

## **Ventura Adult and Continuing Education Channel Islands Restoration Project**



### **Project Purpose:**

This project, a four-day student field trip to the Channel Islands, stemmed from EL Civics class lessons addressing Unit #43.1: Government and Law (Environment). Students were learning about environmental conservation, and expressed interest in a field trip to the Channel Islands. They had previously completed worksheets and activities on environmental issues, and wanted to apply those lessons in-person.

The original goals of the field trip were for students to learn about the unique environment of the Channel Islands, gain hands-on experience in environmental field work, share their experiences with fellow students and the community, and foster personal growth through volunteerism. The intention was also for students to learn tangible English and research skills through the trip preparation process.

### **Summary Description of Project:**

Ventura Adult and Continuing Education reached a new height for field trips with the Channel Islands Restoration Project. Fifteen EL Civics students participated in a four-day field trip to Santa Cruz Island to assist the Channel Islands Restoration (CIR) personnel at the University of California at Santa Barbara field station. While there they cut and chipped Eucalyptus saplings

and cleared undergrowth to prepare herbicide applications on periwinkle plants. After seven-hour workdays the students enjoyed trips to different parts of the island to learn about the island's history and unique ecology.

The preparation of the trip was conducted solely by the students. Forty students from two classes were involved in planning all aspects of the trip, including travel, lodging, clothing and equipment. The students research the island on the Internet and made sure that everything was ready for those going on the trip. Through the preparation process they gained valuable skills such as conducting research, and expanded their English vocabulary. Upon their return, students gave presentations to other classes about their experience, and were interviewed by the Ventura County Star newspaper.

### **Evaluation Process and Results:**

The success of the field trip is evident from the comments of the CIR personnel who stated that they had never had such hard-working volunteers, and from the students, who said they did something they never would have done otherwise. The students said that they now understand more about the Channel Islands and environmental conservation, and have educated their families and friends. This project has helped to address specific EL Civics assessments, and has increased the general knowledge about the Channel Islands among other Ventura students and the outside community. Students are already starting to plan for future trips to the Channel Islands, and this project will likely continue for years to come.

### **For more information, please contact:**

Steve Thompson

Ventura Adult and Community Education

805-289-7925

[stevethompson@vace.com](mailto:stevethompson@vace.com)