



If you are looking for a way to deepen your students' connection to science and nature, check out our five-lesson sequence, which is based on the 5 E Instructional Model and aligned with NGSS.

This sequence offers teachers two pre-field trip lessons, a guided field trip, and two post-field trip lessons. It was developed in cooperation with the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Teacher Leadership Institute.

Student testimonial:

“It was SO COOL to be way up there, with nothing else around.”

With 15 distinct habitats and wide open lands for exploration, play, and inquiry, Quail Hollow Ranch is the perfect place for a class field trip.

Quail Hollow is only a 20-minute drive from Santa Cruz, which makes getting to the Ranch easy for teachers and parents, while being off the beaten path enough for students to get a genuine nature experience.



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ
Parks, Open Space & Cultural Services
979 17th Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062



Quail Hollow Ranch

Field Trips



Quail Hollow Ranch County Park
800 Quail Hollow Rd., Felton

831-335-9348 / www.scparks.com



Why Quail Hollow Ranch?

Quail Hollow Ranch is a biodiversity hotspot here in the Santa Cruz Mountains. With approximately 30% of all Santa Cruz County's biodiversity showcased in just 300 acres, you and your class can easily visit several different biomes in just a couple of hours.



Curriculum Overview

The new curriculum developed for Quail Hollow Ranch County Park uses an inquiry-based approach, adopted from the John Muir Laws Guide to Nature Journaling. It is aimed at fostering curiosity and heightening observation skills.

This five-lesson sequence is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards. The pre- and post-field-trip lessons will provide teachers with science curriculum that will give students the opportunity to deepen their scientific understanding of the natural world.

Lessons

Pre-field Trip

Lesson 1 - provides an introduction to nature journaling, heightens observation and recording skills, and aims to display the variety within and across species.

Lesson 2 - invites students to work together to organize flora and fauna into their respective categories and exemplifies how everything in nature has unique characteristics and connections. Students will begin to understand adaptations.

Field Trip

Lesson 3 - students will have the opportunity to explore and study several different habitats within Quail Hollow Ranch County Park. Participants will begin to understand ecology and how differences in ecosystems provide habitat for specific species.

Post Field Trip Lessons

Lesson 4 - will increase the richness of your students' field trip and will teach them to use their nature journal as a tool for scientific exploration.

Lesson 5 - will examine how animals adapted to specific environments.

Assessment

Pre- and post-surveys are required for ALL teacher participants; they must be completed sent to QHR staff. These surveys are used to help fund our education programs, and can also be used by teachers for class assessments. You will be provided with two survey options that should take no more than 10 minutes to complete.

Field Trip Details

Field trips are offered on Thursdays in 2-hour or 3-hour blocks.

Next Generation Science Standards:

2-LS4-1, 3-LS4-2, 3-LS4-3
4-LS1-1, 5-ESS2-1

Grade Levels:

The curriculum is designed for grades 2-5. Looking for different grade levels? Please contact us and ask how we can amend the curriculum to fit your students' needs!

Are you looking for something specific? Perhaps something different than what we currently offer? Let's develop a field trip together!

Quail Hollow Ranch Park Interpreter Dan Lazarus has over six years of experience with outdoor education and is happy to develop a personalized trip that fits your students' interests and needs.



Fees

2-hour: \$75/class
3-hour: \$100/class

Questions or Schedule a Trip

Please call Park Interpreter Dan Lazarus at 831-201-2110 or 831-335-9348, or email dan.lazarus@santacruzcounty.us