textbook concepts to life for school children




Inside the Outdoors

- ...since 1974
- ...administered by the Orange County Department of Education
- ...aligned with California content standards
- ...self-funded
- ...serves students in five counties
- ...educates 128,000 children annually




Outdoor Science School

- Overnight 4 and 5 day programs
- 5th and 6th grade
- Earth, life, and physical science curriculum



Field Trips

- Full and half day programs
- K through 7th grade
- Science, history, and language arts curriculum

Traveling Scientist

- In-class programs
- K through 6th grade
- Earth, life, and physical science curriculum



Community Programs such as

- Getting Ready for Summer
- Eco Fabulous Fashion Show
- Fire Ecology Hike



Research shows benefits of hands-on education



AB 1330 Research Study

- Science test scores improved by 27 %
- Science knowledge retained 6 - 10 weeks after program
- Social skills improved

Last Child in the Woods by Richard Louv

- Connecting children to the outdoors is therapy for
 - * Obesity
 - * Attention Deficit Disorder
 - * Diabetes
 - * Depression

Education is our future



For Children

- Hands-on
- Fun
- Fast-paced
- Organized
- Engaging design and instruction
- Relevant learning

For Teachers

- Aligned with content standards
- Assist with transportation
- Consider budget climate and district mandates
- Consider service learning options

Website Resources

- North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE):
<http://www.naaee.org/programs-and-initiatives/guidelines-for-excellence/materials-guidelines/nonformal-guidelines>
- Education and the Environment Initiative (EEI) information:
<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/education/eei>
 - For Environmental Principles and Concepts (EP&C)

Community Partners



For Parents

- Think of creative ways to share resources
- Provide information so families can participate

"Inside the Outdoors provides the very best organized, student engaging programs we have participated in."

Karen Pfrimmer, Principal, Eisenhower Elementary; GGUSD

"Outstanding program; our student's STAR scores went from 9% to 30% on or above proficient. We know your program helped our students."

Marca Fernandez, Principal, Hoover Elementary; DSUSD

"The programs offer exciting opportunities to meet standards and get kids out of the text books and into the world"

Diana Clearwater, Principal, El Sol Charter School; SAUSD

"Everyone loved it! Very professional, educational, standards were right on! Organization was excellent. Spectacular field trip!"

Susan Pederson, Principal, Doris Dickson Elementary; CVUSD

