

Thanks to support from the California Coastal Commission, Renova Fort Ross Foundation, and several generous local donors, FRC can offer scholarships to schools that would otherwise be unable to participate.



Fort Ross Conservancy connects people with the history and beauty of Fort Ross & Salt Point State Parks.

www.FortRoss.org

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Fort Ross Conservancy is a California State Cooperating Association and 501(c)(3) public charity. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should contact 707-847-3437.



**Fort Ross Conservancy's
Marine Ecology Program**



Fort Ross Conservancy offers a one-day or overnight **Marine Ecology Program** for middle and high school students.

Fort Ross State Historic Park, situated on a pristine stretch of Sonoma County coastline, boasts abundant marine mammals, rocky intertidal zones, sandy beaches and waters now protected by the recently expanded Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Fort Ross also has significant cultural history, with its historic buildings and exhibits telling the story of 19th century seafaring and fur trading. At Fort Ross we witness the human impact of resource exploitation and its subsequent but slow recovery. This intersection of natural and cultural history helps to teach ocean stewardship and resource management through the long lens of history.

FRC's Marine Ecology Program (MEP) provides an exciting and academically rigorous outdoor educational field trip for students, including:

- Learning how to engage in hands-on marine mammal observation, identification, and survey
- Exploring the diverse and fragile intertidal zone and its beautiful life forms
- Studying current and historic ecological interconnections
- Discussing the importance of biodiversity and marine conservation
- Team building and collaborative learning in an outdoor classroom setting.



Marine Mammal Monitoring

During MEP, students learn about the different species of marine mammals along our coast and practice identifying them. After an introduction to citizen science and our monitoring methods, students survey our resident pinnipeds using spotting scopes and binoculars to further hone their observation skills. We then record and compare our findings, adding the data to our online database.

Human Impacts & Biodiversity

Learning from our pinniped survey and recent trends, we ask questions and discuss factors contributing to what we are witnessing, covering topics such as threatened and recovering populations and how the interdependence of species affect the wider marine food chain, and the importance of marine protected areas and conservation.

Rocky Intertidal Zone

For those programs that include a foray into the Rocky Intertidal Zone, we “go small and up close” by studying the invertebrates found during low and high tides. We learn to observe these creatures in their natural habitat and discuss our findings in a scientific manner.



Culture & History

Stepping back in time, together we explore the 19th century Russian-American Company outpost of Fort Ross. Reading excerpts from primary documents and visiting historic and recreated structures such as our Fur Warehouse, we learn about the skilled Alaska Native hunters along our coast, the fur trade with China and the beginnings of world trade in what would become California.

Overnights will be spent camping among the redwoods at beautiful Reef campground.



FRC's Youth Scholarship Fund strives to ensure that all students have access to quality outdoor education. FRC can waive fees for schools who would otherwise be unable to participate.

