

Fort Ross Education Fund

Equity in Outdoor Education

All of us with Fort Ross Conservancy (FRC) believe that the key to a bright and sustainable future for our ocean and planet is to ensure that young students interact with nature in meaningful and connecting ways. Our three experiential programs run from just a few hours to several days and are designed for a wide variety of ages. We transform our public lands at Fort Ross and Salt Point into a spectacular outdoor classroom by utilizing the Pacific Ocean's coastal prairie, intertidal zones, offshore rocks as well as the many well-interpreted historic buildings to actively engage our students with the curriculum.

Why Contribute to the Fort Ross Education Fund?

While our booking was robust, our team came to understand we were witnessing first hand inequality in education: far too many schools could not afford to take field trips, and issues such as access and transportation were barriers to engagement. To address this, we launched the **Fort Ross Education Fund**. Our fund provides schools and groups with needs-based sliding scale/fee waivers, as well as transportation subsidies, to remove these barriers. Thanks to generous support from our donors we can now invite schools that would otherwise be unable to participate.



Please consider making a donation today to the Fort Ross Education Fund to ensure we can offer our programming to a wide variety of student populations. This fund supports access to our Marine Ecology, Environmental Living, and Educational Opportunities programs.



Fort Ross Education Fund received initial funding from the California Coastal Commission, California State Parks Foundation, and local private donors.



Our Offerings

Environmental Living Program - The Environmental Living Program (ELP) provides hands-on learning which encourages students to experience the joys of history as active participants, exploring the intersection between humans and their environment. Immersed in the past, students learn about the many cultures by role playing specific individuals who lived at 19th century Settlement Ross. By performing tasks that were part of daily life -- cooking on an outdoor fire, fishing, gathering & processing natural materials, practicing artisanal crafts, and learning old-world dances -- students gain a better understanding of history. Students, parents, and teachers sleep inside the historic compound buildings.



Marine Ecology Program - FRC's Marine Ecology Program provides an experiential and exciting outdoor educational field trip for students, including:

- Exploring the diverse and fragile intertidal zone and its beautiful life forms,
- Learning how to engage in hands-on marine mammal observation, identification, and survey,
- Keeping a field journal to record scientific data, thoughts, and sketches,
- Studying current and historic ecological interconnections,
- Discussing the importance of biodiversity and marine conservation,
- Team building and collaborative learning in an outdoor classroom setting.

Educational Opportunities - For groups that cannot sign up for a full MEP or ELP, we offer one to four hour Educational Opportunities which delve into the marine ecology or cultural history of Fort Ross. Pair this professionally-led tour with other self-guided visits to the historic orchard, cemetery, Sandy Cove beach, tidepools, and a picnic lunch, and you have a day of wonderful activities for your school group!



Our public lands are where we go to recharge and to feel connected to invaluable “bigger than ourselves” systems such as clean air and clean water. Help us share these experiences with the next generation. **Please consider making a donation today to the Fort Ross Education Fund at <https://www.fortross.org/donate.htm>.**

To learn more, contact CEO Sarah Sweedler at sarahs@fortross.org
For information on FRC programs see www.programs.fortross.org and email Director of Programs Song Hunter at songh@fortross.org.

