

Appendix C

Splash Field Trip Information

Available months	Mid-February through the end of April
Seasonal attractions	February: Vernal pools are usually full of water and critters. Water levels can vary, due to timing and volume of winter rains. Early March: Pools are still full of critters. Late March: Larger pools have plenty of critters. Early April: Pools are beginning to dry. Critter variety is declining, flowers are beginning to bloom. Mid-April: Peak flower bloom, critters are only in big, deep pools. Late April: Good flower bloom (except in a hot/dry spring); critters remain only in the biggest pools.
Number of classes/day	Splash will host two classes per day, either from the same school or different schools
Buses	Buses must remain on site, as they are needed to transport students between the vernal pools and the Resource Center.
Parent Drivers	Parent drivers/chaperones are expected to stay with students and assist with the field trip.
Typical Day	9:30 am: Students arrive Group A visits the Vernal Pools Group B visits the Resource Center 11:00 am: Groups switch 12:30: Dismissal Lunch Option: You may wish to use a local park for an outdoor lunch.
Scheduling Priority	First come, first-served basis
To Schedule a Trip	Visit www.sacsplash.org to secure an available field trip date. For additional assistance send an email to info@sacsplash.org or call 916-719-4854.

Preparing for the Splash Field Trip

These are suggestions to make your Splash field trip to Mather Field a fun, educational and safe highlight of the Splash Program.

- Recruit adult assistants to help with the field trip (1 adult per 8 students).
- Remind students to dress appropriately. The wind is often strong and chilly at Mather Field. Students should bring a warm jacket and wear layered clothing that may get dirty. Long pants are required on all field trips, to protect legs from scratches. Sturdy, closed-toed shoes are recommended. Boots are preferred.
- Group Composition and Name Tags
Several of the field trip activities require that students be grouped according to the critter(s) they have studied. This requires that students be grouped into the three, color groups designated on the Critter Group Assignment Sheet in Lesson 6.

Students must have a name tag bearing their name and a clear indication of the color of their group: orange, green or yellow. Teachers have used colored stickers, markers or paper to designate these colors.

- Snacks are highly recommended for the mid-point of the field trip. Consider asking a parent to bring a large bag of pretzels, or other “clean” snack without wrappers. Students will not have access to water or waste bins at snack time.
- Encourage students to review their Vernal Pool Portfolio prior to the field trip. Students should be prepared to be the expert for their critter(s) and flower during the field trip.
- Review Splash video.

Recommended Items for Students to Bring

Long pants
Comfortable walking shoes or waterproof boots (preferred)
Jacket (rain coat if wet)
Drinking water
Hat or visor

Recommended Items for Teacher or Parent to Bring

Snack for students
First aid kit
Antihistamines or allergy remedies (during April)
Drinking water
Camera
Binoculars