

Buena Vista Audubon Nature Center and Lagoon

School Visitation Guidelines

2202 S. Coast Hwy. Oceanside, CA 92054
bvaudubon.org

Before You Arrive:

1. Use the bvaudubon.org website to request school visits. A confirmation email will be sent after the Nature Guide meeting the first Friday of each month. Questions: Contact scheduler Kathy Tell at kdtell@gmail.com
2. To better prepare your students for the topic, please go to our website to find our vocabulary/concept page that is used as a guide during the program.
3. You must arrange for your own bus. If you cannot afford the bus, there are some \$200 bus grants available.
4. Review the special rules with students and chaperones. (* See the list on the next page.)
5. **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.
6. The lagoon trail can be muddy regardless of the weather. Please advise everyone to wear closed-toed shoes.
7. You may want to advise students to wear hats, sunglasses, and sunscreen.
8. If it is raining on the day of your visit, you may still come. Alternative indoor activities will be provided. However, if you wish to reschedule, we will need to set it up for a later month.
9. We prefer to have small groups with 8 students per guide. If you'd like to make groups ahead of time, ask the scheduler how many Nature Guides have signed up. That is the number of groups to form.
10. One chaperone per group is recommended. The chaperones should not bring other children with them.
11. Inform all chaperones of their role. (** See the list on the next page.)
12. 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-School Visits)
13. There are 2 large picnic tables in the garden area if you wish to snack before or after the presentation. There is no eating in the Nature Center, but bathrooms and a drinking fountain are available. Please, no unsupervised children in the Nature Center before or after the Nature Guides presentation. Be sure all trash is placed in trash cans. We can provide a trash bag, if needed.

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.