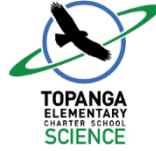


Our Mission: --COVID-19 has adjusted what we activities do, but our mission remains the same: To support and encourage intellectual curiosity and to instill in the children of Topanga an appreciation of our natural resources and a desire to practice environmental stewardship.



EDUCATION:

Topanga Elementary Charter School (TECS) has invested time and resources to develop a one-of-a-kind science educational experience for our children. A sampling of our **Education Activities** is below (in-person activities may be adjusted to accommodate COVID-19 safety protocols):

- **Science Classroom and Science Instruction:** Dedicated science classroom and all students K – 5 receive science instruction.
- **Outdoor Learning Laboratory:** The TECS campus is unique in having *five acres of oak woodland*, including extensive nature trails and an outdoor amphitheater on our campus. We have worked with the Santa Monica Mountains Resource Conservation District (RCD) to develop a curriculum in which *classroom activities are integrated with regular hikes and outdoor learning* among the oaks on our school's nature trails.
- **Dedicated Science Committee:** A team of parents work on a volunteer basis with the principal and science teacher to support the science program and develop and carry out program initiatives.
- **Annual Science Fair:** Every child has the opportunity to undertake a project of their choosing, receive guidance on project development and presentation, then present to parents, families and classmates.
- **Native Butterfly Microhabitat Projects:**
 - Native plant gardens established on campus to support pollinators supported by student tile mosaic blending science, art and campus beautification.
 - 2019 Recipient – Xerces Society for Conservation of Invertebrates, Monarch Restoration Project Award
- **Raptor Day:** All students learn about raptor and reptile biology by interacting with live raptors in our outdoor amphitheater.
- **5th Grade Science Field Trip:** An immersive science field trip, partnering with research education centers.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

We engage in community outreach activities to support our community and teach our children the value of working together to share their gifts with others. A sampling of our **Community Outreach Activities** is below:

- **Butterfly Day:** Partnership with Bill Buerge and the Topanga Mountain Mermaid to produce an annual community event aimed at raising awareness of the critical importance of pollinators to our lives on earth.
- **Xerces Monarch Support Project:** 1600 native pollinator support plants placed at TECS and throughout the community
- **Annual 5th Grade "Science Day":** We work with local and national partners to host the 5th grade class from Hart Street Elementary School for a day of science learning activities. We bring Hart Street students to Topanga and our 5th graders share learning activities in: Native Flora and Fauna in our ecosystem; Watershed Education; Endangered Species; Trout Biology; Raptor Biology, Renewable Energy, and others by leading hikes in our oak woodlands.
- **P22 Day:** We welcome National Wildlife Federation hikers to educate our students about urban wildlife.
- **Topanga Library Speaker Series and Science Poster Display:** The TECS Science Committee invites scientists to speak in public seminars at the Topanga Public Library.

SUPPORT: The TECS Science Committee gratefully acknowledges financial support from:

- Topanga Enrichment Programs; Santa Maria Trails Fund; Arnold and Mabel Beckman foundation; Topanga Mountain Mermaid; Topanga Art & Tile; Angel in Your Kitchen; Love Bug Pizza; Misty and Jared Vest Family; Camp Wildcraft

COMMUNITY PARTNERS: Bill Buerge and the Topanga Mountain Mermaid; US Fish & Wildlife Service; National Wildlife Federation; Xerces Society for the Conservation of Invertebrates; Resource Conservation District of the Santa Monica Mountains; Audubon Society; Topanga Town Council; Raptor Events;; Angel in Your Kitchen; Topanga Art & Tile

CONTACT: Alisa & Kent Land Hill (alisajlandhill@gmail.com; kenthill@microbio.ucla.edu)



TOPANGA
ELEMENTARY
CHARTER SCHOOL
SCIENCE