

Explore the Coast!



FAMILY DISCOVERY DAYS AT SAN ELIJO LAGOON, ENCINITAS

The Coastal Conservancy launched the Explore the Coast grant program in 2013 to enable and encourage California residents to visit the coast. Through two grant rounds the Conservancy has awarded over \$3 million to support more than 100 projects that increase opportunities for people to get to, learn about, and enjoy coastal areas. Several projects have funded transportation for school groups and families from inland areas to the ocean and San Francisco Bay, directed at people from underserved communities and those with disabilities who otherwise have few opportunities to visit the coast. Many projects have provided hands-on environmental education about the ocean, coast, and San Francisco Bay to K-12 students, targeting schools in low-income communities.

California's coastline is a world-renowned treasure—a travel destination for people from everywhere, a place for locals to enjoy sand and surf, and an outdoor classroom for students of all ages.

For almost 40 years the State Coastal Conservancy has helped people get to, enjoy, and learn about the coast. It has helped communities purchase shoreline properties and build beach stairways, parking lots, and visitor centers. It has been a strong supporter of local and regional trails that have opened many miles of coastal areas to the public.

A portion of the funding for *Explore the Coast* grants comes from the Whale Tail Coastal Protection License Plate program sponsored by the California Coastal Commission. Fees from sales of the Whale Tail plates support a variety of coastal education, protection, and restoration programs. Additional funding comes from permit fees collected by the Coastal Commission. The Conservancy plans to conduct future *Explore the Coast* grant rounds every year, as long as funding is available.

A Sampler of Projects

South Coast

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- *Explore the Coast* grants have enabled free bus transportation for inland **San Diego County** families to attend Family Discovery Days at **San Elijo Lagoon** and for **Los Angeles and Ventura County** families to participate in the local Transit to Trails program.
- The popular Festival of Sail at the **Port of San Diego** and the Toshiba Tall Ships Festival in **Dana Point** are annual events that feature visits from historic tall ships from around the world while highlighting California's maritime heritage and working waterfronts. Other supported festivals include the San Diego Bird Festival in **Mission Bay**, Animals on the Bay Days at the **Living Coast Discovery Center** on **San Diego Bay**, and the Otis Kite Festival in **Santa Monica**.

STUDENT PROGRAMS

- K-12 students and teachers in several **underserved communities** throughout the South Coast have been participating in more than a dozen programs that integrate classroom curricula with hands-on science and on-site coastal conservation.
- The Los Angeles Conservation Corps' Coastal Corps program trains young adults recruited from low-income areas for conservation stewardship of the **Los Angeles County** shoreline.
- *Explore the Coast* funding has supported student camping trips in the **Santa Monica Mountains** and boat trips out of **Long Beach** and to **Catalina Island**.

Central Coast

FAMILY ACTIVITIES AND VISITOR INFORMATION

- In **Santa Cruz County** *Explore the Coast* has supported Open Streets events in **Santa Cruz** and **Capitola** that bring people to the shore, field trips to the coast for **Watsonville** families, a community-based habitat restoration program along **West Cliff Drive**, and the **Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History's** *On the Spot* program that encourages wildlife viewing, outdoor recreation, and coastal stewardship.
- Multimedia materials, including web-based maps and visitor information, are being prepared to assist visitors to the **City of Santa Barbara**, the **Gaviota Coast**, the **Point San Luis Lighthouse**, **Morro Bay**, and **Pacifica's Pedro Point Headlands**.

STUDENT PROGRAMS

- **UC-Santa Barbara** is bringing local elementary teachers and students to the coast for hands-on nature education; students from underserved schools in several coastal and inland areas are participating in outdoor science-education and recreation programs in **Cambria**, the **Guadalupe Dunes**, and around **Morro and Monterey bays**; and 4th through 6th grade students from within and near **Santa Cruz County** are learning about ocean science on a 65-foot catamaran on **Monterey Bay**.



Port of San Diego



Lowell Tindell



Rodriguez Alfaro



Chelsea Cundiff



FAMILY DISCOVERY DAYS AT SAN ELIJO LAGOON



O'NEILL SEA ODYSSEY SCIENCE CRUISE ON MONTEREY BAY



COMMUNITY SHUTTLE TO BAKER BEACH



OTIS KITE FESTIVAL AT SANTA MONICA PIER

San Francisco Bay Area

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- A shuttle program is bringing people from underserved Bay Area communities to the **Golden Gate National Recreation Area**; the **East Bay Regional Park District** is providing low-cost transportation for underserved residents to bayside parks; **Richmond**-area families are enjoying free shuttles to **Point Molate Beach Park**; and underserved **Marin County** residents are being introduced to recreational opportunities on the bay.
- *Explore the Coast* is supporting the **EcoCenter** at the **Palo Alto Baylands Nature Preserve**, the **North Richmond Shoreline Festival**, and community involvement in stewardship of **San Francisco's Candlestick Point**.

STUDENT PROGRAMS

- Underserved K-12 students from many parts of the Bay Area are participating in more than a dozen environmental education and recreation programs in their immediate neighborhoods, bayside natural areas, **San Francisco's Presidio**, and natural lands and campgrounds on the **ocean coast**.

RECREATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- A cycling project is enabling people with physical disabilities to ride specially adapted cycles around **San Francisco and Monterey bays**, and kayak programs are getting disadvantaged youth and people with disabilities onto the waters of **San Francisco and Tomales bays**.

North Coast

FAMILY ACTIVITIES

- *Explore the Coast* funded new visitor and educational facilities at **Bodega Head** and development of a blue whale educational program at the **Noyo Center** in **Fort Bragg**.
- Sunday in the Sanctuary events have promoted public use and awareness of the **Elk River Sanctuary** in **Eureka**, Friends of the Dunes has developed an outreach and education program for its **Humboldt Coastal Dunes Center** near **Manila**, Humboldt Baykeeper developed an outreach program to help people discover **Humboldt Bay**, and the **Trinidad Rancheria** is developing a sustainable fishing program for underserved youth at **Trinidad Pier**.
- **Redwood National and State Parks** is providing free summer backpacking trips for underserved 4th graders and their families along the **California Coastal Trail** south of **Crescent City**, and Friends of the Dunes/Tolowa Dune Stewards program is bringing underserved youth and families to natural lands around **Lake Earl**.

“Our partnership with the Coastal Conservancy is critical in helping us meet our promise to strengthen community through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. Without these funds, these kids may never have the opportunity to connect with the natural world.”

Mary Perkins, Executive Director
Point Bonita YMCA



MENDOTA 4TH GRADERS AT MORRO STRAND STATE BEACH

The Coastal Conservancy is a State agency, established in 1976, that protects and improves natural lands and waterways, helps people get to and enjoy coastal areas, and sustains local economies along California's coast. The Conservancy works along the entire length of the coast, within the watersheds of rivers and streams that extend inland from the coast, and throughout the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The Conservancy is non-regulatory and achieves its goals by joining forces with local communities, nonprofit organizations, other government agencies, businesses, and private landowners.

CONSERVANCY PROJECTS:

- Protect, restore, and improve natural areas and wildlife habitat
- Help people get to and enjoy the outdoors by building hiking and biking trails, acquiring and improving parks and beaches, and creating campgrounds and hostels
- Keep our waterways clean and healthy for people and wildlife
- Help communities revitalize their waterfronts
- Support floodwater management and integrate flood-control projects into the life of a community
- Conserve commercial fisheries, working farmland, and forests.

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Coming soon - Explore the Coast web app!



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