

Discover the Flyway



Sixth grade Science Field Trip

May 18, 2010

As enrichment to the Ecology curriculum in the spring, we will be visiting the Yolo Wetlands and Wildlife Area and participating in the Discover the Flyway program. Following are details about this program. The date of our field trip is Tuesday May 18, 2010. This will be an all day field trip. More details will go home as we approach our trip date.

The Yolo Basin Foundation understands that teachers bear, in large part, the responsibility of building the foundation that our children will need to become well rounded, original thinkers who can make a difference in the world they live in. Therefore our environmental education programs have been geared with the ease of the teacher in mind.

Discover the Flyway School Program

The *Discover the Flyway* school program is an education outreach program which includes teacher workshops, classroom field trips and volunteer training sessions. The program focuses on hands-on, interactive learning experiences for K-12 students that create a connection between ecological processes and the Yolo Wildlife Area. Yolo Basin Foundation trains hundreds of teachers and hosts over 4,000 students and parents annually, predominantly from Sacramento, Yolo and Solano counties.

Discover the Flyway school programs are designed with the busy teacher schedule in mind. All program activities correlate to the California State standards for science enabling teachers to incorporate a field trip to the Yolo Wildlife Area into their daily curriculum. Before bringing students on a *Discover the Flyway* field trip, teachers attend a one time only *Discover the Flyway* Teacher Workshop, where they are given the materials needed for a successful and education packed field trip experience. All field trips are facilitated and directed by highly trained Yolo Basin staff, interns and volunteers leaving teachers free to experience the field trip with their students.

The program goals are:

- **Awareness:** to help people acquire an awareness and sensitivity to the natural environment and the interactions which occur in the Wildlife Area.
- **Knowledge:** to provide a variety of experiences in and acquire a basic understanding of the environment in the Wildlife Area, including how it works, how it is managed, and what plants and animals live there.
- **Attitude:** to help students understand the value of the natural environment and to motivate them to actively participate in environmental improvement and protection; to see positive examples of how wildlife habitat can coexist with agriculture and surrounding urban area.

- **Skills:** to help acquire the tools for identifying, understanding, and solving environmental problems.
- **Participation:** to provide an opportunity to be involved with Wildlife Area restoration activities, and with the resolution of environmental problems in the community.
- **Impact:** to provide a format for the public to enjoy the Wildlife Area with minimal impact on its wildlife residents.



Yolo Basin Foundation was founded in 1990 as a community based organization to assist in the establishment of the Yolo Wildlife Area. Our board of directors represents a diverse group of interests, from agriculture and waterfowl conservation to local government and the business community. We are universally credited with being the driving force behind the partnership that created the Yolo Wildlife Area. Yolo Basin continues as the communication link between many people and organizations involved in creating wetlands and managing land in the Yolo Bypass. Dynamic partnerships have evolved and our most significant cooperation is with the California Department of Fish and Game who currently manages the Yolo Wildlife Area.

A principal goal of the Foundation is facilitating environmental education in the Yolo Wildlife Area. In August 1997, we held the first of our Discover the Flyway teacher workshops, which introduce area teachers to the Wildlife Area and prepared them to bring their classes out for exciting and productive field studies. In its first year, the Discover the Flyway school program hosted 800 students between October 1997 and June of 1998. Since our pilot year, the school program has expanded to over 4,000 Kindergarten through 12th-grade students annually. Yolo Basin Foundation staff, interns and dedicated volunteers assist students in hands-on learning activities at our demonstration wetlands and lead students on exploratory Wildlife Area walks.

In addition to our popular Discover the Flyway program, Yolo Basin Foundation is the sponsoring non-profit organization for California Duck Days, publishes the Yolo Flyway newsletter, brings wetlands education to the classroom with our Wild About Wetlands kits, introduces the public to natural places in the community through public field trips, and hosts the Flyway Nights speaker series. The Foundation facilitates the Yolo Bypass Working Group meetings, which provide a focused opportunity for farmers, land owners and agencies within the Yolo Bypass to discuss Bypass related issues as well as provide guidance and opinions on such issues