Kids in Creeks

Students (Grades 2-4) learn about riparian habitats and how animals and plants need creeks in our first classroom lesson. They have the opportunity to visit a local creek and engage in activities such as study of macroinvertebrates, water quality testing, scavenger hunts and creek clean-ups. In the second lesson, students explore the connections between creeks and riparian organisms. Teachers are also provided with a lesson plan to engage their students in action project to protect a creek local to their school.

**Program Overview**

**Lesson 1: Introduction to Creeks (1 hour in the classroom, TWP-led)**

Field Trip: Creek Exploration

**Lesson 2: Deeper Dive into Creek Ecosystems (1 hour in the classroom, TWP-led)**

Optional **Lesson 3: Action project to communicate about and protect creeks** *(content provided by TWP, teacher-led)*

**Program Goals**

1. Students will learn about riparian ecosystems through a variety of hands-on, game- and evidence-based activities.
2. Students will increase their connection to, and time in, nature.
3. Students will engage in nature explorations in local creeks in order to deepen their understanding of, and connection to, their watershed.

**Standards Connections**

*Kids in Creeks* supports learning and engagement in the following Next Generation Science Standards:

- Practices: Engaging in Argument from Evidence; Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions
- Performance Expectations: LS3 - Ecosystems: Interactions, Energy and Dynamics; LS4 - Biological Evolution: Unity and Diversity

More information on the next page

The Watershed Project’s mission is to inspire Bay Area communities to understand, appreciate, and protect our local watersheds.

If you’re interested in bringing this program to your school, please contact us at: education@thewatershedproject.org

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Field Trip Expectations
We understand that elementary schools are often interested in having all the students in a particular grade level participate in the same programming. This often means that three or four classes are participating in the same program, which is great!

However, for field trips it’s challenging for our small staff to provide a quality nature experience to students and teachers if three or four classes (more than 50-60 students) are attending the same field trip. Given this, we ask that no more than two classes attend a field trip on the same day. If we are scheduling this program with you and there are three or four classes participating, we will work with you and the other teachers at your school to schedule two days of field trips.

Field Trip Locations

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<th>Wildcat Canyon Regional Park, (Alvarado Park), Richmond</th>
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Creek access; walking/hiking trails suitable for younger students; picnic tables, playground and bathrooms at Alvarado Park

More field trip options coming soon!

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