

## **POST-TRIP ACTIVITIES**

What? There's more? We truly enjoy celebrating the songs, stories, and culture of the past. But it is our hope that our young naturalists will return to their homes with the realization that they too impact the environment where they live. Students feel *empowered* at Sly Park and here are some ideas that will keep the momentum going at home.

**\_Give A Hoot:** Walk around the school and pick up various types of litter found on the school grounds. Have each student do research on how long a certain piece of litter takes to decompose completely and report back to the class. How does this litter disrupt the ecology of the area? What can be done to help the environment?

**\_Biome Sweet Biome:** Have each student research a particular biome, such as forest, desert, ocean, lake, savanna, tundra, or prairie. Have them think about the ecology cycle in that area and draw or write about the raw materials, producers, consumers, and decomposers in that area.

### **\_A Letter to a 5<sup>th</sup> Grader:**

Your task is to write a letter to a 4th grader about your experience at Outdoor Ed. Include the date. Make sure you include your introductory sentence with what to pack. Some other items you may want to discuss in the letter:

- Cabin Life- What was fun, what wasn't, new friends, showers
- Routine of the Day
- Your Teachers
- Activities- Hikes, Animal Room, Night Hikes, Planetarium, Arts & Crafts, Song, Games, or Skit Night, Carnival, Awards
- Meals- Foods you enjoyed, disliked, food waste, compost
- Advice or any other information
- Sign and print your name

**\_ Sly Park Assembly:** Some classrooms invite family members who did not attend Sly Park into the classroom for a Sly Park celebration. What a great way to let your students shine! Use PowerPoint to share photos, sing a song, create a skit, or share from a journal...

**\*This could be used as a GREAT parent/5<sup>th</sup> grader intro to Sly Park to build up interest!\***

**\_ Read All About It:** Have your students create a publication highlighting their experiences at Sly Park. Include articles, letters, art, maps, poetry—the possibilities are endless! Don't forget to send us a copy.

**\_ The First Californians:** Many students research California Native Americans in third grade. If you haven't done so already, find out which tribe lived in your area. Where are those people now? Is there any evidence of their culture in your area? A good place to start is

<http://www.ceres.ca.gov/nahc/cna.html>

**\_ Happy Habitat?:** Draw a simplified landscape which has a variety of resources including mountains, water, and timber. Divide students into small groups. Cut up the drawing into sections so that each group receives one "piece" of land to design their city (city planners don't know pieces connect). Each town must include a dwelling, food source, water source, power source, and septic system. Now, connect the city plans and investigate how each neighbor is affecting the other. Any river dams? Sewage contamination? Air pollution? Can any of these problems be solved?

**\_ Guess My Waste:** We saw how much food is wasted at Sly Park, but how about back at home? Weigh the waste at your school's cafeteria to see which meal is the heaviest. Can you come up with an alternative menu suggestion? How much waste would this save per year? How about in five years? How many people could this feed?

**\_ Conservation Power:** Many students come up with creative ways to save energy at home and to clean our air. But just how much do each person's actions matter? Let's find out. Research how much electricity various appliances/electronics use and calculate the energy saved when appliances are unplugged. What about if everyone in the class unplugs? And the school?

**6th Grade Action!** What earth-friendly actions are your students doing since their trip to Sly Park? Tell us about it! Send a letter, photograph, or any other materials documenting student environmental actions. In return, you just might see some of them on our website!

Check out the following resources:

- California Department of Conservation: [www.conservation.ca.gov](http://www.conservation.ca.gov)
- Recycling: [www.bottlesandcans.com/index.html](http://www.bottlesandcans.com/index.html)
- California Integrated Waste Management Board: [www.ciwmb.ca.gov](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov)
- California Regional Environmental Education Community Network: [www.creec.org](http://www.creec.org)
- Environmental Protection Agency: <http://epa.gov/kids/>
- Kids Recycling Challenge: [www.kidsrecyclingchallenge.com/](http://www.kidsrecyclingchallenge.com/)
- Natural Resources Defense Council: [www.nrdc.org/greensquad/](http://www.nrdc.org/greensquad/)

## **Environmental Action Projects**

**A Recycling Program**

**A Clean-Up Project**

**A Tree Planting Project**

**An Energy Project**

**A School Garden Project**

**A School Compost Project**