



## Let's talk about the climate crisis and take action together as a community!

The San Mateo County Sustainability Department is now offering expanded trip offerings for the **Youth Exploring Climate Science (YECS)** program! This program provides no-cost climate science educational programming to middle and high schools across San Mateo County. The program empowers students to explore why the climate crisis is happening, what and who will be impacted, and how individual actions can tackle climate change impacts to protect our communities. Programming is available to focus on sea level rise, wildfire science, and biodiversity, and includes an in-person 120 minute trip to a local natural space, such as Coyote Point, Cooley Landing, San Bruno Mountain, and more!.

### Book Your YECS Trip Now!

The YECS program is accepting bookings from San Mateo County high school and middle school teachers for the 2025-26 school year. All offerings are available for 7th - 12th grade students to engage with local environmental specialists and climate science topics. Access to the YECS program curriculum and technical support is also available upon request. Contact Jess Dominick at [jdominick@smcgov.org](mailto:jdominick@smcgov.org) with any questions. This opportunity is first come, first served so act fast to secure your YECS program today. [Book here!](#)

*Please check out the additional tips and instructions at the end of this document for more detailed information about the booking process. If you have any mobility concerns for your students, please let us know in your booking.*

Below is a table highlighting the key components of the YECS program. Customization to fit the needs and interests of your class may be available upon request.

In-Class	Guided Activity On-Site	Lesson On-Site	
Youth Exploring Climate Science Subject	Student Time Commitment	NGSS Grade Range	NGSS Standard Discussed
<b>Option 1: <u>Youth Exploring Sea Level Rise Science</u></b> 120 minutes Students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a baseline understanding of the climate crisis and sea level rise globally and locally</li> <li>Explore either Coyote Point or Cooley Landing with local specialists from either San Mateo County Parks and Grassroots Ecology</li> <li>Discuss mitigation and adaptation actions to address local climate impacts</li> </ul>	15-20 minute in-class video lesson provided by the Sustainability Department and facilitated by the teacher	Middle School	MS ETS1.B MS ETS2.B MS ESS2.D MS ESS3.C MS ESS3.D
	45 minute guided hike		
	20 minute lesson 25 minute lunch/snack time or break	High School	HS ETS1.B HS ETS1.C HS ETS2.B

Open to 60 students per trip			HS ESS2.D HS ESS3.B HS ESS3.C HS ESS3.D
<b>Option 2: <u>Youth Exploring Wildfire Science</u></b> <i>120 minutes</i> Students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the intersection between human impact and wildfires as it relates to the climate crisis</li> <li>Explore a local park and learn about wildfire fuel reduction and fire safety</li> </ul> Open to 60 students per trip  <i>*Trips to Skyline Ridge will be 180 minutes long and are limited to 30 students.</i>	15-20 minute in-class video lesson provided by the Sustainability Department and facilitated by the teacher	Middle School	MS ETS1.B MS ESS2.D MS ESS3.C MS ESS3.D
	45 minute guided hike		
	20 minute lesson 20 minute lunch/snack time or break	High School	HS LS2.B HS ETS1.B HS ESS2.D HS ESS3.B HS ESS3.C HS ESS3.D
<b>Option 3: <u>Youth Exploring Biodiversity Science</u></b> <i>120 minutes</i> Students will... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand the intersection between human impact and biodiversity</li> <li>Assess native species adaptations and explore the connection between climate change and local ecosystems</li> <li>Learn about community science initiatives in San Mateo County</li> </ul> Open to 60 students per trip.	15-20 minute in-class video lesson provided by the Sustainability Department and facilitated by the teacher.	Middle School	MS ETS1.B MS ESS2.D MS ESS3.C MS ESS3.D MS LS4.D
	15 minute on-site introduction and lesson		
	55 minute hike activity and discussion 20 minute lunch/snack time and break	High School	HS LS4.C HS LS3.B HS LS4.D HS ETS1.B HS ESS2.D HS ESS3.B HS ESS3.C HS ESS3.D

### Details, Tips, and Instructions for the Booking Process

- Field trips will be 120 minutes on-site, unless stated otherwise. This does not include the time needed for transportation to and from the site.
  - For the Wildfire Science trips at Skyline Ridge, the trip will be 3 hours long.
- A Calendly confirmation is tentative. Program Coordinator Jess Dominick will confirm the trip via email and, if needed, coordinate transportation upon confirmation.
- Trips are required to have at least 1 teacher/chaperone per 15 students for 9th - 12th grade classes, and 1 teacher/chaperone per 10 students for 7th & 8th grade classes.
- Field trip dates are unique to the subject, so if you do not see an open date for one program, check out the other topics and locations for alternative options.

- All trips have a capacity limit of 60 students for each trip.
  - Students will be split into two groups who will do alternating activities
- There will be 15-20 minutes of recorded in-class materials for teachers to introduce to the class before the trip. Instructions and materials will be sent to teachers prior to the field trip.
- Bus transportation will be arranged with Sustainability Department staff. After booking a trip, we will contact you regarding trip confirmation and transportation options. Please contact YECS coordinator Jess at [jdominick@smcgov.org](mailto:jdominick@smcgov.org) with any questions.
- These field trips are offered at **NO COST** to 7th through 12th grade classes in San Mateo County by the Sustainability Department.
- Field trip dates and offerings are subject to change and more dates may be added

For more information about the YECS program please visit [our website](#) or contact Jess Dominick at [jdominick@smcgov.org](mailto:jdominick@smcgov.org).

