SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SONOMA COUNTY TEACHERS
FROM YOUR LOCAL RCDS

2022-2023

TEAM field trips are back!

The Sonoma and Gold Ridge RCDs are very excited to announce in-person 3rd-5th grade field trips this school year! We have missed connecting with you out on the land during the COVID-19 pandemic and hope that we can share these special experiences with you once again. Our TEAM has been diligently working to create a safe and welcoming experience back out on the farm. See below for more details and don't forget to sign up soon as we are scheduling classes first come-first serve!
If you are not able to participate on an in-person field trip please connect with us so we can support you and your students in other ways.

Attn: 3rd - 4th grade classes please stay tuned for date announcements this fall for our spring 2023 field trips to Dutton Apple Orchard and Duckworth Family Farm.

SONOMA RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

GOLD RIDGE RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

AG + OPEN SPACE SONOMA COUNTY

There is no charge for these field trips, which is made possible by the voters of Sonoma County who fund the work of Ag + Open Space with a quarter-cent sales tax.

Field Trip to Open Field Farm

October 2022

Join us this fall to explore the bounty at this dynamic Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm in Petaluma. We will engage your students through pollinator + food web interactive scenarios. We will visit the CSA barn to better understand the community relationship to the farm and taste the harvest. Students will also take a guided walking tour to visit with all the animals and learn about the James Family's farming methods and soil health practices. To sign up your class for this field trip and learn more about how we can support your class to get transportation, please see the links below in this email.

APPLY

Open Field Farm Dates:

Tuesday, October 11th
Tuesday, October 18th
Thursday, October 20th
Friday, October 21st
Thursday, October 27th
Friday, October 28th

Field Trip to Dutton Apple Orchard

March & April 2023

Classes can join us early in the spring for a learning adventure at a family ranch in Sebastopol. We will guide your students through games and scenarios to explore the food webs that link wildlife ecosystems to local farms. Students will navigate the important role of pollinators in agriculture and act out the interesting production systems behind apple products like apple sauce.

Dutton Field Trip Dates:

Coming soon!

Field Trip to Duckworth Family Farm

May 2023

Welcome to our brand-new learning site located in Sebastopol! This exciting U-Pick organic blueberry farm awaits as a destination for students to learn about the form and function of a local diversified farm. Where do natural fibers come from and how does weaving technology hold an important role in our daily lives? How are pollinators and healthy soil important for growing blueberries? We can't wait to lead students on a tour of the property to meet the Duckworth Family, weave a class rag rug, and explore how blueberries are grown.

Duckworth Field Trip Dates:

Coming soon!

Reserve a field trip date now!

You can apply for TEAM by submitting our Program Application Form on behalf of just one class, or multiple classes in the same grade at your school who would be interested in taking a TEAM field trip. To download the application please here >>>

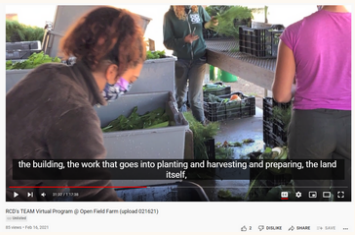
APPLY

Transportation

We have stipends available to reimburse classes from Title I schools for their busing costs. Please also reach out about bus stipends even if you are not at a Title I school, as we may be able to help cover the costs. Interested classes applying for TEAM will need a transportation reimbursement request form. In addition to filling out this form we kindly ask that once approved, you complete and send in an invoice to ckuehn@sonomarcd.org for reimbursement.

COVID-19 safety: Our education team is diligently working to ensure participant safety while still carrying out in-person field trips. These field trips will be 100% outdoors. Proper face coverings will be required for everyone except while social distancing at least six feet apart outside to eat lunch or drink water. We are continuously evaluating our program for ways to eliminate high-touch surfaces and to clean any shared objects between uses. Please get in touch with our TEAM to discuss any additional ways you or your school district would like us to make this field trip experience as safe and comfortable as possible for you and your class.

Virtual and in-classroom field trip alternatives



The RCD education team has developed a flexible-format learning curriculum that can be used for any 3rd-5th grade class or student. Based at our Open Field Farm learning site, this experience includes both interactive videos and corresponding activity journals. Students can be led through this pre-recorded farm learning journey in their classroom by you, the teacher, or a duo of TEAM educators can visit your classroom to deliver this experience once approved by your district administrators. This is a good option for classes unable to come to in-person field trips at this time. The experience can also be for students learning from home due to COVID-19.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: Our conservation education programs serve the youth of Sonoma County and are committed to providing a safe, equitable, and inclusive learning environment for all students and participants. Our team believes everyone should have access to the healing benefits and awe of our natural environment.

Help us spread the word! Please feel free to share within your teacher networks to any others who might be interested in signing up their class for a field trip this spring. **Any Questions?** Please reach out to Christine Kuehn, Education and Communications Manager via email: ckuehn@sonomarcd.org