

LOS ANGELES COUNTY OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

The Los Angeles County Outdoor Science School provides science instruction through experiential learning. Students explore and study the real world of science, first-hand in a semi-wilderness setting. Teaching methods emphasize small group and hands-on instruction to promote an understanding of the natural sciences. Scientific thinking processes, critical and evaluative thinking skills, and direct instruction combine to provide the very best science instruction. Students participate in over 25 hours of small group instruction while they are at Outdoor Science School.

The Outdoor Science School curriculum and teaching methods are correlated to California State and National Science Standards and Frameworks including Earth, Life, and Physical Sciences, as well as skills needed for investigation and experimentation processes.

The Los Angeles County Outdoor Science Schools are certified regularly by the California State Department of Education and are widely recognized for excellence in education. Students not only learn fundamental science concepts, but also identify the roles and responsibilities which individuals have in relation to the natural world and its processes. Participation is a highlight of a student's educational career.

OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Instruction is based on four concepts:

1. An ecosystem consists of abiotic (non-living) and biotic (living) elements. These elements interrelate and are interdependent.
2. Our attitudes and our way of life create an ecological impact upon the environment. Our quality of life depends on our ability to understand and manage that impact.
3. The earth is dynamic, subject to constant change. Therefore, all life must adapt to an environment that is in constant change.
4. Observation, communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity are important science problem solving skills that apply in all curriculum areas and daily life.

At Outdoor Science School, students experience and appreciate the wonder of nature in a safe and supervised environment.



For more information, contact the
Los Angeles County
Outdoor Education Office
at (562) 922-6330
<http://www.outdoorscienceschool.org>
widdison_gary@lacoed.edu



Los Angeles County
Office of Education

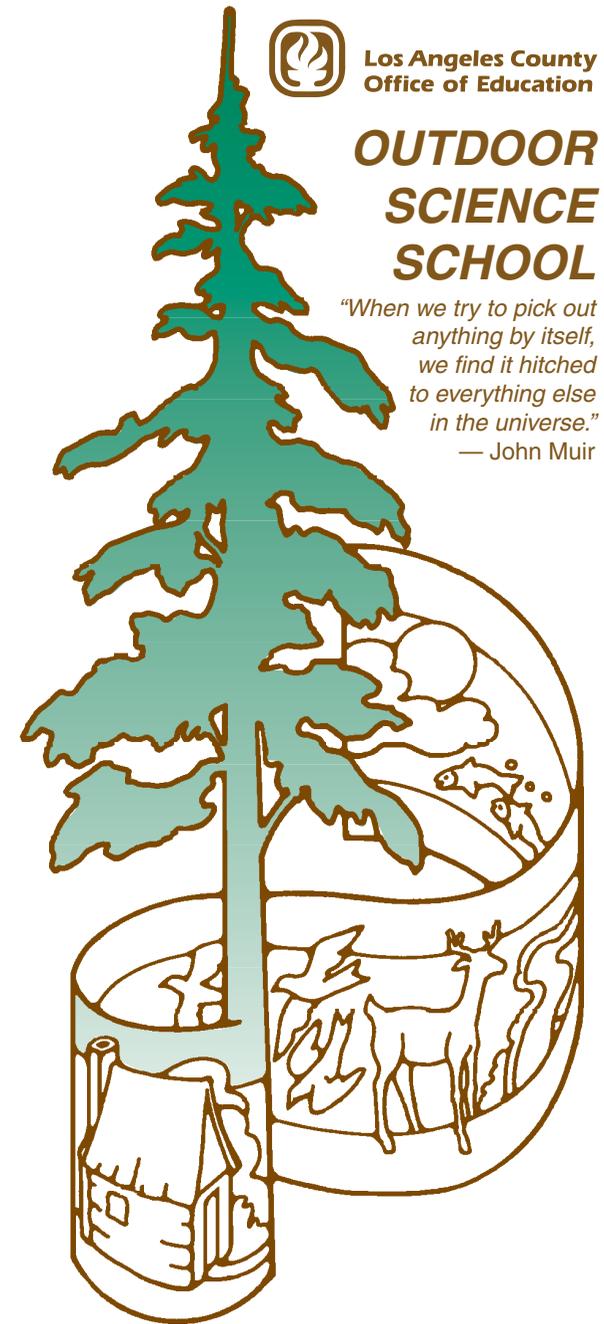
Outdoor Education Office
9300 Imperial Highway
Downey, California 90242-2890



Los Angeles County
Office of Education

OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL

*"When we try to pick out
anything by itself,
we find it hitched
to everything else
in the universe."
— John Muir*



Resident Outdoor Science School

Malibu • Wrightwood

OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL
The best education on earth

From the mountains to the sea, your choices for hands-on, residential outdoor science field study range from Blue Sky Meadow, high in the San Bernardino Mountains, to Malibu, nestled in a shady canyon where the Santa Monica Mountains meet the Pacific Ocean. Both locations offer excellent opportunities to study the earth and its systems in the beauty and wonder of nature's classroom.

The natural world invites exploration and study. There are new things to see, surprising observations to compare, and fresh experiences that prompt questions and motivate students to seek answers. For many of the students, this may be the first time they have spent a significant amount of time in the outdoors. It may be the first time they have slept away from home in another bed. It may be the first time they have seen the vast array of stars visible from a clear mountain sky. For some it is the first time they have identified and observed the behavior of tide pool organisms or listened to the soothing sound of the surf. These experiences teach students fundamental scientific thinking process.

At the Outdoor Science School, we take important science concepts and teach them in a way that engages and develops the skills needed for 21st century success. Students practice observation, question posing, problem solving, critical thinking, communication, creativity, and collaboration skills that will be essential in the workplace and in their lives. The Outdoor Science School is a highlight of a child's educational career. Let us help you make this amazing opportunity become a reality for your students.

MALIBU

Located 40 miles west of Los Angeles where the Santa Monica Mountains meet the coast.

Rolling hills covered with coastal sage scrub surround the Malibu Outdoor Science School site. The main campus is located in a shady canyon with an intermittent stream that provides a great riparian zone to explore. Easy access to both sandy beach and rocky intertidal habitats provides excellent opportunities to explore the marine environment. These diverse habitats combined to provide excellent opportunities to observe and explore important environmental and natural science concepts. The facilities and food service are excellent and the weather and views are incredible.



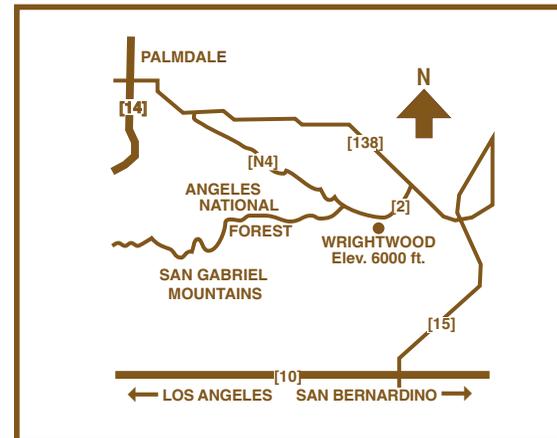
MALIBU

11495 East Pacific Coast Highway
 Malibu, CA 92065
 310-457-7399
 malibu@outdoorscienceschool.org

WRIGHTWOOD

Located at the south edge of the mountain village of Wrightwood in the San Gabriel Mountains.

At 6,000 feet, the Wrightwood site provides easy access to north-facing, high mountain ridges and canyons below Wright Mountain. Students reach these ridges by a series of hiking trails that cross a gradually rising plain covered by Ponderosa and Jeffrey Pine. Around the center of the campus are many high mountain oaks. Also accessible are Desert Scrub, Pinyon Juniper, and Joshua Tree Woodland vegetation. The cabins and lodges are all in excellent condition. Wrightwood has been a popular LACOSS site for many years.



WRIGHTWOOD

P.O. Box 1561
 Wrightwood, CA 92397-1561
 (760) 249-4972
 outdoorscienceschool@yahoo.com

THE OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

A class and the classroom teacher leave the home school on Monday morning to go to the Outdoor Science School for an entire week.

At the Outdoor Science School, qualified outdoor science teachers, naturalists, classroom teachers, and cabin leaders will provide instruction and round-the-clock supervision for the class.

A TYPICAL DAY AT THE OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL

- 7:00 a.m. Rise
- 8:00 a.m. Breakfast
Cleanup and cabin chores
- 9:15 a.m. Trail lessons with lunch on the trail
- 4:15 p.m. Showers and personal care
Cabin activities
- 5:30 p.m. Dinner
Personal time
- 7:00 p.m. Evening activities
(Astronomy, night awareness, campfire, folk dancing)
- 9:30 p.m. Lights out