

# Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center



## Mission

The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center (IROEC) serves all youth of Orange County by providing quality outdoor educational programs that instill in them an appreciation of the outdoors and the environment, teach effective teamwork, instruct about the cultural history of Orange County and provide access to the area's natural resources. In 2005, The Irvine Company donated 210 acres of undeveloped land to the Orange County Council, Boy Scouts of America for the development and management of a comprehensive outdoor education facility benefiting all Orange County schools and youth organizations. The programs add to the limited availability of cost effective and local outdoor science education programs that advance student capacity for lifelong learning and overall educational outcomes.

The Irvine Ranch Outdoor Education Center operates year round and provides comprehensive outdoor educational activities to youth. Now in its fifth year of operating, the majority of program participants attending the IROEC are youth from local schools and nonprofit organizations, such as YMCA, foster care agencies and youth from underserved areas, with around a third of participants being Scouts. In 2014, we provided 34 schools and youth organizations with scholarships to assist 3,895 youth to participate in academic science programs and outdoor education field trips.

## ➤ IROEC Utilization

- 2014: Of the 44,772 participants from 800 groups who utilized the IROEC in 2014, 77% were youth (34,558)
- 2013: Of the 40,330 participants from 766 groups who utilized the IROEC in 2013, 76% were youth (30,569)

## ➤ Programs, Activities and Highlights at the IROEC

- Academic science camp program offered over a 5 day / 4 night residential camping experience that offers curriculum rich in Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) in science, history, language arts, math, arts and music.
- Science and Social Science Immersion programs are provided to schools, youth organizations and groups to experience half day or full day activities. The program aims to increase youth participants' knowledge and awareness about science, including earth, life and physical science, by participating in hands-on educational activities at three immersion camps. Lesson plans are aligned to NGSS.
- The Pankey Family Ranch Camp provides activities that capture the imagination of youth through inquiry into the world of living things and an opportunity to walk through the past and participate in activities that Native Americans, Spanish Settlers and Western Ranchers would have participated in the 1700's and 1800's. The Living Classroom offers programs in the Flanigan



*School youth participating in a Living Classroom learning activity at the Flanigan Farms Garden*



*School youth learning about chemistry at the Aerospace and Astronomy Camp*

Farms Garden and the Griffith Heritage Citrus Grove that feature the agricultural beginnings of Orange County and the importance of stewardship of the land.

- The Reuben and Mary Lou Casey Mining Camp explores Earth Science and offers youth a hands-on experience in excavating coal and minerals from the Lucy-Lou Mine, pan for gold, identify treasures in the Assay Office and uncover the mysteries of the past located just below the surface of our geologically active planet. Students gain knowledge of concepts and principles in geology, engineering, and the mining industry and how it changed the face of California, the value of sustainable resources and how to protect the land from contamination and misuse.
- The Aerospace and Astronomy Camp examines Physical Science and the role of forces, motion and reactions. Activities in Robotics, Engineering, Rocketry, Aviation, Aerospace, Chemistry and Astronomy stimulate interest in the world beyond our own and the possibilities of tomorrow's discoveries. Activities are focused on problem solving, inquiry, promoting awareness of future space exploration, as well as discovery and accomplishments in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).
- Anaheim Ducks C.O.P.E. Course builds by pushing limits. C.O.P.E. is an acronym for Challenging Outdoor Personal Experience. The COPE course teaches youth to work in teams, develop trust and self-esteem to set challenging yet attainable goals as well as develop decision making and problem solving skills. The Anaheim Ducks Zip Line provides recreational adventure and opportunities to discuss the physics of what is happening as riders run the course.



*Special needs youth group enjoying The Zip Line Sponsored by Anaheim Ducks!*

