



Conference Center

The onsite 4,400 square foot educational and conference facility is available for daytime retreats, meetings, and workshops. The commercial kitchen is available for onsite meal preparation or catering. Accommodates 60-75 guests.



"It has been enjoyable, educational, stimulating and as unique an experience for our students will ever have in their young lives. I've organized this trip for years now."

-Elementary School Teacher

About Us

Elkus Ranch Environmental Education is located on 125 acres of coastal grassland just south of Half Moon Bay and has been providing environmental education programs to Bay Area youth since 1975. Educational programs were created specifically to connect the public to the work of the University of California and involve much more than a farm experience. Collectively UCCE offers a myriad of educational services through several programs, all of which are based on research conducted by the university and its partners.

"Coming from a city, the kids have very limited exposure to animals, fresh foods, and open space. It's a treat for us to escape the cramped spaces of the city to enjoy the outdoors and learn more about animals and plants."

-Elementary School Teacher

Contact Us!

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Follow us @ElkusRanch



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Elkus Ranch Environmental Education Center

Environmental Education
Through Hands-On Learning



UC
CE | University of California
Agriculture and Natural Resources | Cooperative Extension



Hands-On Education

Elkus Ranch Environmental Education Center provides hands-on learning experiences for Bay Area children throughout the year. Livestock, gardens, and acres of open space create diverse learning experiences for children and their adult chaperones. The ranch is specifically dedicated to providing these unique opportunities for children with special needs and all facilities are fully accessible.



"We live close to the ocean yet many of our children have never visited it. Elkus Ranch is a great opportunity for these young children to touch, see, hear, smell, and even taste and learn about nature from expert leaders. Elkus Ranch has been their favorite field trip—bar none!"

-Elementary School Teacher

Environmental Education Tours

The Environmental Education Programs at Elkus Ranch are aligned with California's Science Content Standards and provide opportunities to learn about the production of food and fiber, the inter-relationships of plants and animals in their natural habitats, and the importance of environmental stewardship.



Learn about PLANTS

- Plant a Seedling
- Describe the Functions of Plant Parts
- Taste a Flower
- Learn about Seed Dispersal & Composting
- Identify Pollinators

Learn about ANIMALS

- Meet our Goats, Sheep, Donkeys & Chickens
- Explore our Bone & Fossil Collections
- Learn about Adaptations, Predator/Prey Relationships & Food Chains



Lunch at the Ranch

This nutrition program leads children into the garden to harvest fresh produce and then to our commercial kitchen to prepare an entire meal. After preparing vegetable-topped pizzas, salad and dessert, adult chaperones and students enjoy their meal, served family style, complete with linens and a floral centerpiece. This farm to table experience is a great opportunity for children to discover new ways to eat their favorite vegetables while being introduced to a few new ones, too.



Summer & Winter Day Camps

Children ages 6-11 years old can spend the day at Elkus Ranch learning about livestock husbandry, gardening basics, environmental science and nature, and much more!

Family Events



SHEEP TO SHAWL

2nd Saturday in June

- Watch Mr. Wool Shear our Flock of Sheep
- Observe Wool Spinners
- Dye Wool Samples

PRESCHOOL DAYS

Fall & Spring

- Tour Stations Around Ranch Specifically for Pre-K Age
 - Plant a Seed
- Visit the Animals & Gardens
 - Make a Craft



"What an awesome experience! Not only for our children but also the parents!"

-Bob D., Visiting Parent Chaperone