

Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center and Lagoon

School Visitation Guidelines

2202 S. Coast Hwy. Oceanside, CA 92054
760-439-2473 bvaudubon.org

Before You Arrive:

1. Send an email request to the program coordinator: Margie Ellsworth at education2202@yahoo.com.
2. If your school is a Title I School in need of a bus grant, please be sure to fill out the information when you request a date. This year we are only able to reimburse you \$100 toward the cost of your bus, per class. There are limited funds available.
3. Review the special rules with students and chaperones. (* See the list on the next page.)
4. One chaperone per group of 8 children is recommended. The chaperones should not bring other children with them.
5. Inform all chaperones of their role. (** See the list on the next page.)
6. All students and adults need to wear a legibly printed nametag. (Small stickers can fall off easily. Index cards with a safety pin work the best.) First names should be printed on the tag.
7. The lagoon trail can be muddy regardless of the weather. Please advise everyone to wear closed-toed shoes.
8. You may also want to advise students to wear hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen.
9. Divide the students into groups of 8. (Group size may vary depending on the number of Nature Guides available on your day.)
10. Students always learn more if they are prepared. You may want to review the content and appropriate vocabulary for students. See lists online at bvaudubon.org. (Look under Education; Nature Guides Program)

When You Arrive:

1. If you arrive by bus, be sure to have the bus park on the street. The parking lot cannot accommodate buses.
2. Have students line up outside the front door and check in with a Nature Guide before entering.
3. Students need not sit with their assigned groups but should fill in the seats from front to back as quietly and quickly as possible.
4. If students have brought backpacks and/or lunches, they should place them under their chairs.

When You Leave:

1. The Nature Guides leave at the end of the program (11:30). If you're going to stay longer to have lunch or snacks, there are 2 picnic tables outside. Please let one of us know if you need a large plastic bag for trash.
2. If you do stay for lunch, please check the bathrooms before you leave to make sure the children have left them in good shape.

*** Nature Center and Trail Rules for Students:**

1. Food (including gum) cannot be eaten inside the center.
2. Snacks and lunches may be eaten on the benches outside. Please be sure ALL trash is deposited in the outside trash can.
3. Cell phones should be turned off and should only be used for photos.
4. Stay behind your leader. Stay together and walk only on the trail.
5. Use soft voices and listen to your leader.
6. This is an ecological preserve. Objects (such as flowers, rocks, etc.) may not be collected.
7. Refrain from putting hands on the glass cases or indoor specimens.
8. Walk, don't run.
9. If you need to use the restroom, notify your group leader.

**** Nature Center Rules for Chaperones:**

1. Please be sure you have read the rules for students.
2. Stay with your group. You may be asked to walk at the back of the group to help keep kids from straying.
3. Please help keep the students focused. Refrain from side conversations.
4. Cell phones should be turned off and used for photos only.
5. We cannot accommodate siblings on this trip. You are there to help with your child's educational field trip.