



SALMON PROTECTION AND WATERSHED NETWORK

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Dear Principal;

We are writing to invite the students and teachers at your school to participate on an exciting field trip to learn about and experience our local endangered salmon, and stream restoration and conservation efforts!

We are the Salmon Protection and Watershed Network, (SPAWN), a nonprofit based in Marin County, dedicated to protecting Marin's endangered coho salmon and steelhead populations and the environment on which we all depend.

SPAWN's field trip opportunities offer students a unique opportunity to experience their natural environment while actively engaging in meaningful restoration activities with real conservation impact. Field trips take place among majestic redwoods and riparian forests on Lagunitas Creek in Marin County and are led by trained Creek Naturalists and SPAWN biologist. We are happy to work with teachers to plan a field trip that suits their individual needs and interests. Teachers can choose from the following field trip activities:

- ❖ Naturalist-led creek walks to view the 2-foot long, bright red, spawning salmon during the winter months;
- ❖ Native plant restoration and native plant seed collection along the creeks. Classes are encouraged to participate in two or more consecutive field trips in which students engage in a habitat restoration project and return to monitor its progress at a future date; and
- ❖ Rescue and relocation of juvenile salmon from drying stretches of creek during the dry summer months.

Upon request, **SPAWN's free Teacher Activity Packet** is available for elementary grades. This packet offers hands-on lessons that teach concepts such as the Pacific salmon life-cycle; aquatic foodwebs, and the myriad ecological relations that exist within a watershed. These lesson plans can be used to prepare students for the creek-walk field trip, or as an exciting way to augment your existing natural science curricula. *Elementary teachers will be pleased know that many of the topics covered on our field trips integrate State Life Science Academic Content Standards.*

We ask you to post the attached Field Trip Invitation or distribute copies of it to your teachers so that they may find out about the exciting educational opportunities that SPAWN offers! Please feel free to contact me at (415) 488-0372 ex.102 with questions, to request an activity packet, or to schedule your class field trip!

Sincerely,

Paola Bouley
SPAWN Watershed Biologist

Leah Anderson,
Environmental Education
Curriculum Developer