



BACK COUNTRY LAND TRUST OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Local Conservation Lands Provide a ‘Living Classroom’ for Students in East County”

The Back Country Land Trust, in partnership with the Alpine Education Foundation, are once again offering our Living Classroom program free of charge to local teachers in two East County school districts – Alpine Union School District (AUSD) and Mountain Empire Unified School District (MEUSD) for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year. Teachers from either district are encouraged to contact us to subscribe individual classrooms, or blocks of classes, to participate in this grant-funded program for East County K-8 students.

With generous funding from individual donors and our program sponsors at San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), the Captain Planet Foundation, and KEEN Footwear, this program is fully funded for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year and is offered at no-cost to teachers or school districts. All program instruction and school bus transportation is covered by these grants, and includes docent-guided field trips on BCLT-owned ecological preserves, as well as introductory classroom presentations from program instructors.

This year’s program will include 750 elementary and middle school students in East County, a record high number of participants in this program over the last five years. Students will gain knowledge and understanding of nature through an established environmental education curriculum based on Next Generation Science Standards, and will participate in hands-on service learning projects such as planting native plants.

BCLT and AEF are currently seeking teachers interested in participating in the Living Classroom program to schedule site visits and field trip dates for this school year. Any K-8 teachers in Alpine Union School District or Mountain Empire Unified School District are eligible to enroll in this program, and there is no cost to participate.

Interested teachers should contact Jessica Manning at Alpine Education Foundation for more information or to enroll in this program - jmanning9261@hotmail.com

For 2017-2018, this program is generously sponsored by grants from the Captain Planet Foundation, KEEN Footwear, and Sempra / SDG&E.

