

Students learn about nature on 3-day field trip

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Thirty-five eighth-graders from Carr Intermediate School in Santa Ana traveled last week to **NatureBridge's Santa Monica Mountains Institute** for a three-day field trip.

The Institute offered the students field science education programs that help connect youth to the natural world. During the trip, the students collected field data on how the cycles of seasons impact local plants and wildlife, plus hiked 1.5 miles to Sandstone Peak, the highest point in the Santa Monica Mountains where they learned about the region's watersheds.

The field trip gave the students the opportunity to actively apply their science education in the natural environment, while helping them become better equipped to focus on their academics, teachers said.

The trip was funded by a special grant from the Keith and Judy Swayne Family Foundation, located in Orange County.

For most of the students, this was their very first trip to the mountains and one of their first in a national park.



Carr Intermediate 8th graders log their findings at NatureBridge's Santa Monica Mountains Institute.



Carr students and NatureBridge educators' closing circle at the end of a busy day in the Santa Monica Mountains at Leo Carrillo State Beach.



Carr Intermediate students rest on the way up Sandstone Peak. They said they "felt they were in the clouds when they reached the top."