



SPRING EVENTS AT DEANE DANA FRIENDSHIP PARK & NATURE CENTER

The LA County Parks & Rec department and the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council Sustainability Committee have joined forces for two main Environmental Education events during the year: **Earth Day** (Saturday, April 21st, 2018) and **EcoFest** (in September).

An Overview: Our mission is to promote conservation and environmental education and make a positive impact in our community through civic engagement. We want to play an active role to increase public awareness in the connection between human consumption of resources and the survival of species and biological systems. Our desire is to support and create fun & educational programs that engage families, students in all age groups & college, as well as the general community.

Because there are so many opportunities to promote Sustainability goals, Northwest has invited the LAUSD, Boys and Girls Clubs and other Neighborhood Councils in the Harbor Area to collaborate and create a huge South Bay groundswell of environmental activism.

As our current goals are aligned with the NHMLA and LA City Zoo, we are currently reaching out to a wide variety of local & city organizations & hoping to create a continuing alliance in the Harbor Area that supports the environmental messages the United Nations, the State of California, the County and City of Los Angeles are actively promoting.

Deane Dana Friendship Park & Nature Center currently has a slate of three events scheduled this Spring:



- 1) **Los Angeles County Parks & Rec presents the Natural Areas Reservist Program**
Saturday, March 24, 2018 10am-4pm
For students Grades 9-12 (and graduates)

Become a Reservist & you will get amazing opportunities to work with and in nature. Wildlife Management and Ecology, wildland habitat establishment and management, biodiversity restoration work, outdoor recreation and many other fascinating skills to discover for students who participate in this program. If you are interested in Sustainability and Natural Sciences, this is the program for you!

Sign up for the 2018 ANNUAL CITY NATURE CHALLENGE with iNaturalist.org

Our community is joining the global groundswell effort to help scientists and researchers by documenting the native species around us. Volunteers will be able to attend a **future leadership training (Date TBD)**. Become a leader, then join us on Saturday April 28th for the City Nature Challenge and lead student groups through Friendship Park & teach others to be [Neighborhood Science Explorers!](#)



2) 2018 EARTH DAY FESTIVAL *POSTER PENDING*
Saturday, April 21, 2018 10am-3pm

3) CROWD SOURCING FOR SCIENCE!
The BioBlitz [CITY NATURE CHALLENGE 2018 – South Bay](#) with NHMLA *POSTER PENDING*
Saturday, April 28, 2018 10am-3pm

PLUS a YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING for 2018 BBCNC
Saturday, April 28, 2018 9am-9:45am

Which city can find the most nature? The City Nature Challenge will help us find out!

The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles is coming to Deane Dana Friendship Park & Nature Center specifically to reach out to underserved youth & communities in the **Harbor Area**. Learn how to become a junior scientist. Help photograph & document native species in your community & upload to [iNaturalist.org](#)

The goal is to engage and get students excited about nature, native California species & consider career paths in Natural Area Resource Management & Stewardship, Outdoor Recreation, Environmental Studies, Natural Sciences and Sustainability.

Take The Challenge!



Find Wildlife

It can be any plant or critter in your backyard, schoolyard or park in Los Angeles County



Take a Picture of What You Find

Be sure to note the location of the critter or plant.
Take measurements, describe, the more information the better!



Share Your Observations

By uploading your finding through [iNaturalist](#)
Your observations contribute to real Scientific Research!

Youngsters Help Scientists Study Nature in 16 US Cities

April 21, 2017 7:59 PM Mike O'Sullivan

LOS ANGELES — In 16 U.S. cities, citizen scientists, including schoolchildren, spent a few days this month documenting plant and animal species and helping scientists understand their regions' diversity and the challenges many species face.

The City Nature Challenge, held April 14-18, is a competition that was started last year by the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County and San Francisco's California Academy of Sciences. This year, it involved institutions across the United States. The challenge is to see which city can document the most species; results are to be announced Saturday, which is Earth Day.

"Last year, it was San Francisco against Los Angeles," said Lila Higgins, manager of citizen science at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County. "This year, it's L.A. versus San Francisco and New York and Chicago and Seattle and many, many other cities."

The young citizen scientists took photos and recorded observations on their cellphones, uploading the data through a phone app called **iNaturalist**.



Frank Az, 9, a student at Esperanza Elementary School in Los Angeles, scans an area for bird species. (M. O'Sullivan/VOA)

Frank Az, 9, of Esperanza Elementary School in Los Angeles said he loves observing nature, "finding different species of birds and insects." He was outside the museum with binoculars and a cellphone camera, along with other students.

His friend, Andrea Garcia, was excited as she described finding "two mourning doves in their nest" as well as "ants, bees and a house finch."

The children worked with some adult scientists who monitor species in this region, including Greg Pauly, a specialist on amphibians and reptiles at the Natural History Museum. Pauly said that Los Angeles is one of the world's 35 top biodiversity hot spots, but that the sprawling urban complex also faces "a large threat to that biodiversity."

The children documented their sightings of insects, flowers and birds alongside their teachers. It is something they do regularly at school. Principal Brad Rumble of Esperanza Elementary said the migration of one bird species had captured the children's interest.



Principal Brad Rumble of Esperanza Elementary School in Los Angeles helps students document plant species. (M. O'Sullivan/VOA)

"Every year, we do a contest to predict when will the yellow-rumped warbler first arrive on campus," he said. The students vote, and those who correctly guess the date when the tiny visitor appears get a trip to the Natural History Museum.

"That little bird," said Rumble, "brings up so many wonderings about geography and range and weather, and why does it like this tree? These questions form in students' minds, and they're off and running."

The children are learning many lessons, said museum President Lori Bettison-Varga.

"We are part of this environment, and they are part of this environment — the plants, the animals, the critters that live here," she said, "so it's really helping us to understand how to increase the health of our environment."

And this annual competition, she said, gets people of all ages involved in science.