



What is FLOW?

FLOW is an exciting opportunity for students and members of the community to learn more about coastal ecology, to participate in the collection of scientific data and to get involved in environmental quality monitoring efforts.

FLOW Citizen Scientists collect plankton samples utilizing plankton nets at the Bolsa Chica Beach and wetlands. They measure and record water quality variables (such as temperature, salinity, nutrients, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH) and other environmental data (such as weather and wind conditions and tide height) in support of the analysis of the plankton which is done under the microscope.

Our citizen scientists are trained on the identification of plankton and are continuously looking for potentially harmful and toxic plankton species in the water. Our data and samples are then sent to The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) in support of their Phytoplankton Monitoring Program.



How can YOU get involved?

If you are a student or an educator...

The Educational Component of FLOW creates a unique learning opportunity for students in grade 6 and up. Through this program, students come to the Bolsa Chica to shadow and help our Citizen Scientists in their monitoring activities and learn about methods, techniques and equipment used to collect and analyze plankton. They will also learn about the importance and applicability of monitoring programs for coastal management and conservation purposes.

We offer a limited number of FLOW shadowing visits per school year, thus teachers and/or schools are encouraged to apply ahead of time. Limited bus transportation funds are available for qualifying schools.

Selected classes and teachers will receive lesson plans and activities they can use to prepare their students for the field trip to the Bolsa Chica. Teachers will also receive lesson plans and student worksheets to use in the classroom after the field trip in order to review what students learned during the visit and to perform further data analyses. All activities and materials are aligned with current and Next Generation Science Standards.

If you want to become a Citizen Scientist...

We are always excited to welcome new volunteers to FLOW. You don't need to have any previous experience to become a Citizen Scientist. We will provide you with all the necessary training and equipment.

For more information, please visit us at

www.amigosdebolsachica.org/flow.php

Contact us by email at flow@amigosdebolsachica.org

Or call us at (714) 840-1575