

Environmental Leadership Retreat

What: The goals of this three-day, experiential seminar are to provide an understanding of and appreciation for chaparral/coastal ecosystems, develop a permanent reconnection with Nature, and to acquire the tools necessary to foster compassionate self-awareness and environmental leadership.

Course Schedule

Day One (Friday afternoon/evening): *Becoming aware of personal and social potentials and constraints.* We will participate in a number of engaging group activities that will focus on finding and enhancing our personal strengths and identifying patterns that will assist us in developing a deep connection with Nature.

Day Two (Saturday): *Understanding Local Ecosystems.* Through field experiences, discussions, and small group workshops, we will provide an examination of chaparral/coastal habitats, the organisms that live there, and the processes that shape their evolutionary and ecological journeys.

Day Three (Sunday morning to noon): *Navigating the social environment.* Once we have developed the tools to reconnect with Nature and local habitats, we will explore how to apply those tools to successfully advocate for the natural environment. This will include discussions concerning how to resolve disagreements to reach common ground, the lost art of logic, strategies to avoid logical fallacies, and how to maintain hope during a time of serious global challenges.

Who: Junior/Senior Environmental Studies college students who have expressed an interest in environmental leadership. Seminar will be limited to 10 students.

When: October 11-13, 2019.

Where: The seminar takes place in Goleta (up the coast from Santa Barbara) at a private beachfront location. Students have the option of sleeping in an open dorm/tent facility with several others, or their own tent if they choose to bring one.

Arrival: Registration begins at **4PM on Friday, Oct. 11.** It is important students arrive prior to or by 4PM to participate in the initial introductions. The program ends at 12 noon, Sunday, October 13. Students should participate with the expectation that they will complete the full 3-day program.

Requirements: Upon acceptance, students will be asked to complete an initial survey of their experiences and perceptions concerning the natural environment. Several seminar readings will also be required prior to and during the seminar. To facilitate the seminar process, students are expected to remain on site, participate in all activities, and refrain from use of electronic devices for the duration. **Students have the option of leaving their cell phones/laptops at home or surrender them on site** (returned after Sunday morning's activities). An emergency phone will be made available.

Food: Meals will be provided at the main house including Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Sunday breakfast (taco dinner/breakfast burritos/sandwiches/spaghetti dinner/bagels and fruit breakfast).

What to Bring: Camping gear (sleeping bag, pillow, toothbrush, etc.). There will be two, four-person tents and a three-walled building for sleeping. You can bring your own tent if desired. Clothes for beach and cool evening activities. Journal and writing materials. A restroom with a shower will be available in the main house. Feel free to bring extra snacks.

Transportation: Via your own vehicle, carpooling or train (we can pick you up at the Goleta Station).

Suggested Donation: \$75. Can be offered during the seminar.

Instructors

Richard Halsey, Director, California Chaparral Institute (CCI)

Richard W. Halsey is the director of the California Chaparral Institute, a non-profit research and educational organization dedicated to the preservation of California's native chaparral ecosystem and supporting the creative spirit as inspired by Nature. Richard earned Bachelor's Degrees from the University of California, Santa Barbara in environmental studies and anthropology, and has taught biology/environmental science for more than four decades.

Rochelle L. Gaudette is the Director of Education (CCI)

Rochelle L. Gaudette is the co-facilitator of CCI's Chaparral Naturalist Program. Rochelle has dedicated the past decade inspiring a love of Nature in others and inspiring a familiarity with local ecosystems. She is a leader in San Diego Natural History Museum's Canyoneer Program and a naturalist for Friends of Rose Canyon, San Diego. Rochelle has been a contributing author to several publications including *Coast to Cactus*, a comprehensive trail guide to San Diego's wildlands.

Nathan Serrato, Ecological Leadership Coach (CCI)

Nathan Serrato co-founded and helps facilitate CCI's Chaparral Naturalist Program, now in its sixth year. He also manages the Escondido Creek Conservancy's outreach, communication, and volunteer programs. Nathan has a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies and Communications from Cal State University, San Marcos, Nathan is a certified life coach and is developing an innovative life coaching program for the LGBTQ community.

Anne Dabb, Environmental Studies, Cal State University, San Marcos

Anne Dabb teaches in the Philosophy Department and the Environmental Studies Program at California State University, San Marcos. Anne's academic interest in the ecological, economic, and socio-cultural impacts of large-scale development projects has broadened into a holistic focus on sustainability and environmental ethics.

Additional Info: Email naturalist@californiachaparral.org