



## Educational Philosophy & Curriculum Guide

**VIEWPOINT** Being outside and connecting with nature helps students engage with their learning and connect to the content. Living together in an outdoor communal setting provides an amazing opportunity for social & emotional growth, helping students develop a stronger sense of self, environmental stewardship, and appreciation for community.

**METHOD** We take a hands-on, place-based approach to learning. We teach relevant topics through immersive activities. As a part of FIELDGUIDES programs students will:

- Learn about the world around them through *hands-on activities, small group discussions, interactive games, and natural exploration.*
- Take part in family-style community outdoor living.
- Build self-confidence & connect with classmates through outdoor challenges.
- Practice environmental stewardship.
- Make scientific observations & collect, record, and analyze data.

**CURRICULUM** The following is a list of some of the topics covered in our programs. Topics, activities, and outcomes vary depending on program location, grade level, choice of curricular focus, and instructor knowledge. We work closely with teachers to design a curriculum that meets the needs of your students.

### Teamwork & leadership

- Communication
- Problem solving & conflict resolution
- Time management
- Responsibility & accountability
- Goal setting
- Developing empathy & understanding

### Natural History

- Plant & animal identification
- Taxonomy
- Plant usage, history, and lore

### California History

- Gold Rush history
- Native Americans of California
- Multiple perspectives & marginalized communities
- Human settlement
- Environmental policy

### Outdoor Living

- Camping skills
- Leave no trace wilderness ethics
- Navigation, map & compass
- Route planning
- Outdoor cooking & food preparation

### Ecology

- Habitats/communities/ecosystems
- Energy flow/food webs
- Population dynamics
- Interdependence
- Characteristics of living things
- Natural selection, change over time
- Population dynamics & reproduction
- Biodiversity
- Adaptations

### Human Impact

- Climate change
- ocean acidification
- sea level rise
- fire ecology
- carbon emissions & cycles
- Invasive species
- Land management

### Geology & Earth Sciences

- Plate tectonics
- Glacial cycles
- Soil composition
- Ocean currents & tides
- Water cycles & watershed dynamics
- Nitrogen and carbon cycles
- Astronomy

**CONNECTION TO STANDARDS** FIELDGUIDES topics & activities are aligned with [California's State History-Social Science Framework](#) and the [Next Generation Science Standards](#). FIELDGUIDES uses several lessons and activities derived from Project Learning Tree, Project WILD, and Project WET. We strongly believe in the importance of social & emotional learning and follow [California's Social & Emotional Guiding Principles](#).