

Examples of Previous Workshops

Cultural Resources of the Santa Monica Mountains and Southern California: American Indian, Mission, and Rancho History.

Cultural Resources of the Santa Monica Mountains and Southern California: American Indian, Mission, and Rancho History is a 3-day workshop. The class involves lecture/discussion, hiking, hands-on activities, homework assignments and a field trip. The workshop meets 3rd through 5th grade standards.

The course begins with the basic requirements of human survival and progress through universal elements of all human cultures, narrow to the specifics of American Indian cultures, finally focusing on the details of the Chumash and Tongva cultures and how they were impacted by Spanish contact, the building of missions, and the establishment of ranchos. The course discusses the concept of culture, cultural stereotypes, and how the values of Native Peoples differed from their Spanish colonizers.

Exploring the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail.

The two day training program consists of two half days of in class instruction and a two half days of field trip to trail segments at Malibu Creek State Park and Santa Monica Mountains NRA.

The Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail is one of over a dozen historic routes managed by the National Park Service. The Anza Trail tells the story of the first non-indigenous settlers to travel from Mexico and settle the northern portion of Spain's Alta California in 1776. Traveling along what would eventually become the El Camino Real, the trail links together the stories of these first Spanish settlers, the Native American tribes they met, and the tremendous changes that took place to the societies and landscapes that line the trail. It marks an important transition period between the time of the first contact and the advent of the Rancho Period.

National Park Service and NASA Teacher Workshop – Making the Sun Earth Connection

This two-day workshop is for 1st-5th grade educators and focuses on the Sun-Earth system, the Chumash perspective on the Sun-Earth connections, and how the sun has influenced what we see in the Mediterranean Biome of the Santa Monica Mountains.

“Eye on the Sky: Our Star, the Sun,” a series of science activities for grade 1-3 (and adapted for 4-5), will also cover: The Dynamic Nature of the Sun; Cultural Connections to the Sun, Solar Eclipses; Understanding the Comparative Sizes of the Sun, Earth, and Moon and Detecting Ultraviolet around Us. Classroom strategies for integrating science, language arts, and mathematics will be highlighted.

The Sun’s influence on the land, animals, and people will also be explored. Through a lecture and short walk in the park, learn about the Mediterranean Biome of Southern

California, vegetation distribution patterns, plant adaptations, and relationships between light, heat and water loss in native plants. Explore how reptiles of the Santa Monica Mountains adapt to the sunny and hot environment and discover the Sun-Earth connections of the Chumash. A short session on our Earth's changing climate will also be presented with an emphasis on climate change resources for teachers.

The Classroom is the Subject!

This 2-day workshop prepares teachers to plan and implement a curriculum-based, teacher-led field trip. The natural and cultural resources at a national park site can serve as both the "classroom" and the "subject" for a teacher-led field trip.

The National Park Service provides a FREE PROGRAM for teachers who participate in the workshop! Participants will visit the following three park sites in Los Angeles County and Ventura County: Rancho Sierra Vista/Satwiwa, Paramount Ranch, and Solstice Canyon.

The workshop is designed for K – 12 teachers who would like to learn how to lead their classes on a field trip to a national park site, and for outdoor/environmental educators interested in implementing curricula in our national parks!