

Thank you for giving up your time to come along on our tide pool field trip. The Sonoma Coast is a beautiful and exciting coastline but without adequate caution can be dangerous. I appreciate your efforts in keeping the students engaged in their work and safe from potential incidents. We want the students to learn a respectfulness for the ocean so that they can enjoy all of the fun and wonder that it can share with them.

The day will go something like this:

1. Meet me and students at the front of the school for roll call at 8.55. Students will board the bus ASAP. Chaperones are welcome to ride the bus or take their own car.
2. Docents will meet us at Salmon Creek Beach. Students will take all possessions and field equipment off the bus. Students will be responsible for carrying all equipment from the beginning to the end of the trip. (They may need some reminders).
3. We will walk to Miwok Beach for the tide pool portion of the trip. (Approx. ¼ mile).
4. You have been allocated groups of students to keep an eye on. You and your groups have been allocated to a docent who will lead the exploration of the tide pools.
5. We will start our survey in the low tide zone and work back up the beach. Students have been asked to have a “wave scout” that will watch the ocean for incoming waves, warning the rest of the group of any bigger waves coming on in.
6. The students have a group worksheet they will fill in. Once the paperwork has been completed, the students have time for free exploration as long as they stay in a safe area. Before they go off exploring, students must be sure all their equipment; i.d. charts, quadrats, data tables are safely on the beach and that they are picked up BY STUDENTS when they leave this area.
7. We will walk back to Salmon Creek Beach where we will do a five minute timed count of organisms found at the beach.
8. We will do a five minute timed count of organisms found in the estuarine creek.
9. Lunch. Students are not permitted to jump or roll down sand dunes. Please look out for students being forgetful of trash and/or food laying around. (May have lunch before 7 and 8).
10. Free play. Students MAY NOT approach the ocean without me being there.
11. Sand sculpture building competition.
12. Pack up and head back to school.

