



PACIFIC MARINE MAMMAL CENTER

Creating the Ocean Stewards and Scientists of Tomorrow

Greetings fellow educator,

Thank you for registering your class to attend our grant funded program the 'Pinniped Pollution Project'. This experience was designed to meet NGSS and Common Core in order to support many of the concepts you are teaching in your 4th or 5th grade classroom.

Standards Supported by the Pinniped Pollution Project

Supports Common Core State Standard: ELA-Literacy.W.4&5-1.a.b.d.

Next Generation Science Standards

Disciplinary Core Ideas:

LS1.C: Organization for Matter and Energy Flow in Organisms

LS2.C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning, and Resilience

ESS3.C: Human Impacts on Earth Systems

ETS2: Links among Engineering, Technology, Science, and Society

Science and Engineering Practices: Asking Questions and defining problems. Developing and using models

Crosscutting Concepts: Cause and Effect, Mechanism and explanation

Performance Expectations: Students who demonstrate understanding will: Create strategies for minimizing amounts of non-point source pollution in their neighborhood. They will create and present persuasive photo presentations on the topic of plastic pollution.

We look forward to seeing you at Pacific Marine Mammal Center! PMMC is a rescue, rehabilitation, and release center for stranded marine mammals. In essence, we are an animal hospital for seals and sea lions ('pinnipeds'). Please keep in mind that your group will only be able to observe the patients that have moved out of intensive care which are now healthy enough to be in our viewing areas. These animals are wild and need to stay that way for their own wellbeing. Therefore, your group will not be in close contact with the animals. You will not be feeding, or touching any of the patients. We ask that participants in your group are quiet around the animals and do not talk to them in order to avoid creating stress or habituating them to humans. This is for the safety of the animals and their successful reintroduction to the wild. We do not give tours of the inside of our hospital. This is where are critical care patients are housed and where there is also the possibility of disease transmission of certain bacteria or parasites that can be spread to humans from the animals. The number of patients at PMMC varies throughout the year, as well as from year to year. If we do not have a lot of patients, it is a good thing! Please remind students not to bring loose items with them on their trip. For the safety of our patients, we want to ensure that items do not accidentally fall into housing areas.

You will find two introductory activities included in this pre-visit packet that will help to enhance your class program experience at PMMC. This optional curriculum asks students to keep track of the trash they find on the ground in their neighborhood for a week prior to their visit. A chart is included which you may copy and give to your students for this purpose. You will also find a document that describes the reasons why a healthy ocean is so important. As you read this informational piece to them, students can complete the accompanying study guide which will help introduce them to ocean conservation concepts they will be building upon at PMMC.

When using our materials to prepare your students, please do not prepare them with additional information for the field trip, other than the optional pre visit curriculum we provide. We use pre & post survey to assess what the students learned during their time with us. These statistics allow us to quantify the program's impact and apply for grants which provide funding so that we may continue to offer this field trip to schools each year.



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Before departing to go to PMMC, ***please review and coordinate with the bus driver about parking arrangements.*** Driving and parking in Laguna Canyon can be difficult for bus drivers. Attached are directions and parking information. ***Make sure to give them to the driver*** so that they are prepared before entering Laguna Canyon. ***Under no circumstances can a bus park in the gravel lot or unload the class there.*** This is for safety reasons. The paved lot is reserved for visitors of the animal shelter and not guests of PMMC. ***Please give the attached instructions to your bus driver as it will make their experience much smoother and less stressful.***

The Pinniped Pollution Project field trip is packed full of learning! Therefore, we are very limited on time and will **not** be able to stop the program for snack or lunch time. We do not have a picnic area. Please plan accordingly. **We also ask that, during the presentation and activities, attendees *do not use their cell phones* for calls or texting. We discourage cell phone use during your visit as we rely on teachers and chaperones to help with the group's experience.** If you must use your cell phone please ask an instructor where the best location to use it is at. Photos are always welcome during your visit, except in specified areas. Please feel free to take pictures and share them!

You may contact us at any point before your trip should you have any questions. We want to help make this a spectacular experience! Should you need to cancel, we ask that you let us know as soon as possible as there tend to be a number of school classrooms on the waiting list for spots in this program.

As our program is made possible by the donations of many generous people, we welcome and encourage students to submit letters stating how they felt about the program and particularly what they learned about. We in turn will share the letters with our program sponsors. These letters also help us attain grants and donors for the program such that this opportunity can be available to classrooms in the future.

Your partner in education,

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