



SANTA PAULA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 17, 2025

RE: Santa Paula Wild! Project to Bring Expanded Outdoor Learning Experiences
for Santa Paula High School Students

Santa Paula, CA- The Santa Paula Unified School District is excited to announce that beginning in early 2026, Santa Paula High School (SPHS) students will have access to expanded outdoor learning opportunities thanks to Santa Paula Wild!, a new project made possible by a Youth Community Access Grant awarded to the [MERITO Foundation](#). This funding is part of California's "[Outdoors for All](#)" initiative, led by Governor Gavin Newsom and the California Natural Resources Agency.

Santa Paula Wild! blends science education, outdoor recreation, and health and career readiness by connecting students with local watersheds, forests, and coastlines.

Each grade will focus on a specific theme:

9th Grade: Riparian ecology and restoration activities at the Santa Clara River.

10th Grade: Regenerative agriculture and chemistry through SPHS's Farm to Fork Culinary Academy, plus hiking and nature photography in the Los Padres National Forest.

11th Grade: Climate, energy, and sustainability literacy, paired with a STEAM competition and water-based activities such as sailing and kayaking.

12th Grade: Ocean science and coastal monitoring, culminating in a three-day coastal camping experience.

Through Santa Paula Wild!, SPHS students will have opportunities to gain real-world experience through paid internships, mentorships, and job shadowing. Health education will be incorporated through lessons on tobacco prevention.

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