



# Environmental Volunteers

Innovative environmental science education that improves student learning

## Principles of Sustainability

The Environmental Volunteers believes all children deserve to learn about the natural world through personal exploration, so they can become responsible stewards of the Earth. At the Environmental Volunteers we believe that what children appreciate and love, they will protect.

The mission of the EV is to promote understanding of, and responsibility for, the environment through hands-on science education. Understanding the world around us, and how humans impact it, is crucial for students to be able to make informed choices to live sustainably and thus take responsibility for our environment. To that end, the EV teaches at least one of the following principles of sustainability in each of our activities.

Sustainability is:

- A. **Preserving** our environment from our backyards and schoolyards, to our native habitats like forests and grasslands.
  - We teach our students to show respect for the land. We stay on hiking trails, pick up litter, and appreciate open spaces.
- B. **Restoring** our environment, wherever possible, from human impact, and assisting with the recovery of the species that live there.
  - We teach our students to respect habitats and the wildlife they support, understanding the benefit of restoration projects and nature's ability to restore itself.
- C. **Practicing** responsible use of our planet's resources in sustainable, and appropriate ways, leaving them in good shape for future generations.
  - We teach our students about the full cost of the choices we make in our lives, what resources we use to build our homes, grow our food, and support our daily lifestyles.
- D. **Conserving** the resources of our planet, to "walk lightly" upon the Earth.
  - We teach our students the importance of and techniques for using fewer resources, and using our resources more efficiently.
- E. **Understanding** the beauty of our planet, the elegance of natural systems, and the interconnectedness of all its parts.
  - We teach our students the structure and function of the world around them, which creates the foundation for understanding the complexities of sustainable living.
- F. **Possible!** If we empower ourselves to make change, our efforts will make a difference.
  - We teach our students that California is a leader in sustainability reforms like energy conservation and extensive recycling programs. As Californians, we are role models to our friends, our neighbors, our countrymen, and our planet.