



# Fall Training Program

## RCDSMM Training for Environmental Educators

*A training program for those interested in leading RCDSMM outdoor education programs for students. Each year RCD educators help connect thousands of students to our outdoor spaces and inspire them to appreciate and care for our land and water. If you love working with kids and want to inspire the next generation of environmental leaders and scientists, please join us.*

**To register, email [rcdsmm.edu@gmail.com](mailto:rcdsmm.edu@gmail.com)**

### **Tuesday mornings from September 3 – October 22**

#### **9/3 - Program Orientation and Overview**

Where: RCDSMM Office, 540 S. Topanga Canyon Blvd.

Time: 10am – 12pm

Join current educators and staff for an overview of our education programs. Learn more about the training program and how to become part of our incredible educator group.

#### **9/10 - Watershed and Chaparral Overview**

Where: Topanga State Park, Trippet Ranch

Time: 9am – Noon

Join [Richard Halsey](#) from the California Chaparral Institute as he helps understand the chaparral and our Mediterranean climate. He brings this knowledge with a focus on how to lead groups so they will find ways to connect with nature in a joyful and inspired way.

#### **9/17 - Native Connections to Land and Water**

Where: Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve

Time: 9am – Noon

[Pamela Villaseñor](#) of the Fernandeano Tataviam Band of Mission Indians will help us to deepen our connection to land and water during a walk-through of the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve. During the walk, she will discuss plants and their uses as well as her lineage to help us understand her Tribe's deep connection to the land and water surrounding the LA River.

#### **9/24 - Identifying Birds and Their Adaptations**

Where: Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve

Time: 9am - Noon

Art Langton will start the morning by teaching us how to identify birds and their adaptations using hands on lessons and mounted birds. Muriel Kotin will then lead a bird walk through the wildlife area. Both Art and Muriel are from the [San Fernando Valley Audubon Society](#), an organization that supports bringing tens of thousands of students to Sepulveda Basin.

## 10/1 - Identifying Plants and Understanding Their Stories

*Where: Topanga State Park, Trippet Ranch*

Time: 9am - Noon

Kat High, Hupa Tribe descendant and Topanga resident, will teach us how to identify different plants through the seasons and how to interact with them. We will learn about their uses and ways to connect students to them through story.

## 10/8 - Malibu Creek Watershed Bus Tour

*Where: Las Virgenes Municipal Water District (LVMWD)*

Time: 8:45am – 1:30pm

LVMWD will take us on a bus tour of the upper and lower Malibu Creek watershed. We will learn about the Tapia Water Reclamation Plant, the Pure Water Project as well as climate impacts to the watershed, in-stream water quality and ocean health. Space is limited.

## 10/15 - The Impact of Climate Change

*Where: Malibu Lagoon State Beach*

Time: 9am - Noon

[Kurt Holland](#) will lead us through hands-on interactive activities to help us understand and teach climate change to students. We will spend time on the beach engaging in systems learning and practicing with BEETLES Project tools that support NGSS.

## 10/22 – Why Fish Need Trees

*Where: Malibu Lagoon State Beach*

Time: 9am - Noon

[Rosi Dagit](#), RCDSMM Senior Conservation Biologist, will tie our training together by sharing the latest research on both the upper and lower Malibu Creek watershed. She will give updates on the latest NASA tree research as well as the health of Malibu Lagoon.

To become an educator/naturalist, trainees will need to attend in person training, complete online training and observe and co-lead education programs at selected sites.



# How To Become an Environmental Educator

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In order to become an environmental educator, you will need to:

- Attend all training sessions and become familiar with “Expectations and Guidelines for Trainees”
- Observe as many programs as you feel necessary to become familiar with the format and content
- Co-lead segments of the program four times under the supervision of a current environmental educator (all co-leads must be arranged ahead of time)
- Lead one program independently, with the supervision of a current educator
- Apply for a position (recommendations by current naturalist and approval of the RCDSMM Education Coordinator are required for employment)

As a naturalist you will receive the following benefits:

- Free enrichment sessions
- Pay of \$13.25 per hour
- Worker’s compensation insurance and contributions to social security benefits

## Cost and Registration

- \$125. Scholarships are available; training fee will be refunded after completion of training and acceptance as staff.
- Questions or to register, email Kelly Kazmirchuk at [rcdsmm.edu@gmail.com](mailto:rcdsmm.edu@gmail.com)