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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Living Coast Discovery Center Receives Field Trip Grant From The National Park Foundation**

**Chula Vista, Calif. (Feb. 3, 2016)** – The [Living Coast Discovery Center](#), a nonprofit zoo/aquarium on San Diego Bay in Chula Vista, is one of 186 federal sites selected to receive a 2016 field trip grant from the National Park Foundation, the official charity of America’s national parks. The grant will fund transportation for the Living Coast Discovery Center’s Refuge Living Labs program, which is supported by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

This grant, part of the Foundation’s [Open Outdoors for Kids program](#), supports the White House youth initiative [Every Kid in a Park](#).

“It is inspiring to see the National Park Foundation and many other partners step up to support our goal of getting fourth graders and their families into parks, public lands and waters that belong to all Americans,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. “These generous grants will ensure children across the country have an opportunity to experience the great outdoors in their community while developing a lifelong connection to our nation’s land, water and wildlife.”

National Park Foundation grants have made it possible for more than 400,000 students (including this year’s grantees) to visit national parks and other public lands and waters.

“We want to help people everywhere, from all backgrounds, discover how national parks, forests, wildlife refuges, and other public lands and waters are relevant to their lives, and the best way to do that is to give people the opportunity to experience them first-hand,” said Will Shafroth, president of the National Park Foundation. “Through our grants that provide funding for transportation and in-park learning, we are able to connect youth and their families to these special places and inspire people across the country to find their park which, in turn, can foster a lifelong connection to all that public lands and waters have to offer.”

Refuge Living Labs is a standards-based field trip program that gives students an opportunity to explore the San Diego Bay National Wildlife Refuge, which surrounds the Living Coast Discovery Center. The program allows students to learn about the ecosystem that thrives within the Refuge. The Every Kid in A Park Transportation Grant will provide bus transportation for fourth grade classes that might not otherwise have an opportunity to learn the value of refuges and explore the outdoors.

“The 2016 field trip grant will provide school children with the opportunity to participate in hands-on, interactive learning experiences that encourage an exploration of the outdoors,” said Ben Vallejos, executive director of Living Coast Discovery Center. “We are excited to work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in instilling a sense of wonder and appreciation for the wildlife that surrounds the community.”

For the full list of grantees, and their projects, visit [www.nationalparks.org/everykidinapark](http://www.nationalparks.org/everykidinapark).

**ABOUT THE NATIONAL PARK FOUNDATION**

The National Park Foundation is the official charity of America's national parks and nonprofit partner to the National Park Service. Chartered by Congress in 1967, the National Park Foundation raises private funds to help PROTECT more than 84 million acres of national parks through critical conservation and preservation efforts, CONNECT all Americans with their incomparable natural landscapes, vibrant culture and rich history, and INSPIRE the next generation of park stewards. Find out more and become a part of the national park community at [www.nationalparks.org](http://www.nationalparks.org).

**ABOUT THE LIVING COAST DISCOVERY CENTER**

The Living Coast Discovery, a 501(c) 3 educational zoo and aquarium located within the San Diego National Wildlife Refuge on San Diego Bay, began operating as a non-profit in 2010 after assuming operations of the Chula Vista Nature Center. The Living Coast Discovery offers hands-on exhibits and up-close encounters with more than 350 plant and animal species native to Southern California coastal habitats, including endangered sea turtles, sting rays, leopard sharks, jellies, shorebirds, reptiles and a large collection of raptors such as hawks, falcons, owls, American bald eagle, golden eagle, and more. More information about the Living Coast Discovery Center is available at [www.thelivingcoast.org](http://www.thelivingcoast.org) or (619) 409-5900.

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