

For Teachers



Stop and smell the poppies...

Follow this little guy's example and check out the Pleistocene Garden with your class this year!

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Another School Year Begins!

Dear Teachers,

I hope your year is off to a good start after what felt like a very short summer, at least to us here at the Museum! We spent our summer offering some fun outdoor educator workshops and training new staff and volunteers to lead guided school programs in the fall. If you didn't experience our guided programs last year, we encourage you to make reservations for this season which runs October 1 - February 27. Pre-K - 1st grade students can participate in an interactive Ice Age storytelling program, 2nd - 5th graders can develop critical thinking skills by being fossil detectives, and middle and high schoolers can go on a Discovery Tour or catch and study insects that have been around since the last Ice Age. There's a lot to choose from! All programs are free, led by Museum educators, and incorporate CCSS and NGSS skills and practices.

Join us at our annual Educator Open House on Saturday, September 20 to learn all about these programs and everything you need to know for the upcoming year.

We look forward to seeing you and your students soon!

Molly Porter
Manager, School and Teacher Programs

What's New!

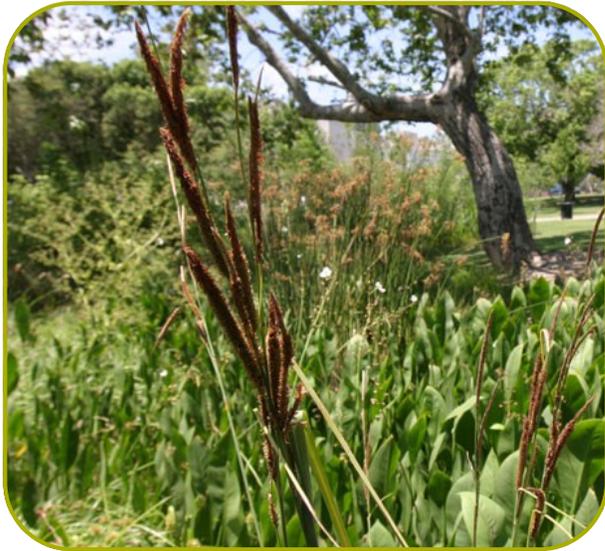
Back to school shopping is a little unusual at the Tar Pits. Insect nets, coyote pelts and a collection of more than 5 million Ice Age fossils are all on our list of the supplies we need to create amazing trips for you and your students this year! Before you book, there are a few important things to know:

Ice Age Encounters is happening all school year on Fridays for grades 2 - 6! If you want to get your students up close to a life-sized, snarling saber-toothed cat, make sure you request this program when you book your visit. We're also updating our free downloadable lesson plans for kindergarten through high school to engage your students with Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards during your Museum visit!

Finally, we are changing our chaperone policy to help us welcome more students into the Museum. Effective September 1, 2014, a maximum of one chaperone for every five students will be included in the free school visit. Additional adults are welcome, but must purchase a discounted chaperone ticket upon arrival. Thanks to the extra capacity, we'll be able to serve more schools for free at the Tar Pits!

So excited for another great year,

Kelsey Ziff
Coordinator, School Programs



Can You Dig It: *The Pleistocene Garden!*

Long before palm trees lined its busy streets, Los Angeles was ruled by pine, sage, and buckwheat. In the Pleistocene Garden, we're going back to our roots – recreating L.A.'s landscape as it looked during the last Ice Age. How do we know that manzanita grew here thousands of years ago? Because plant remains from the Pleistocene actually fossilize in the Tar Pits, allowing us to create an Ice Age oasis for you and your students to enjoy! Basically, we're taking the native gardening trend to a whole new level.

Floral Fact!

We know that native California plants like sage are edible and delicious, but our favorite treat from the Pleistocene Garden is the salt bush (*Atriplex lentiformis*)! Not only is it extremely nutritious, but Tar Pits staff swear that its leaves taste just like potato chips.



Upcoming Opportunities

Educator Open House

Saturday, September 20, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Kick off your school year at the Tar Pits! Enjoy a light breakfast, enter to win some Ice Age resources for your classroom, then explore the Museum on your own or join us for tours of the La Brea Tar Pits. End your morning with a preview of our guided school programs and see what the Tar Pits can offer your students! Register at www.tarpits.org/for-teachers.

Earth Science Make and Take

With Alyssa Morgan

Saturday, October 18, 9:00am - 12:00pm

Review Earth Science concepts with our own Museum geologist Alyssa Morgan, and work with her to assemble 3-D models and visual aids demonstrating key concepts to take back to the classroom! Registration opens September 29, 2014.

Resource Reminders

Lesson Plans

Free, downloadable lesson plans connect your Museum visit to key classroom concepts!

Chaperone Guide

Includes Museum maps, visit tips, and trip-planning materials. Print one out for each chaperone!

Excavation 101

This video gives you an inside look at Project 23, where new fossil discoveries are made every day!

All this (and more!) at www.tarpits.org/for-teachers/resources

How to Book!

Go to www.tarpits.org/for-teachers and click on the *Plan Your Trip* link for step-by-step instructions on how to plan your day and submit a visit request!