Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley educates school children to respect wild animals

More than 1,300 students in Santa Clara County have participated despite the COVID-19 pandemic severely limiting in-person learning, the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley (WCSV) has continued its free educational programs through virtual visits to classrooms and other online meetings.

“Teachers are looking for ways to keep their students engaged during distance learning,” says Michael Chen, Outreach Coordinator at WCSV. “We are able to bring captivating video presentations to their classrooms that offer a change of pace during these difficult times.”

WCSV has presented virtually over 45 times, reaching over 1,300 students in Santa Clara County through individual classroom visits, and a district-wide after-school presentation open to all students and their families.

Presentations educate students on how to coexist peacefully with local wildlife, what to do if they find sick, injured, or orphaned wild animals, and what the rehabilitation and release process is at WCSV.

Teachers have the option of requesting information tailored to a specific unit topic or area of interest.

“The seventh grade Next Generation Science Standards in California emphasize a strong understanding of Earth’s spheres and their interconnectedness,” says Joyce Tang, a seventh-grade science teacher at Thomas Russell Middle School in Milpitas. “The presentations perfectly addressed the idea of connections, from how food chains connect one species to another, to how humans traverse and encroach into the wildlife habitat.”

Free presentations: Grades K-12

WCSV presents at no cost to all grades K-12, extracurricular groups, and adult groups. Interested parties can register online at wcsv.org/outreach, or email Michael Chen at mchen@wcsv.org.

WCSV Facts

Established in 1993, Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley (WCSV) is a wildlife rehabilitation hospital dedicated to providing sick, injured, and orphaned wild-life with exceptional free care, rehabilitation, and the opportunity for release.

WCSV also aims to educate the public about coexisting peacefully with local wildlife. Each year, WCSV takes in over 6,000 native animals with the goal of rehabilitating and releasing them back into the wild.

For more information on WCSV, visit: www.wcsv.org