

4. Education Curriculum – WildLink, Sierra Nevada Wilderness Education Project (NPS, BLM, USFS)



WildLink Project Summary

WildLink delivers science, language arts, and history lessons directly to your students via the WildLink website and brings culturally diverse students from your school to the wilderness of the Sierra Nevada on WildLink expeditions. While on the five-day expeditions, students gather atmospheric, water and vegetation data using the protocols developed by an international science program (GLOBE). The expedition students and their data, journals, photographs, and video clips augment your classroom curriculum – making your science, art and history lessons relevant and personal! Live chats with natural resource professionals add interest to classroom curriculum and special web-based projects on the Buffalo Soldiers of the Sierra Nevada (<http://shadowsoldier.wilderness.net>) and Chiura Obata's Yosemite (<http://obata.wilderness.net>) flesh out the historical context of wild places from culturally diverse American perspectives.

Wilderness is an unparalleled medium for making the natural world come alive for young adults. Research shows that student immersion in pristine settings is often regarded as one of the best experiences of the student's life and has a major impact on personal and intellectual development. In addition, the academically rigorous activities included in the WildLink expedition and the wilderness nature of the expedition itself is shown to improve test scores and affect career interest. Since not all students are able to visit wilderness, the students on the WildLink expeditions serve as ambassadors for their peers in the classroom.

View WildLink at <http://wildlink.wilderness.net>

WildLink is a program of the Forest Service and National Park Service, and is implemented with the assistance of the following partners:

University of California, Merced	The Student Conservation Association
The University of Montana's Wilderness Institute	The University of California Office of the President
NASA's GLOBE Program	The Yosemite Fund
The Arthur Carhart Wilderness Training Center	The Yosemite Institute

WildLink Goals:

- To engage students in the study of wilderness with standards-based lessons and hands-on experiences.
- To encourage students to pursue higher education.
- To provide opportunities for students to pursue careers related to natural resources and wilderness.
- To increase the relevance of wilderness to the culturally diverse student in California.
- To augment classroom curriculum with student experiences, data, journals, and contact with federal land management agencies.

Safety Concerns:

The service providers for the expeditions are the Yosemite Institute and the Sequoia Field Institute. These organizations have exemplary safety records and some of the best-trained outdoor teaching staff in the western United States. While on the expedition, the student is supervised by a school chaperone (usually a teacher), a WildLink staff member, and Institute instructors.

Costs:

The Forests and Parks of the Sierra Nevada, and the Yosemite Institute cover the \$350.00 per student tuition.

Participating Schools:

Atwater High School, Atwater	Reseda High School, Los Angeles
Crenshaw High School, Los Angeles	Sunnyside High School, Fresno
Kingsburg High School, Kingsburg	Turlock High School, Turlock
Livingston High School, Livingston	West High School, Bakersfield
Owens Valley High School, Lone Pine	Woodlake High School
Reedley High School, Reedley	The Detroit Metropolitan Community Center

Contact the WildLink Program Director for more information:

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A program of the Sierra Nevada Wilderness Education Project