

Junior Ranger Calendar 2024

Thursdays 3:30-4:30 p.m.

AUGUST						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SEPTEMBER						
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OCTOBER						
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27	28	29	30	31		

NOVEMBER						
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DECEMBER						
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Dates & lessons are subject to change. Please call 619.575.3613 to confirm information.

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 3:30-4:30 p.m.** 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.



Wonderful Wetlands!

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.



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.

Probers of the Mudflat

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.

Scales, Tails, and Operculums

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.

The Beach Beyond

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.)

Here Come the Natives!

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!

Cold Blooded Critters

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.

Kumeyaay Ways of Life

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.

What's the Danger in Being Endangered?

You don't have to go to the zoo to see endangered species. San Diego County has more than any other area of its size in the continental U.S. Clapper rails and least terns are just a few found at the reserve. Find out why and how you can help, play Jeopardy, or go for a walk.

Pollution & Solutions

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.

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 30 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.



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.



Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve

Junior Ranger Program 2024



Hands on Activities Explore Local Habitats



Tijuana Estuary Visitor Center
301 Caspian Way
Imperial Beach, California 91932
619.575.3613 • www.trnerr.org