



Marine Ecology Program



Inspire the next generation of environmental stewards and ocean protectors

Every year, over one thousand students come to Fort Ross State Historic Park (FRSHP) to learn about coastal wildlife, ecosystems, and their intersection with cultural history in Fort Ross Conservancy's Marine Ecology Program (MEP).

The Coastal Academy includes citizen science, conservation projects, the MEP, and lectures. We monitor the resident sea lion populations, collaborate with NOAA and other environmental organizations, and are restoring habitat for endangered butterflies.

We are looking for passionate educators who enjoy working with kids to be instructors for the MEP and assist with Coastal Academy initiatives. The instructor serves as a knowledgeable interpreter, facilitating immersive experiences that foster appreciation and understanding of the natural environment and cultural heritage of the area while ensuring group safety.



What we teach:

- **Kelp forest restoration** as part of NOAA's Sonoma coast kelp restoration project. This includes sea urchin dissections.
- **Marine mammal identification and monitoring:** harbor seal, California sea lion and Steller sea lion lessons. This involves a 40 min hike to the sea lion islands.
- **The sea otter fur trade:** the lasting impacts on coastal ecosystems from hunting, sustainable resource use, and wildlife protection.
- **Tide pooling:** Marine invertebrate biology and ecology, and sea star wasting syndrome. May include mussel dissections.
- **Pollinators and winged wildlife** as part of our endangered butterfly habitat restoration and research project.
- **Sand crab and rocky intertidal Surveys**

Training on how to teach each lesson will be provided

Our goal is for students to connect with the natural environment, be inspired to care about the environment and get an idea of what it is like being a marine scientist in the field.



Scan the QR code to visit the Marine Ecology Program website