

# Irvine Ranch Water District Community Education

## Where Learning Happens

IRWD has a long history of providing innovative water education to the community and recognizes the significant benefits of lifelong learning. We offer a wide array of learning opportunities designed to teach our customers about the value of water, efficient water use and the importance of protecting this vital resource. Whether through our student education programs, our Always Water Smart Tours, or our public workshops, IRWD brings water education to life for our community.



### In The Classroom

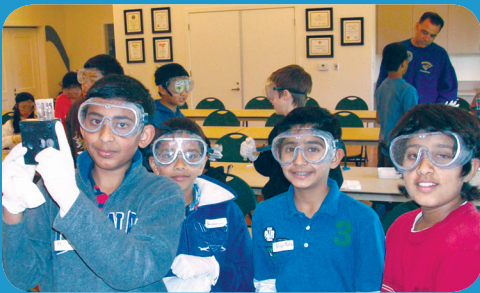
Student water education programs are available to students and teachers from kindergarten through college in any public, private or home school within our service area. We are proud to partner with Discovery Science Center to provide high quality education programming that meets California Science Content standards and reinforces the need to engage in water conservation as a life-long behavior. IRWD also provides customized field trips and in-class lessons for high school and college classes.



**Grade School Programs:** Our grade-specific, assembly-style programs, focus on science, water, conservation and preventing water pollution. Grade-specific topics include: the forms of water, water as a resource, ecosystems, the water cycle, water sources, wastewater treatment and water recycling, energy and resources, and California's water. High-tech individual student-response keypads engage and encourage interactivity during presentations. Also, Students participating in the assemblies receive workbooks featuring IRWD's beloved mascot, Aqua Duck.



**Middle School Programs:** Middle school students participate in a four week hands-on workshop series focused on water chemistry and environmental resources. The highlight of this program is a field trip to the San Joaquin Marsh featuring a tour of the Michelson Water Recycling Plant and an interactive lab demonstration. With an eye toward future careers, students use chemical test kits to determine aspects of water quality; learn about the biological processes involved in treating wastewater; and explore innovative technologies, such as water recycling.



**High School Programs:** High school students can earn community service credit while learning to teach younger students, their families, and community members about water through interactive games, hands-on demonstrations and short lectures. Students in this program put their skills to work at IRWD's *Wild About the Wetlands* community education events.

### Wild About the Wetlands Events

Three times a year participants in our high school water education program host interactive education events at the IRWD San Joaquin Marsh aimed at educating community members of all ages about water topics in a fun and captivating environment. Lessons include games, water quality demonstrations, and presentations – all led by our high school program participants.

### Project WET (Water Education for Teachers)

Project WET is a one-day water science and education workshop featuring comprehensive water science training, curriculum and activity guides, and other resources. The program, offered through a partnership with the Water Education Foundation, facilitates and promotes knowledge and stewardship of water resources.



## Always Water Smart Resident Tours

For more than 20 years, IRWD has kept the public informed and educated about water resources through our tour programs. Always Water Smart Resident Tours, hosted by IRWD Board Members, are offered annually in April and May to promote Water Awareness Month. The tours provide residents with valuable information about IRWD and encourage an open dialogue. In addition to exploring a number of IRWD's facilities, tour topics include IRWD's water quality and supply portfolio; water conservation and efficiency efforts; our allocation-based conservation rate structure; and the District's nationally renowned recycled water program. Additionally, group tours are available for youth, professional, industry, government and community organizations in our service area.



## Events, Webinars and Workshops

In an ongoing effort to help our customers be Always Water Smart, IRWD provides a variety of conservation and water education related workshops, webinars and events. Residential landscape workshops provide our customers with information on California friendly landscapes, best irrigation practices, and other outdoor tips and tools. Additionally, conservation webinars are available on IRWD's website. With these resources, saving water and money has never been easier.



## Speakers' Bureau

IRWD experts are made available to community organizations, associations and institutions in our service area through the IRWD Speakers' Bureau. The Speakers' Bureau allows for a dialogue between IRWD and the public, providing local organizations with the most up to date water related information.

## Fostering Lifelong Learning

The IRWD San Joaquin Marsh Campus is the embodiment of IRWD's dedication to lifelong water education. The location of the Campus at the San Joaquin Marsh provides a wide variety of educational venues and teaching opportunities utilizing the IRWD Natural Treatment System, the Butterfly Garden, and San Diego Creek. The IRWD Learning Center houses community education programs and various environmental education programs throughout the year. The IRWD Visitor's Center (open to the public Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.) provides informative self-guided tours on IRWD's environmental and conservation efforts.



For additional information about IRWD's community education programs, please visit our website at [www.irwd.com](http://www.irwd.com) or call (949) 453-5500.

***IRWD is an independent special district serving Central Orange County, California. We provide high-quality drinking water, reliable wastewater collection and treatment, innovative recycled water programs, and environmentally sound urban runoff treatment to more than 330,000 residents.***

