Directions to the Visitor Center:
From I-5, exit Coronado Avenue in Imperial Beach and head west. Around 13th Street, Coronado Avenue will become Imperial Beach Blvd. Turn left onto 3rd Street, then left onto Caspian Way, which leads into the parking lot.

What is the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve?
Encompassing 2,300 acres, the Tijuana Estuary is the endpoint of the Tijuana River watershed, consisting of Border Field State Park, the Tijuana Slough National Wildlife Refuge, Navy lands, San Diego County property, and San Diego City property. Designated as a Research Reserve by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, it is one of 29 Reserves in the country devoted to education and research. The Reserve is managed cooperatively by the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Over 40 species of shorebirds visit the Tijuana Estuary while journeying along the pacific flyway, and the mudflats are their all-you-can-eat buffet. Play the feeding game, observe shorebirds in action, or build-a-bird.

What do snakes, alligators, and turtles have in common? They’re all reptiles which means “things that creep.” Map local reptiles, play “Life as a Lizard,” and become an expert on reptile behavior.

Have you ever seen the jumping fish of San Diego bays and estuaries? Did you know estuaries are important nurseries for many fish like halibut? Make a fish print, pin-the-fin on the fish, or go fishing for fun fish facts.

What importance do willow, jojoba, buckwheat, and sage have to the native people of the region? Learn a little about the Kumeyaay ways of life through a plant walk, crafts, a story, or games.

Kelp, sanderlings, shells, crabs, sand, waves and more make up the beach environment. Study sand crabs, imitate hungry shorebirds, or learn where sand comes from. (Meets at IB Blvd. & Seacoast Dr.)

Native plants that is! Native plants provide habitat that our local wildlife need. Play a game, destroy weeds, and plant natives. If you like to dig, pull, and get dirty, this program is for you!

Did you know that 1 gallon of motor oil can pollute one million gallons of water? Find out what simple everyday things you can do to help prevent pollution and reduce our impact on climate change. Play Gagging on Garbage, visit a storm drain, or make recycled instruments.

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Did you know that wetlands are found worldwide and are one of the richest habitats, just as rich as a tropical rainforest? Learn why wetlands are so important, play Marsh Metaphors, create your own wetland and munch on part of a mudflat.

**What is Junior Rangers?**

“Junior Rangers” gather at more than 70 state parks from the redwood region, to the high sierra, to the sunny Southern California beaches. Children *ages 7 to 12* are invited to take part in this exciting program, designed to help them discover the rich natural and cultural heritage preserved in parks.

At Tijuana Estuary, the Jr. Ranger Program takes place *every Thursday from 3:30-4:30pm* with different topics presented at each session. Estuarine ecology, natural and cultural history, plants, and wildlife are among the subjects likely to be explored. Jr. Rangers earn awards such as pins, certificates, and patches as they progress through the program. The Jr. Ranger Program is offered free of charge. Each Jr. Ranger must be signed up by a parent or guardian and can do so at the beginning of any program.

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**Everybody’s Somebody’s Lunch**

Ever thought about what a clapper rail eats, or what eats a clapper rail? Discover how living things are connected through food webs. Examine plankton up close, try to catch fish like a heron does, and play the Predator-Prey game.

**Accumulators, Excreters, & Excluders**

What do you think would happen if you watered your plants with salt water? Salt water is a harsh environment for most plants but salt marsh plants are up to the challenge. Play plant bingo, become a botanist, and restore marsh habitat.

**Incredible Inverts!**

Backbone or no backbone, that is the question. Discover the variety of estuary invertebrates. Go for an insect walk, dig through stinky wetland mud, and dissect a common wetland invertebrate.