



Coyote Hills Regional Park



Naturalist-Led Programs

The Coyote Hills interpretive staff offers a variety of educational experiences complementing the park's 1000 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 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 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 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 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 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.