



Connecting People With Their Environment
On Behalf Of



SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY
INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
Connecting the Community to Waste Solutions

JOIN THOUSANDS OF LOCAL STUDENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE - AT NO COST TO YOU!

Partnering with SLO County Schools for 30 Years & Counting!



Thanks to partnerships with teachers like you, last year was an incredible year for environmental education. In San Luis Obispo County alone, we delivered **629 interactive, fully funded programs**, empowering nearly **16,000 students** to take real action on recycling and waste reduction.



Our engaging, standards-aligned lessons are **completely free** for your classroom. And **scheduling takes less than 5 minutes!** But dates fill up fast, so reserve your spot now! Keep reading to learn more.

CLICK HERE TO SCHEDULE!

RESOURCE NEWS

2026/2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Hello SLO County Teachers!

We are excited to offer a fantastic set of **FREE** class programs, virtual field trips, and school assemblies for the 2026-2027 school year! Programs are available to grades K-12.



CLASS PROGRAMS



SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES



FIELD TRIPS

WATCH NOW



@mysciencediscovery



Schedulemyprogram@gmail.com



(805) 781-8341

2026 - 2027

PROGRAMS OFFERED

We proudly announce programs for the 2026-2027 school year for in-person and virtual learning. All programs have been correlated to the Next Generation Science Standards for grades K-6. Please schedule soon for best availability. You may schedule for your entire grade level and reserve class programs up to nine months in advance!



Introduction To Recycling

Grades K-8 • 45 Minute Classroom or Virtual Presentation • FREE

In this program, students will learn about natural resources, what can be recycled, and how to reduce waste at home and school. Interactive and fun with a hands-on sorting activity, it's a great program for any grade level. This program is a prerequisite for the landfill field trip.



Vermicomposting

Grades K-12 • 45 Minute Classroom or Virtual Presentation • FREE

Introduce your students to the fascinating world of composting with worms! In this program, students explore worm anatomy and learn how these incredible invertebrates break down everyday food scraps into nutrient-rich soil. We'll bring live red wigglers directly to your room, giving your students time to investigate and observe these amazing decomposers in action. Plus, if you'd like to extend the learning experience, you are welcome to borrow a live classroom worm bin to keep in your room!



The Treemendous Paper Tale

Grades K-6 • 45 Minute Classroom or Virtual Presentation • FREE

This presentation explores the natural resources needed to make paper. Vivid models show the path from tree to finished paper products so that students will learn how paper is made. Your presenter will make a piece of paper live — either virtually from our studio or in-person in your classroom. Students will also learn how many pounds of paper they use each year, and how this resource can be conserved.

PROGRAMS OFFERED



No Place for Food Waste

Grades 3–6 • 45 Minute Classroom or Virtual Presentation • **FREE**

This presentation will explore what happens to food waste when it is thrown out with the trash versus when it is put into your green cart for composting. Students can then use this knowledge to assist at home in composting food scraps. Your class will also learn about decomposition, solids, liquids, and gases with a fun experiment that kids love! This program is a prerequisite for the field trip to the anaerobic digester.



Hidden Hazards

Grades 3–8 • 45 Minute Classroom or Virtual Presentation • **FREE**

This presentation helps students identify items in a typical household that are too dangerous to put in the trash. Hidden Hazards includes activities encouraging students to identify, investigate, and classify items that are considered household hazardous waste.



Marine Debris...Following the Path

Grades K–6 • 45 Minute Classroom Presentation • **FREE**

Marine Debris has become a global issue, affecting our oceans, marine life, and human health. This program introduces the problem, providing students the opportunity to understand how trash reaches our oceans and what happens to these various materials when they become part of the marine environment. Students will make the connection how choices made today will impact marine organisms in the future.

2026 - 2027

PROGRAMS OFFERED



Virtual Field Trip to Cold Canyon

Grades K-12 • 45 Minute Virtual Only Field Trip • FREE

Virtually visit the Cold Canyon Landfill and Recycling Facility to be amazed by and educated about what happens to our recyclables and trash. On this virtual field trip, students will see how their recyclables are sorted and processed by various trucks and machines through a live PowerPoint presentation with vivid photos and video content.

Please Note: Introduction to Recycling is a prerequisite for this virtual field trip.



Doing the ROT Thing...

Virtual Field Trip to the Anaerobic Digester

Grades 4-12 • 45 Minute Virtual Only Field Trip • FREE

This interactive slide program with video content allows students to see, explore, and understand how the Anaerobic Digester facility in San Luis Obispo converts up to 100 tons of organics each day into electricity and compost. The video clips show heavy equipment moving green waste, the shredding machine, and a look into the digester itself with a view of the “digestate”. Doing the Rot Thing provides all the action, but none of the odor!



Be Smart, Use the Green Cart

Grades K-8 • 25 Minute School Assembly • FREE

This school assembly program provides an overview of the importance of diverting school food waste from the trash and recycling to the greatest degree possible. Students participate in a true or false quiz during the slide program portion of the assembly. A highlight of the assembly is the ROT (recycle/organics/trash) Relay where two teams of students are challenged to properly place a variety of school lunch packaging or food into the correct container.

Please Note: This is a school-wide assembly for schools that will be collecting food waste & recyclables in the lunch area. Scheduling the assembly will require approval from your school administration.

SCHEDULE NOW!



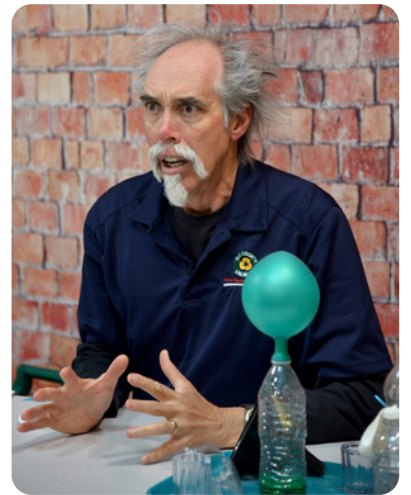
All of our class programs and field trips have been correlated to the Next Generation Science Standards for grades K-6.

Please [click here](#) to see correlations. 

Schedule Your Presentation, Field Trip, or Assembly Below!
It's FREE, FAST, & EASY!

[CLICK TO SCHEDULE](#) 

FREE!



CALL: (805) 781-8341 | EMAIL: Schedulemyprogram@gmail.com



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2026 - 2027

MEET OUR EDUCATION TEAM



Nathan Kapusta, owner of Science Discovery, is dedicated to empowering the organization's education team while meeting clients' outreach goals. Nathan has a background in Business Administration from Cal State Fullerton and brings 15 years of experience in strategic leadership, operational growth, and building high-performing teams. Guided by a lifelong love of science, he blends strong professional foresight with a passion for impactful, environmental-based education.



Mike di Milo founded Science Discovery in 1994, establishing a strong legacy of environmental education. In 2026, ownership transitioned to Nathan Kapusta, ensuring a seamless continuation of the program's core mission. Mike holds a B.S. in Natural Resources Management from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. He continues to support Science Discovery on an as-needed basis, lending his decades of experience to the creation and design of new program content.



Stacey Beveridge is entering her 19th year with Science Discovery. She holds a B.S. in Education from Eastern Michigan University and a California teaching credential. Widely recognized for her exceptional engagement with our youngest learners, Stacey has earned consistent praise from teachers. In addition to her work in the classroom, she manages the complex logistics and scheduling of more than 1,600 class programs and field trips annually.



Dean Thompson brings more than 30 years of experience teaching environmental education along California's Central Coast. He holds a B.S. in Natural Resources Management from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. Now in his fourth year with Science Discovery, Dean consistently shares his wealth of knowledge, expertise, humor, and enthusiasm with every student he teaches.



Nicole Yerena graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz with a Bachelor of Science in Earth Sciences. Dedicated to inspiring students to explore the world around them, Nicole brings valuable hands-on insight to the team from her previous work at Moss Landing Marine Labs and her time mentoring at a high school science camp. Today, she leads a variety of dynamic educational programs, connecting community youth with Science Discovery's environmental outreach initiatives.

2026 - 2027

MEET OUR EDUCATION TEAM



Dana Dragon is beginning her third year with Science Discovery. She has a B.S. in Marine Science from Florida Gulf Coast University and is currently pursuing a MAEd in Environmental Education through Hamline University. She is a scuba divemaster and has a passion for reconnecting people with their environment. She brings this passion into her classroom presentations through engaging and hands-on activities with students, ensuring equity for all.



Mia Alonso earned her Bachelor of Science from UC Santa Cruz before completing her Master of Science in Environmental Sciences & Management at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Her strong background in hydrology and fieldwork includes instructing university watershed labs and leading student field trips to analyze stream velocity and water quality metrics. Mia looks forward to sharing her deep scientific knowledge and passion for environmental education with the students she teaches.



Mason Christian holds a B.S. in Biology from California State University, Bakersfield where he conducted independent research on stream nutrient pollution prevention. He has a strong passion for nature conservation and previously taught as an environmental educator on Catalina Island. Mason has enjoyed delivering engaging classroom programs during his first year at Science Discovery and is looking forward to continuing that environmental outreach at our local schools.



Lauryn Le earned her B.S. in Biology with an emphasis of zoology at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and her M.S. in Conservation and Restoration sciences at University of California, Irvine. During her master's program, she led the Desert Wildlife Internship for underserved high school students at Anza-Borrego. She is excited to utilize her years of experience, ranging from lab work to outdoor education, to teach meaningful lessons.



Kate Campagne recently earned her B.A. in Environmental Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. While in school, she worked as an outdoor educator, leading students through hands-on learning at Goleta's North Campus Open Space, a restored salt marsh in Santa Barbara County. Her lessons focused on native species, geology, species adaptations, and wetland ecosystems. Kate is excited to bring her love for the outdoors to the classroom, inspiring a new generation of student stewards.