

CONGRATULATIONS, FOURTH GRADERS!



Dear Educator,

As a teacher of fourth graders, we invite you to share a new state program with your students that will allow them and their families to enjoy the physical and mental benefits of connecting with the outdoors.

Championed by First Partner Jennifer Siebel Newsom and supported by the Natural Resources Agency and California State Parks, the state's new California State Park Adventure Pass Program waives day-use entrance fees to 19 state parks for fourth graders and their families for a full year—including the summer. The list of selected park units encompasses a collection of features and recreational opportunities, including beaches, museums, redwoods, off-highway vehicle recreation, hiking trails and important cultural history.

Applying for the free pass online is simple. All that is needed from a parent or guardian is a name, address, phone number and an email address. For individuals who do not have access to a smartphone, computer or printer, and/or do not have an email address to use when applying online, they can still apply for a pass by visiting a State Parks Pass Sales Office or by calling (800) 444-7275. For detailed information on the program and the list of participating park units, please visit parks.ca.gov/AdventurePass.

Studies from the Children and Nature Organization indicate that access to parks and greenspace can lead to improvements in children's physical well-being, social emotional learning and academic outcomes, with children experiencing reduced stress and demonstrating more enthusiasm for school.

The State of California believes in the right of all Californians to have access to recreational opportunities and enjoy the cultural, historic and natural resources found across the state. Too many Californians cannot access the state's parks, beaches and outdoor spaces, nor the state's array of museums and cultural and historical sites. Given this, the First Partner, California Natural Resources Agency, and California State Parks are prioritizing efforts to expand all Californians' access to park, open space, nature and cultural amenities. This priority requires reshaping funding and programs to expand opportunities to enjoy these places. Doing so advances Governor Gavin Newsom's strong personal commitment to building a "California for All."

We hope that you can share this amazing new program with your students. Attached you will find a poster with information on the California State Park Adventure Pass Program. Thank you for your contribution to providing children easy access to California's iconic State Park System.