

Teacher Overview of Fifth Grade Field Study Program
Peace Valley Nature Center

- Up to 90 students may participate in the field study program on a particular day.
- Teachers should organize students into groups of 10-14 students (maximum of 2 groups). Either a teacher or chaperone must accompany each group. You may want to consider taking 2 parent chaperones per class in addition to the teacher.
- One Peace Valley naturalist will lead each small group. The role of the teacher/chaperone will be to supervise the students and hold the data sheets, not to lead the activity.
- Each field study at the Peace Valley Nature Center is a self-contained experience. The students will be rotating through three different experiences over the course of the day.
- The field experiences are designed as an opportunity for the students to experience science in a real and meaningful context. These are inquiry-based studies and discovery is a very important part of this program. In each field study, students will be participating in activities that help them to answer one central question. The goal is for students to develop scientific and analytical skills. We want them to act like real scientists for the day. They should be using scientific processes to gather the information necessary to answer the main question. Some of the skills they will be using are...
 - Observing
 - Collecting
 - Recording
 - Comparing
 - Evaluating
- While it is not necessary to pre-teach any of the information that will be presented during the field experience, it may be helpful to become familiar with the overview of each field study. When possible, discuss relevant vocabulary terms prior to your visit to Peace Valley. Look for opportunities to make connections to the field study before and after your visit.
- Most importantly, stress with your students the importance of “acting like scientists.” Real scientists must carefully observe their surroundings, record data and findings, and evaluate information in order to answer questions about our world.