



# Tijuana Estuary

## 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 Junior 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. Awards such as pins, certificates, and patches are given to participants as they progress through the program. The Junior 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.

For more information:

301 Caspian Way, Imperial Beach, CA 91932 ~ (619) 575-3613 ~ [www.tijuanaestuary.org](http://www.tijuanaestuary.org)

## Programs for 2008

### Wonderful Wetlands!

Did you know that wetlands are found world-wide and are one of the richest habitats, just as rich as a tropical rainforest? Learn why wetlands are so important by playing Mystery Metaphors, creating our own wetland, and munching on part of a mudflat.

Dates: January 3, March 27, June 19, September 18

### Accumulators, Excreters, or 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.

Dates: January 10, April 3, June 26, September 25

### Everybody's Somebody's Lunch

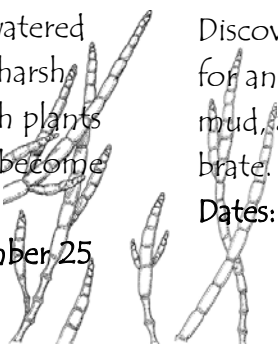
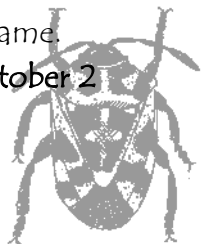
Ever thought about what a clapper rail eats, or what eats a clapper rail? Discover how living things are connected through food webs. Examine plankton up close, try to catch fish like a heron, and play the Predator-Prey game.

Dates: January 17, April 10, July 3, October 2

### Involve Yourself with Invertebrates

Back bone or no back bone, 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.

Dates: January 24, April 17, July 10, October 9



### Probers of the Mudflats

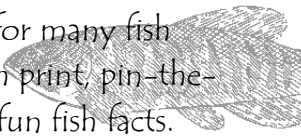


Over 40 species of shore birds visit the Tijuana Estuary while journeying along the Pacific flyway, and the mudflats are their all-you-can-eat buffet. Each are designed differently with unique plumage, beaks, feet and behaviors. Play the feeding game, observe shore birds in action, or build-a-bird.

Dates: January 31, April 24, July 17, October 16

### Scales, Tails, and Operculums

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



Dates: February 7, May 1, July 24, October 23

### The Beach Beyond

(Meets at IB Blvd. & Seacoast Dr.)

Kelp, sanderlings, shells, crabs, sand, waves and more make up the beach environment. Discover underwater forests made of kelp which can grow to the size of a Volkswagen bug in about a week. Identify shell creatures, study sand crabs, imitate hungry shorebirds, or learn where sand comes from.

Dates: February 14, May 8, July 31, October 30

### Here Come the Natives!

Native plants that is! Native plants provide the habitat that our local animals need. Play a game to learn how non-native plants compete with native plants and make it harder for animals to live there. Help the Reserve restore native habitat by weeding out the non-natives and replacing them with native plants. If you like to dig, pull, and get dirty, this program is for you! *We will provide child size gloves and tools but feel free to bring your own.*

Dates: February 21, May 15, August 7, November 6

### Cold Blooded Critters

What do snakes, alligators, and turtles have in common? They are all reptiles which means □things that creep.□ Find out a few interesting reptile facts like the body temperature of a reptile is the same as their environment, that those who shed their skin then eat it, or view reptiles live or on video.

Dates: February 28, May 22, August 14, November 13

### Kumeyaay Ways of Life

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

Dates: March 6, May 29, August 21, November 20

### What□s the Danger in Being Endangered?

You don□t have to go to the zoo to see an endangered species because San Diego County has more than any other area of its size in the continental U.S. Clapper rails and least terns are just few found at the reserve. Find out why and how you can help, play Endangered Species Jeopardy, or go for an endangered species walk.

Dates: March 13, June 5, August 28, December 4

NOTE: No Jr. Rangers Sept. 4th (first week of school)

### Pollution and Solutions

Did you know that one gallon of motor oil can pollute one million gallons of water? That styrofoam never decomposes? Find out what simple everyday things you can do to help prevent pollution. Play Gagging on Garbage, visit a stormdrain, or make recycled art.

Dates: March 20, June 12, September 11, December 11

