



Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods

P. O. Box 2 • Duncans Mills, California 95430 • (707) 869-9177 ext 1 • lisa@stewardscr.org
www.stewardscr.org

August 2026

Dear Educator,

Thank you for bringing your class/group to participate in our **Tidepool Education Program**. This letter includes:

- **How to prepare for your visit**
- **What to bring and expect on the day of your tidepool visit**
- **Role of docents, teachers, parent/guardian volunteers**
- **Tidepool etiquette**

Thank you for carefully reading through this information to ensure the most successful visit to the tidepools.

Resources to prepare for your visit are below. Other resources are provided via email from Hollis Bewley our Tidepool Education Program Coordinator

Please view the following tidepool orientation video with your students for important safety and stewardship information and share the information in this letter and the video with your **parent chaperones**: [Tidepool Heroes!](#)

Our *Tidepool Teachers Manual* is available to download in PDF format on our web site at: https://stewardscr.org/pdf/tp_teachersguide.pdf and informational [Rocky Intertidal Fact Sheet](#)

We require a ratio of 1 parent/guardian per 10 students and we will do our best to provide 1 volunteer docent per 10 students. This ensures that there are approximately 2 adults per 10 students. **We request you bring a MAXIMUM of 1 adult for every 4 students** to lower the impact of a large group on the tidepools.

As part of your preparation please ensure that this information letter is shared with ALL of the adult chaperones who will be accompanying your group.

What to bring on the day of your visit

TEACHER

- ☐ Student name tags
- ☐ Volunteer parents and guardians, other adult chaperones

- ☐ Required information from school (i.e. student emergency cards)
- ☐ Emergency first aid kit
- ☐ Sunscreen and hat
- ☐ Lunch and drinking water
- ☐ Dress in layers (weather on the coast is unpredictable)
- ☐ Clothes for being outdoors and shoes that can get wet. No crocs or flip flops, closed-toe shoes only, sneakers or rubber boots.

STUDENTS

- ☐ Lunch and drinking water
- ☐ Small day pack for personal items and lunch
- ☐ Dress in layers (weather on the coast is unpredictable)
- ☐ Sunscreen and hat
- ☐ Clothes for being outdoors and shoes that can get wet. No crocs or flip flops, closed-toe shoes only, sneakers or rubber boots.
- ☐ A sense of curiosity and wonder

What to expect on the day of your visit

- 9 - 10:15 AM arrive at parking lot (**see your specific reservation for arrival time and location**)
- Greeted by the docents
- Use restrooms and eat snack
- Safety presentation and orientation in parking lot
- Walk down to the beach and to the tidepool area, 15 - 20 minutes
- Tidepooling with docents for 1-1.25 hours. With groups of 35 students or more we will do a rotation, with half the group tidepooling while the other half does an engaging activity about tidepool animal adaptations, then groups will switch.
- Docents say good-bye, lunch with your school or group
- Back on the bus or other activity, return trip to school

Docents

All of the **docents** are part of the California State Parks “Volunteers in Parks” program. They are with your class to share their knowledge of the natural resources, help you identify different species, assist with your learning objectives in a hands-on way, answer questions, assist in observation without destruction, and to inspire students to be good stewards of the environment.

We encourage student exploration with guidance to prevent unnecessary damage. Many of the organisms that call the tidepools home are very delicate despite living in such a dynamic environment. Docents provide an educational experience using nature as the classroom.

On occasion staff members from Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods or California State Parks will be part of the team of docents during your visit.

Tidepool exploration

This program provides an opportunity for students to explore the tidepools within boundaries set by the Tidepool Docents. **The students will not be in small docent-led groups.** The docents will rove among the students, ready to answer questions and guide exploration and share interesting things they find.

Role of parent/guardian/adult chaperones and the Docents

The role of the parent/guardian/adult chaperones is to ensure that the students are staying with the group, being safe, respectful, and to manage behavior issues. It is the responsibility of the teacher and parent/guardian volunteers to deal with disciplinary issues during the tidepool explorations. The parent/guardian volunteers are to stay with the group at all times. Please create groups of students with a specific adult chaperone who can help keep track of them.

We require a ratio of 1 parent/guardian per 10 students and we will do our best to provide 1 volunteer docent per 10 students. **Parent/guardian volunteers are encouraged to get involved in the exploration while maintaining their role of ensuring the safety of the students.**

As part of your preparation please ensure that this information letter is shared with ALL of the adult chaperones who will be accompanying your group.

Tidepool Etiquette from California State Parks

Stay Alert: Always face the ocean when you are tidepooling so you can stay alert to incoming waves.

Step Carefully: Have three points of contact while exploring the tidepools. Keep two feet firmly on the ground and at least one hand free to hold on to rocks for balance. Choose dry bare rock to walk on. Avoid stepping on algae and animals that are living on the rocks. NEVER wade into the tidepools.

Touch Gently: Use one or two fingers to gently touch tidepool animals. No poking, pulling, or picking up any tidepool animal.

Respect Their Homes: Leave rocks where they are. Rocks and seaweed protect animals from predators and the sun.

Take Only Memories: Tidepools are protected. **Never remove** animals, rocks, or shells from the tidepools. Take nothing but pictures, memories, and any trash you find!

Please reach out if you have any questions or if you need more information. Please acknowledge receipt of this information and address any questions to Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods Program Director Lisa Baiter: lisa@stewardscr.org

Thank you and we look forward to your school's visit