

THE COASTAL DISCOVERY CENTER AT SAN SIMEON BAY and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Office



The Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay is an interactive interpretive center cooperatively operated by NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and California State Parks. The Center is located at historic William R. Hearst Memorial Beach in San Simeon, a popular site for picnicking, swimming, hiking, fishing from the pier and viewing marine wildlife. The Center is in close proximity to the Hearst Castle, California's largest mainland elephant seal rookery, and the Piedras Blancas Light Station. The Center freely promotes all aforementioned partners.

The Center's primary function is to provide education and outreach to the general public and school groups about the natural and cultural resources of coastal California, and to teach to NOAA's Ocean Literacy Essential Principles. Exhibits include a live trout tank to demonstrate the importance of healthy watersheds, Deep Sea Research, local wildlife identification, History of San Simeon Bay, wildlife viewing etiquette, an interactive tide pool and a live plankton video microscope station. Family Exploration Packs and binoculars are available to visitors and children can pick up Junior Ranger Adventure Guides for San Simeon State Park and redeem their badge upon completion.

Special events and programs also occur throughout the year. Saturday programs are offered on the history of San Simeon Bay, pier safari, beach exploration and marine mammals of the central coast. An annual public lecture series is held at the Cambria branch of Rabobank each May and docents are involved in several citizen science programs.

The Coastal Discovery Center is open to the public free of charge during the summer months on Friday through Monday, and Friday-Sunday and holidays during the rest of the year. School group programs are also offered during the week and arranged by appointment at (805) 927-2145.

For more information about hours and special events, call (805) 927- 6575, or visit the website at <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/vc/cdc>.

The **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary office** is located in the Discovery Center building and is staffed during the week. MBNMS deals with local resource protection issues and acts as a liaison between MBNMS and 20 other agencies and NGOs. Office staff is present most days of the week. The public is encouraged to drop by or make an appointment to discuss sanctuary-related issues. For more information, call 805-801-0773 or email Carolyn.Skinder@noaa.gov.



