PORTS
Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students

Pictured above: Live videoconference from Anza-Borrego Desert State Park to an elementary school classroom

What is PORTS?

▶ A **FREE** distance learning program that uses the power of California's K-12 High-Speed Network (HSN) and the educational potential of live videoconferencing to help schools teach **common core state standards** in the context of California State Parks.

Why PORTS?

▶ Live, interactive presentations that include science, history, language arts and other academics.

▶ Fully developed units of study including support and follow up.

▶ Programs that allow students access to park experts regardless of their geographic location or economic status.

DISTANCE LEARNING WITH CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS

How it Works:

PORTS provides teachers and students with all the elements necessary to participate in lessons that use state park resources to address various academic content standards.

On-Line, On-Demand Resources

The first feature of PORTS is to provide teachers and students with lesson plans, digital video, digital images, and other media materials from the PORTS website. These materials prepare students for the second feature.

Videoconferencing

Videoconferencing between the classroom and a park provides real-time, two-way, audio and video communication. Videoconferencing allows park staff to look directly at students sitting miles away in a classroom and engage them in conversation.

The "EduGator" is our mobile vehicle for connecting wirelessly to classrooms from Crystal Cove State Park.

For more information visit: **www.ports.parks.ca.gov**

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Some of the units of study available:

- Tide Pool Ecology from Crystal Cove State Park
- Redwood Ecology and Salmon Life Cycle from North Coast Redwoods
- Elephant Seals from Año Nuevo State Reserve
- The Gold Rush from Columbia State Historic Park
- Earth Science from Anza-Borrego Desert State Park
- Ancient Civilizations from Hearst Castle State Historic Monument
- Weather and Climate Studies from Baldwin Hills Scenic Overlook
- Your Voice in Government from California State Capitol Museum
- *New!* Angel Island Immigration Station from Angel Island State Park
- *New!* Science of Habitat Protection & Restoration from Crystal Cove State Park

How to get started:

Contact your IT staff to ensure the technological capability of your school. You will need a high speed internet connection and a standards-based videoconferencing unit, or a camera-enabled computer or tablet device. Contact us or visit our website at **www.ports.parks.ca.gov** to get more information.

The PORTS Program is a service provided by California State Parks and supported by a wide variety of educational and technology partners.

PORTS aids students' education and increases their knowledge and appreciation of the valuable resources in state parks. *Contact us today to get your classrooms connected!*

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