



Friends of Huddart
& Wunderlich Parks



Huddart Park Nature Hikes for Children

Huddart Park Nature Hikes Docent Information

The Huddart Park Nature Hikes is a program offered by the Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks. The Friends is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the local environment and historic legacies of two exceptional parks in Woodside, California. The Friends organization encourages environmental awareness and provides educational opportunities for children and adults while promoting enjoyment of our parks. We are a fun and diverse group of enthusiasts who have adopted the theme of *“hikes, history and horses”* as the driver for the work we do.



Our program is a unique nature hike designed for Kindergarten to 4th grade children to engage them in learning about the local ecology of the redwood and oak woodlands of our Bay Area, native Ohlone culture, and the history of the area. On the hike, the students discover sticky monkey flowers, giant redwood trees, banana slugs, turret spider nests and many other wonders.



For some students we add hands-on, age appropriate activity centers that reinforce what is learned on the hike. Students learn about behaviors and characteristics of predators and prey animals and can compare skulls, scat and photos of many local animals. Another center teaches children about birds, eggs and nesting. A final station is an Ohlone Staves game.

The most important thing for a docent in our program is to enjoy engaging children and helping them learn to explore the wonders of nature. Training is provided.

Details

- Trips are held on weekdays, primarily Tuesday-Thursday. Docents meet at 9:20 AM to prepare for the trip. Field trips are finished by 11:30 or 12:30, depending on the program.
- The K-2 hike is one mile hike, the 3-4th hike is 2.5 miles on various trails. We try to keep our groups to 8-10 children per docent.

- We request that schools provide at least 1 chaperone per 8-10 kids and encourage that children wear nametags.
- We offer field trip fee waivers and sometimes have grant money to help pay for buses for low income schools. The Friends of Huddart and Wunderlich Parks strives to reach underserved students in our community.

Application & Training



Docents interested in our program observe a field trip in action to get a sense of whether the opportunity is a good fit. Potential docents then submit an application and go on a small group training hike. Docents may observe as many field trips as they would like before leading their own hike with an experienced docent shadowing. Once accepted as a docent, volunteers must undergo a fingerprinting background check. We conduct

one training session per year and provide ongoing enrichments for volunteers. Docents are asked to commit to two hikes per month.

Volunteering with the Friends is a rewarding experience. You will share your knowledge of the natural world and love for the outdoors with a large number of children, many of whom are from underserved communities. Our Huddart Park Nature Hikes serves more than 1,000 children each year and volunteers donate hundreds of hours to our programs. Volunteers in our program often form longstanding friendships with other docents. You will have the opportunity to learn about the natural world and interpretive techniques through training and enrichments. Finally, there are many opportunities to learn and socialize through Friends events such as volunteer and holiday receptions, the Folger Stable Speaker Series and co-hosted events with the county and other environmental partners. We hope you will join us!

“This is the best field trip I’ve been on. I was surprised to learn that a majority of my first grade students have never been to a forest. Having visited Huddart Park myself, I was eager to find a way to share its beauty with these children. We so appreciate your help in making this experience available to our first grade students! Thank you!” First Grade Teacher, San Jose.

Contact Info: Please contact the program manager with any questions:

Office: 650-851-2660, Cell: 650-417-5198, Email: kym@huddartwunderlichfriends.org.

We look forward to hiking with you!