

CITY OF VENTURA  
**INTERPRETIVE  
OUTREACH  
PROGRAM**



**September 2016** *through* **June 2017**

*Nature Study and Living History field trips,  
classroom presentations and puppet shows  
for preschool through 6th grade.*

**View the catalog & register online  
[www.cityofventura.net/interpretive](http://www.cityofventura.net/interpretive)**

**VUSD Registration**

**Begins April 20 - May 18, 2016**  
City of Ventura & Oak View schools

**Registration for all schools**

**April 27 - May 18, 2016**

**Registration Continues**

**May 19, 2016 and after**

*"As always, this program was amazing. We tried other Rancho programs and none compare to yours."  
-Nicole Sadowsky,  
4th grade teacher*

*"This is my first trip but it won't be my last. With so many pressures on our time I am very critical of my choices. Your organization offers one of the finest learning experiences I've ever witnessed. You gave a balanced program and parents were thrilled to be a part of it."  
- Patricia Lewis, 4th grade teacher*



## THE INTERPRETIVE OUTREACH PROGRAM

Now in its 34<sup>th</sup> year, with more than 16,000 annual participants, the City of Ventura's Interpretive Outreach Program offers teachers and students interactive education programs both in the classroom and at our local parks, beaches and historic sites. These programs

correspond with the California Science and History-Social Science curriculum framework and content standards.

During a nature study field trip, classroom presentation, or living history field trip, students are actively engaged as they learn through direct hands-on experience. These programs nurture a life-long appreciation of our natural and cultural history and encourage enjoyment and caring for the environment.



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## LIVING HISTORY FIELD TRIPS

For Preschool – 6th grade



### OLIVAS ADOBE HISTORIC OUTREACH

For 4th grade classes only.

California Rancho history will come to life as you hear the story of Don Raymundo Olivas, a wealthy rancher, his family and the expansive adobe home he built in 1847-1849.

During this 2¼ hour program your students will tour an authentic adobe home and try their hands at typical rancho chores like:

- Adobe brick making
- Rancho tool use and roping
- Corn grinding
- Tortilla making

Cost: \$10 per child, with a \$300 minimum.  
Non-resident fee: please add \$50 per program.

**Option:** Two teachers can attend consecutive Olivas Adobe programs on the same day by adding two Gold Rush programs at the site.

**Limited availability. Register early!**



*"This is definitely a 'not-to-miss' field trip. The students are continually involved in grinding corn, making tortillas, making adobe bricks in the famous 'mud pit,' roping Bernardo the bull, and much more! I haven't missed this field trip in six years."*

— Carole Nowell, 4th grade teacher

## GOLD RUSH!

For 3rd and 4th grade.

Did you know that the first gold discovered in California was found right here in Ventura County? This is just one of the amazing facts that Gold Pan Pete and Strike It Rich Sam, our own costumed '49ers, will share with your class through lively gold tales. Your students will learn where the first find was, how it was mined, and the impact gold had on Ventura County and California. This 75-minute program includes:

- Gold mining games, songs & stories around the campfire with costumed characters
- A short slide illustrated story about the history of gold mining in California
- Mining camp general store activities
- Panning for gold activity



Location: Arroyo Verde Center, Olivas Adobe, or school.

Cost: \$5 per child/\$150 minimum at Olivas Adobe and Arroyo Verde Center. \$5.50 per child/\$165 minimum at school site.

Non-resident fee: add \$35 per program.

*"My students absolutely loved it! Great feedback. Very engaging. Showed kids mattered and had fun with them. Surpassed all expectations. A real fun, fact packed experience. [The staff interpreters] are amazing storytellers bringing history alive with the yarns they spun!"*

—Joan Archer, 4th grade teacher

## CHUMASH OUTREACH WITH NATIVE PLANT WALK

For 3rd through 5th grade.

2 ½ -hour program, held at Arroyo Verde Park, includes:

- Chumash culture and their use of plants & other natural materials
- Play traditional Chumash games of chance and skill
- Pictograph painting and ceremonial customs, songs and musical instruments
- A native plant walk along foothill trails, with a close-up look at plants used by the Chumash



Cost: \$5 per child, with a \$150 minimum.

Non-resident fee: please add \$35 per program. This program can accommodate up to 60 children with special arrangements at time of registration.

**Ask About School Site Option:** Schools in the City of Ventura may choose to have us bring a shorter two-hour Chumash Outreach (normally held at Arroyo Verde Park) to an outdoor location at their school. This option will provide all of the activities listed above, without the native plant walk. Cost for program at your school is \$6 per child with a \$180 minimum.

*"Excellent, energetic teachers. This is THE best of all the Outreach programs we've participated in, can't wait 'til next year!"*

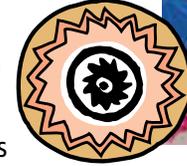
— Fran Buker, 3rd grade teacher

## CHUMASH ACORNS

For preschool through 2nd grade.

Younger students will take a trip back in time to the world of the Chumash Indians before the Mission era. This one-hour program includes:

- Songs using Chumash instruments
- Traditional Chumash games
- Animated legends and animal dress-up
- Grind acorns and taste Chumash food
- Make rock paint and create pictographs



Cost: \$4 per child with a \$120 minimum at Arroyo Verde Park. (\$5 per child with a \$150 minimum at school site.)

Non-resident fee: please add \$25 per program.

*"Sue and Terry were both wonderful! This was one of my favorites!"*

—Jessica Dean, grade K teacher

## MISSION LIFE OUTREACH

For 3rd and 4th grade classes.

The first of California's 21 missions was founded in 1769 changing the history of our State forever. Your students will become a part of the daily life of the padres, soldiers and Chumash neophytes who lived and worked in our own Mission San Buenaventura. Our two-hour program includes:

- Why the Spanish came to California and a balanced view of how mission life dramatically affected the native population
- Each student will play the role of a Chumash neophyte
- Special tours of portions of the original mission site and water filtration system (Albinger Museum)
- Workshop activities such as weaving, carding, mission food and musical bells



Cost: \$8 per child, with a \$240 minimum.

Non-resident fee: please add \$50 per program. (Note: This program does not include a tour of the adjacent San Buenaventura Mission.)

*Absolutely fantastic program!!! The class was mesmerized! [The staff interpreters] stayed 'in character,' which the children loved! ... Involved at all times, excellently planned program in every way. All Interpretive Outreach programs are excellent!"*

— Stephanie Ochsner, 4th grade teacher

## ALBINGER ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

For 3rd through 6th grade.

The Albinger Archaeological Museum and adjacent archaeological site reveal thousands of years of human habitation on one city block. It is an excellent place to study the Chumash, Spanish, Mexican, Chinese & Victorian American cultures as well as the field of archaeology. This two-hour program includes:



- A brief talk about the five different cultures that have called the area home over the last 3,000 years
- A tour of an authentic dig site
- Handling real artifacts
- A simulated dig in which students actually dig, screen, label and reconstruct artifacts

Cost: \$5.50 per child, with a \$165 minimum.

Non-resident fee: please add \$35 per program.

*"The more hands-on activities — the better the learning experience! Thanks for all of the hands-on experiences you shared with us. I was amazed in our class discussion and follow-up activities how much they had learned about the history of Ventura and why archaeology is so important! Thanks for a terrific presentation by all of you!"*

— Deborah Hagerman, 6th grade teacher

## VENTURA'S CHINATOWN

For 3rd through 6th grade.

This program provides a special look at California's Chinese residents during the 1860s to 1920s and their many contributions to the history of Ventura and California. Early California gold mining and construction of the transcontinental railroad are among the topics covered. The program serves as an excellent supplement to classroom curriculum pertaining to local history. It chronicles a period of dramatic cultural diversity and illustrates important social issues we still face today regarding prejudice and lack of understanding of other cultures. This two-hour field trip includes:

- A visit to the site where Ventura's original Chinatown once stood, including many activities – a tai chi lesson, use of an abacus, and Chinese games such as foxtail and Chinese yo-yo
- Activities also include drawing Chinese characters, trying on traditional clothing, taking a close look at a gold cradle, experiencing a traditional Chinese laundry, and pounding railroad spikes

Cost: \$6 per child with a \$180 minimum.

Non-resident fee: please add \$35 per program.

Available Mondays, Tuesdays & Wednesdays through March 29, 2017. Available Mondays-Fridays from April-June 9, 2017.



*"This stays with them forever! Fabulous instructors ... Outstanding, outstanding, outstanding!"*

— Joanne Hutchins, 4th grade teacher

## NATURE STUDY FIELD TRIPS

For 2nd – 6th grade

### LIFE IN THE COASTAL HILLS

Our Local Wildlife & Hillside Habitat

For 2nd – 6th grade.



Our local coastal hills provide homes for many kinds of animals and plants that are specifically adapted to live in this environment. A variety of unique plants make up Ventura's native hillside habitat: the coastal sage scrub plant community, a habitat that is rapidly disappearing in southern California.

This 2-hour program includes:

- A guided nature-hike on the hillside/canyon trails of Ventura's Arroyo Verde Park
- Activities that acquaint students with our local native animal species, including an introduction to animal tracking

- Hands-on materials including animal skulls, teeth and scat models
- Hardy coastal sage community activities: how plants (and the animals that depend on them) survive and thrive.

Cost: \$5 per child with a \$150 minimum.

Non-resident fee: please add \$35 per programs



*"Terrific! It's incredible how well this program ties into the science unit on plants and animals, adaptation, survival, ecosystems, as well as California geographical regions! The design and implementation of these programs are outstanding!"*

— Connie Korenstein, 3rd/4th grade teacher

## BIRDING & WETLAND ECOLOGY

For 3rd - 6th grade.



Ventura's Harbor Wetlands Ecological Reserve, formerly known as the Wildlife Lagoons, located next to the Santa Clara River Estuary is the ideal location to learn about wetland ecology and birds. These unique ponds attract thousands of migratory birds each year, as well as year-round feathered residents.

### This two-hour program begins with

- Instruction on use of binoculars (for each child) and field guides
- Instruction on characteristics that help when identifying birds

### Guided bird walk, which includes:

- A fun exploratory walk around the ponds
- Learning how to identify and appreciate birds
- Training the eye to look for key characteristics
- Feeding methods of common coastal birds, divers vs. dabblers
- Feather structure activity
- A stop at spider alley
- Black-crowned night heron hideaway

### Wetlands walk, includes:

- Wetlands as nature's water purification system
- Wetlands match-up game
- Wildlife evidence search, tracks & scat
- Wetland plant activities
- Duckweed patch

Cost: \$4.50 per child with a \$135 minimum.  
Non-resident fee: please add \$35 per program.



*"It's amazing to me how knowledgeable your interpreters are about such a variety of subjects! The habitat game was a great start before going into the quiet lagoon. It was exciting to watch my kids looking through binoculars, back at the field guides and identifying the birds. Many want to go back with their families!"*  
— Connie Korentstein, 3rd/4th grade teacher

## NATURE STUDY FIELD TRIPS

For preschool – 2nd Grade.

Choose from the following one-hour nature study field trips:

### ALL ABOUT PLANTS

Interactive plant walk, costume dress up and plant structure activities, leaf art, and songs at Arroyo Verde Park.



### MARINA PARK OUTREACH

A seashore walk with wave, dune and sand activities, songs, costume dress up activity, a lively discussion of sea animals, and a special collection of shells to touch.

### MONARCH CATERPILLARS

Close-up views of monarch butterfly clusters through spotting scopes, butterfly songs, games, costume dress up activity, and crafts. (Seasonal, November through January during the monarch overwintering season.) Held at Camino Real Park.

Cost: \$3 per child with a \$90 minimum.  
Non-resident fee: add \$25 per program.



*"The program was beautifully presented. This program helps my little ones become so much more aware of their coastal community. Always the perfect balance of information, activities and hands-on to keep interest level high with my kindergarteners. Thank you for your wonderful contribution to the Ventura school communities!... We are so fortunate to have the availability of these outstanding programs."*  
— Teri Davis, kindergarten teacher

### More Feedback:

*"I really enjoyed Olivas Adobe. I learned how to make tortillas. I also enjoyed the mud pit and lassoing. I liked it when we got to go in the house and look at all the rooms. This field trip has been my favorite one."*  
— Benny Davis, 4th grader

*"Thank you for the wonderful time at the Olivas Adobe. It was the most fun place I've been to. I am happy that I went to this field trip."*  
— Madeline, 4th grader

*"From my shyest to wiggliest students—all were 100% engaged. The enthusiasm in my students and lessons they learned about our history are priceless!"*  
— Heather Duval, 4th grade teacher

*"The content was seamlessly aligned to the CA Social Study Content Standards. [Staff interpreters] were exceptional - knowledgeable, animated, excellent connection with students and enthusiastic."*  
— Dennis Hatland, 4th grade teacher

## ANIMAL PUPPET PROGRAMS

For preschool - 2nd grade

Designed especially for younger students, we will bring these programs to local schools, or you may wish to visit Arroyo Verde Park for your puppet show. You may also arrange to have your puppet show presented at a local park near your school.

These lively one-hour programs all include animal hand puppets, stories, lots to touch, fun activities and songs. Choose from the following puppetry programs:

### LADYBUG & HER CREEPY CRAWLY FRIENDS

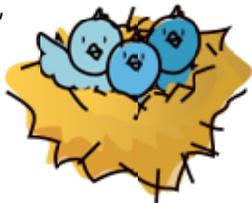


An introduction to the fascinating world of insects.



### OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS

Baby birds, nests, and bird songs! An introduction to bird biology & behavior.



### MOTHER NATURE'S FURRY FOOTHILL CRITTERS

Discover the habitats of many local animals such as raccoon, eagle, bear and skunk, as Mother Nature's puppet friend, Sidney the Snail, searches for a new home.



*"The kids were enthralled for the whole hour! Lots of information and great fun! All the children were mesmerized with the puppets - especially during the story!"*

*- Julie Portera, Kindergarten teacher*

### RAIN FOREST RAMBLE

Take an imaginary walk through a tropical rain forest and meet the colorful animals and plants that live in this endangered habitat.



### MARLA THE MERMAID & COMPANY

An imaginary underwater adventure focusing on marine mammals.



Cost: \$3 per child with a \$60 minimum.

Non-resident fee: add \$20 per program.

*"Excellent! This was the best program we've had! Lots of info at just the right level. Great story and lots of neat 'stuff' - we learned so much. [The staff interpreter] really knows how to talk to little ones!"*

*- Karen Webster, kindergarten/1st grade teacher*

## CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS

For 1st - 6th grade.

We will bring these programs to your classroom (local schools) or join us at the Arroyo Verde Center. These one-hour programs include a brief colorful presentation and fun activities.

### VENTURA COUNTY AGRICULTURE

For 3rd-6th grade. Trace the history of agriculture in Ventura County from the mission period to present. From apricots to lima beans, your students will discover the great importance agriculture has played in their own community.

Available Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays through March 29, 2017. Available Mondays-Fridays from April-June 9, 2017.

Cost: \$3 per child with a \$90 minimum. Non-resident fee\*: Add \$20.

\*If the same program is offered on the same day at the same school, **only one \$20 non-resident fee will be charged.**



### BATS AND OTHER NIGHTTIME CREATURES

For 1st-6th grade. Are bats spooky or our friends? Learn all the facts about this fascinating and often misunderstood creature and other nocturnal animals such as owls and opossums.

### ROCK 'N' ROLL GEOLOGY PROGRAM

For 2nd-6th grade. Have "Seismic Sam" visit your classroom with a program jam-packed with information, hands-on rock and mineral displays and exciting experiments.

Available Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays through March 29, 2017. Available Mondays-Fridays from April-June 9, 2017.

## FREE CLASSROOM PRESENTATIONS

For schools in the City of Ventura and VUSD

Each program includes a very brief slide show and lively activities:

### CAPTAIN HYDRO & THE WATER BANDITS

Free - for 5th grade.

These programs will be available on Thursdays and Fridays only.

**To schedule, PLEASE CONTACT: 805/652-4501.**

(These two programs will **NOT** be scheduled through the Interpretative Outreach Programs)

[For information about additional free classroom programs about storm water pollution (*Where Does It Go?*) and the water cycle and watersheds (*Magic of Water*) call the City's Environmental Services Division at 652-4501.]

### COMPOSTING & RECYCLING WITH DR. ROT

Free - for 3rd grade.

*"Awesome! Students were engaged and learned about taking care of our world."*  
—Esmeralda Uronda, 3rd grade teacher

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- View our full-color catalog online – or the printed copy in your principal's office
- To register, download a request form to fill, save & send at [www.cityofventura.net/interpretive](http://www.cityofventura.net/interpretive)
- Guidelines & Policies for class size, payment, late fees and rescheduling are all ONLINE

Register early for the best selection of programs and dates. Over 16,000 preschool to sixth grade students attend our exciting programs each year. Fall – reliably warm and mostly rainless – is the best season to schedule field trips. Winter and spring are better for classroom presentations when the weather is less certain. Requests are booked first-come, first-served as follows:

**April 20-May 18, 2016**..... Registration for VUSD schools (City of Ventura & Oak View)

**April 27-May 18, 2016**..... Registration open to all schools

**May 19, 2016 & after** ..... Registration continues

**September 2016**..... Field trips & classroom presentations begin

**Summer 2017** ..... Field trips and classroom presentations are available all summer long

- Submit ONE request form per teacher
- Email the *Request Form* (preferred) to [ioreg@cityofventura.net](mailto:ioreg@cityofventura.net)
- We reply to emailed requests within three business days.
- Or print & mail form to: Interpretive Outreach, P.O. Box 99 Room 226, Ventura, CA 93002-0099
- No registrations by phone or fax.
- If you register by May 18, we will email or mail you a *Notification Letter* listing your program(s), date(s) and time(s) and an *Acceptance Form* by June 6. You must return the *Acceptance Form* to us within 10 days to confirm your registration.
- If you do not hear from us by June 6 and registered by May 18, please leave a message for the Interpretive Outreach Scheduler at [ioreg@cityofventura.net](mailto:ioreg@cityofventura.net) or 805/677-3961 or contact Program Coordinator Gina Reyes at 805/658-4728 or [greyes@cityofventura.net](mailto:greyes@cityofventura.net).

## COMMENTS FROM TEACHERS:

*"To quote one of my students, 'I wish I could stay here all day and learn.'"*

—Laurie Zallensky,  
Valley Oak Charter School

*"My 9th year! Shaun did an excellent job. I was very impressed. Terry, Shelley and Christina were just perfect with my students."*

—Jenny Graham, Poinsettia

*"We've gone here for over 15 years. Hands down the best field trip and staff around! Thank you!"*

—Carie Marshall, Vista Fundamental

*"Paul is always a pleasure to see on campus! Great role model! High energy!"*

—Kevin Roop, J. Serra

*"We always enjoy the day with you! Thanks!"*

—Valerie White, Mira Monte