

Santa Ynez River at Alisal Road

A nearby location for Santa Ynez Valley, the Bridge outside Solvang and the pools along river above and below the dam are rich in riparian habitat. From waterfowl to songbirds, the avian population varies with the seasons. In the water are found turtles, frogs and crayfish as well as the tiny denizens of the river bottom. Riparian foliage lines the banks providing homes and habitat for mammals and birds that live here or pass through in migration. Sandy bars read like newspapers with the prints of the wildlife passing since the last high water or rain.

A place to learn about the water cycle, erosion, with the movement of rocks over time and the importance of water to the community becomes evident in this easily accessible location. Cattails, willows, sycamore and cottonwoods line the watercourse where the fabric of nature is sustained on the edge of the residential area of Solvang.

With the available water, the river is one of the favorite locations among Nature Track adventurers.



Appropriate for Grades 4 – 8

Available Field Trip Emphases: *Geology, Ecology (including Watershed and Riparian habitats)*

Led by experienced and enthusiastic Nature Track docents, field trips at Santa Ynez River (at Alisal Road) are designed to be used as a companion to state science standards and provide a real-life experience for students in geology and ecology. Docents can lead students in trips that focus on the appropriate grade level and subject and engage students in exploration of science and nature through hikes, guided discussion, and educational nature games. Nature-based art and other creative projects are also available.



Field Trips at Santa Ynez River at Alisal Road can be used in conjunction with the following California State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards:

Geology Field Trip

Grade	CA Standards	Next Generation
K	Earth Sciences: 3a	Energy: K-PS3.B
2	Earth Sciences: 3a, 3b, 3c	Earth's Place in the Universe: 2-ESS1.C; Earth's Systems: 2-ESS2.A, 2-ESS2.B, 2-ESS2.C
4	Earth Sciences: 4a, 4b, 5a, 5b, 5c	Earth's Place in the Universe: 4-ESS1.C; Earth's Systems: 4-ESS2.A, 4-ESS2.B; Earth and Human Activity: 4-ESS3.A
5	-	Earth's Systems: 5-ESS2.A, 5-ESS2.C; Earth and Human Activity: 5-ESS3.C
6	Earth Sciences: 1b, 1d, 1e, 1f, 2a, 2b, 2d; Investigation & Experimentation: 7f, 7g	Standards for 6-8: Earth's Place in the Universe: MS-ESS1.C; Earth's Systems: MS-ESS1.C, MS-ESS2.A, MS-ESS2.B, MS-ESS2.C; Earth and Human Activity: MS-ESS3.A, MS-ESS3.C, MS-ESS3.D
7	Life Sciences: 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 4f	See Above
8	-	See Above



Ecology Field Trip

Grade	CA Standards	Next Generation
K	Life Sciences: 2a, 2c	From Molecules to Organisms: K-LS1.C; Earth's Systems: K-ESS2.E, K-ESS3.C; Earth and Human Activity: ESS3.A
1	Life Sciences: 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e	From Molecules to Organisms: 1-LS1.A, 1-LS1.B; Heredity: 1-LS3.A, 1-LS3.B
2	Life Sciences: 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f	Ecosystems: 2-LS2.A; Evolution: 2-LS4.D
3	Life Sciences: 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e	From Molecules to Organisms: 3-LS1.B; Ecosystems: 3-LS2.D; Heredity: 3-LS3.A, 3-LS3.B; Evolution: 3-LS2.C, 3-LS4.A, 3-LS4.B, 3-LS4.C, 3-LS4.D
4	Life Sciences: 2a, 2b, 2c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d	From Molecules to Organisms: 4-LS1.A, 4-LS1.D; Earth's Systems: 4-ESS2.E
5	-	Energy: 5-PS3.D, 5-LS1.C; From Molecules to Organisms: 5-LS1.C; Ecosystems: 5-LS2.A, 5-LS2.B
6	Earth Sciences: 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e	Standards for 6-8: From Molecules to Organisms: MS-LS1.B, MS-LS1.C; Ecosystems: MS-LS2.A, MS-LS2.B, MS-LS2.C, MS-LS4.D; Heredity: MS-LS1.B; Evolution: MS-LS4.C
7	Life Sciences: 2a, 3a, 3e, 5a, 5f	See Above
8	-	See Above

