



Splash Science Onsite Lab Information Guide

Dear participating teachers,

Greetings from the San Diego County Office of Education's Science Outreach Team! We are looking forward to visiting your school site for the ***Splash Science Lab***. Please familiarize yourself with the information detailed in this document. This will ensure an optimal experience before and during the program.

Whether you have participated before or if this is your first program, we hope that that the experience will be academically enriching, relevant, and memorable for your students. Please ensure that you complete a program evaluation. Your feedback will help us continue to modify this amazing program for students throughout San Diego County.

Please review the list below

1. Please submit the Program Schedule and Logistics documents no later than 10 business days after SDCOE staff confirm your program date. scienceoutreach@sdcoe.net
2. There are activities and PowerPoints that will prepare your students for the program. They cover key concepts and vocabulary that are integral parts of the program content.
3. The program activities must take place in an indoor location (multipurpose room, gym, etc.) or where there is adequate coverage from the sun throughout the day. This can be an area with patio-style cover or sunshade sails. If you have portable pop-up tents that will suffice as well. Ensure that the location is large enough to accommodate three 10x10 spaces for the activity stations.
4. Our staff will be arriving in a standard cargo van. We request close access to the program location. This can be a dedicated parking spot in the main lot or a place inside the campus. SDCOE vehicles cannot be driven over curbs, grass, gravel, mud, dirt or other uneven surfaces to reach the program location. Our staff reserves the right to refuse to travel or park over any surface deemed unsafe.
5. SDCOE staff will need to have access to a water source, sink, and possibly a power outlet.
6. Inform all relevant school site personnel of the program date/schedule/location and our onsite requirements (access to a sink, unlocking of gates, etc.).
7. There is a maximum of 30 students for each one-hour session. Minimum requirements for programs sponsored by the County of San Diego are 20 participating students in each of two sessions. Program sessions are approximately 60 minutes. A maximum of four sessions per visit to a school site. Please set the schedule with at least 10 minutes between classes. The first session may start no earlier than 8:00am.
8. Arrive at the program location no later than five minutes before the start of your session.

9. Ensure that your students have nametags on before their arrival to the program.
10. Divide your class into three groups.
11. For programs sponsored by the County of San Diego or the city of Vista, the completion of pre & post-tests is a requirement. Please complete these pre-tests prior to facilitating any of the provided pre-program activities.
12. Our staff will adhere to the most current SDCOE COVID prevention guidelines while onsite. This will include: remaining fully masked during the duration of their time on campus, using hand sanitizer and disinfecting program resources between class sessions, and maintaining proper distance from students, volunteers, and staff. At the discretion of the Program Manager, our staff will also comply with specific school/districts requirements. This must be presented and determined with the Program Manager prior the program date.

The program design of the ***Splash Science Lab*** introduces students to scientific principles, natural systems, and environmental occurrences, specifically those affecting water resources in Southern California. The students participate in hands-on, inquiry-based activities that will address key concepts, such as urban runoff, water conservation, and common pollutants. Our instructors facilitate each station's content through the 5 E's framework. They are connected to Next Generation Science Standards for 4th, 5th, and Middle School.

Activity Station Overview
(You select 3 of the 4 options for your site visit)

Watershed Model

Students will identify and categorize common contaminants into point source or non-point source pollution. They will determine the origin for these pollutants and add them to the model. Students will assist in the creation of a rain event to move the standing pollution through the watershed. They will learn the differences between our storm drain and sewer systems.

Water Quality

Students will test four factors of a water sample from a local source. They will analyze dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, and salinity in order to determine if they are within their ideal ranges. They will also hypothesize the cause for any shift in range and its possible effect on the biosphere.

Microorganism Investigation

Students will identify microscopic organisms in prepared slides to understand the patterns of interaction/relationships between them. They will investigate the effects of common pollutants within a water sample. They will discover which types of organisms are good indicators of pollution.

Life in an Estuary

Students examine the relationships and interdependency of animals within an estuary. They will see how pollution can travel through the food web from smaller organisms to large predators. They will hypothesize how pollution might affect these relationships and alter the balance within the ecosystem.

Please call (858) 290-5986 or email scienceoutreach@sdcoe.net if you have any questions.