

## **Wildlife Exploration: Session 3 - Weather Extremes**

Instructors: Rachel Ameche and Jenni Buchanan

**Course Description:** Fires and floods, winds and drought--Oh my! These weather events are a constant threat in Southern California, and the Ventura County wildlife have evolved in diverse and fascinating ways to survive them! In this immersive class, we will explore and discover the natural history of local species and the unique SoCal weather systems that drive their behaviors. We will venture outside to see how our diverse local habitats are affected by these weather phenomena, discuss why they happen (and why they may be happening more frequently) and learn how wildlife has adapted to survive and thrive in these environments.

**Materials Needed:** A nature journal will be provided, and the students will need to bring it to each class. Students also need to be prepared to walk outdoors and will need to come with walking shoes, sunscreen and weather appropriate clothing. A pair of binoculars is highly encouraged. We will have some available to borrow, but students may end up sharing.

**Important Note:** This is a field class, and some classes will be held off campus. We need to be in touch with parents to update them on field trip plans which may depend on the weather.

Additionally, we need permission to drive your student in our cars to and from the locations of the field trips. As field trips are somewhat dependent on availability of the sites and the weather, they will be confirmed the previous week. A text message or email confirmation of parental permission **will be requested for each field trip.**

**Grading:** grading will be based on participation