



# INSIDE THE OUTDOORS

ORANGE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Educational Services Division  
Curriculum, Instruction & Academic Instruction Unit

Legislative and Public Affairs Committee  
September 12, 2022

## INTRODUCTION

Award-winning environmental education program administered by the Orange County Department of Education.

A unique and hands-on program serving over 120,000 participants per school year.

A leader in hands-on science and social science programs since 1974.



# WHAT WE DO

Our mission is to empower students, teachers, parents and the community to explore natural areas and expand their knowledge, understanding, and stewardship of the environment through our Virtual Programs, Field Trips, Traveling Scientist, and Community programs.



The curriculum created for our programs support current California academic standards and allows students to interact with these concepts in a real-world setting.



# PARTNERSHIPS

Professional staff, with the support of local and statewide partners, facilitate meaningful experiences with a consistent focus on service and data-driven outcomes.



# SCIENTISTS OF THE SEWERS



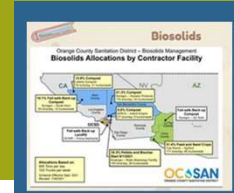
Fifth Grade

Fatbergs, massive clogs in the sewers, are a menace to public health, the community, and the local environment. Students will investigate to discover the sources of these colossal clogs. Then using criteria and constraints, students will work together to design a solution to prevent fatbergs from clogging the sewers, all while developing an understanding of Orange County's sanitation process and how they can help safeguard the community and environmental health.



Middle School

Students will learn about the fragile ecosystem of the microorganisms which play a critical role in Orange County's sanitation system. Students will collaborate and investigate a mock problem which will take them upstream from OC SAN as they test the sewer line to discover where the contaminant is originating. Students will then design a method to safeguard the system or create an argument explaining how changing factors can affect populations within an ecosystem.



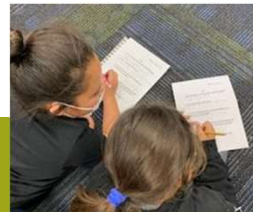
High School

Students will be walked through the process of the Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) uses to separate our enriched domestic waste water from it's trash and valuable biosolids. Students will be presented with an opportunity to test different solutions to reduce the weight and quantity of truck loaded need to transport the biosolids. Students will take their test results and evaluate which solutions will decrease human impact on our local environment and it's natural systems.

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# RESOURCES

Pre- and post-visit activities were developed to allow student participation in class or in a distance learning setting.

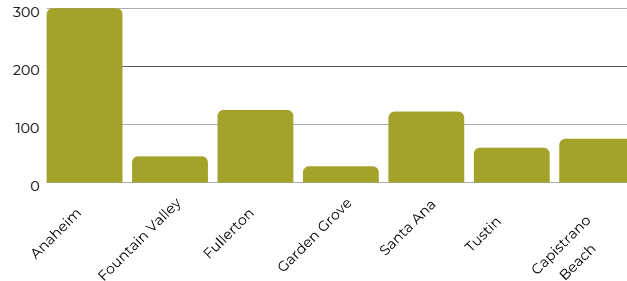


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755 Students Served

Participating Students by City



**755**  
Total number of students served

**27**  
Virtual programs presented

Participating School Districts

Santa Ana Unified School District, Fullerton School District, Centralia Elementary School District, Community Home Education Program, Capistrano Unified School District, Anaheim Elementary School District, Ocean View School District, Magnolia School District



CONTACT

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