

Teacher Workshops in Conservation Science

Join Our Professional
Learning Community at the
San Diego Zoo Safari Park!



Apply today for this fully-funded, 3-day, 2-night residential workshop for middle, high, and informal educators. Held each summer at the San Diego Zoo Beckman Center for Conservation Research, educators study the science of saving species worldwide while gathering stories, activities, and lessons framed in the context of conservation science to take back to their communities.

We welcome applications from informal, formal, and pre-service educators who work with 6th – 12th grade audiences. Applicants must either teach a life science or apply in a team of two to three educators with at least one science teacher anchor. We welcome cross-curricular teams!

Join us for a free, one-of-a-kind, hands-on, behind-the-scenes experience in wildlife conservation and leave with new ways to challenge your students to apply textbook knowledge to current biodiversity challenges and inspire their passion for nature.

Teacher Workshops Include:

- All meals & lodging
- Behind-the-scenes experiences
- \$500 stipend upon completion
- Talks from scientists & wildlife care staff
- Conservation science activities and labs
- Access to purchase four continuing education units

Tentative 2026 Sessions:

June 29 - July 1
July 6 - 8
July 13 - 15
July 20 - 22
July 27 - 29

Online Application Period:
February - April 2026

Contact:
TeacherWorkshops@sdzwa.org

Join our notification list and apply online at
science.sandiegozoo.org/teacherworkshops

APPLICATIONS CLOSE APRIL 12TH, 2026



INSIGHTS FROM ALUMNI

“I can take lessons and concepts directly from this workshop and deliver high quality instruction to hundreds of students per year. The students will receive noticeably better lab instruction as a direct result of the past 3 days.”

“Of the nearly 100 professional development events I’ve attended in my 15-year career, this has been one of the most impactful.”

“The lessons become more engaging by connecting students to their world through actual research and conservation work and gives them a sense of being able to do something that makes a difference.”



ABOUT US

The San Diego Zoo's research facility is located adjacent to the San Diego Zoo Safari Park in Escondido, CA. With over 200 researchers here and at field sites around the world year round, we are the largest multidisciplinary research team based at a zoo.

The Community Engagement Team began Teacher Workshops with just 12 local teachers in 2006. Twenty years later, we have trained more than 2,100 educators from 30 countries and all 50 states.

Conservation Science Teams:

- Biodiversity Banking
- Disease Investigations
- Community Engagement
- Conservation Genetics
- Plant Conservation
- Population Sustainability
- Recovery Ecology
- Reproductive Sciences

EXPERIENCE THE SAFARI PARK

The San Diego Zoo Safari Park is home to more than 3,600 animals representing over 300 species. Its renowned botanical collection represents 3,500 species and 1.3 million specimens. Over half of the Park's 1,800 acres have been set aside as protected native species habitat. Teachers will learn how our population of species in managed care contributes to our conservation mission through studies in animal behavior, behind the scenes talks, evening walks, and a wildlife safari.

EXPERIMENT IN THE LAB

In the state-of-the-art Conservation Education Lab, teachers learn through hands-on experiments about the innovative science that our researchers are using to conserve endangered species around the world. Teachers come away with new and exciting ways to engage students with lab-based science in disciplines related to genetics, reproductive sciences, recovery ecology, and climate impacts on species.

EXPLORE FIELD METHODS

In the Eddy Family Outdoor Learning Lab, teachers explore California's unique biodiversity. In this beautiful setting, they have the opportunity to explore methods for habitat monitoring restoration, all while learning diverse ways of nurturing the local biodiversity.



**San Diego Zoo
Wildlife Alliance**