

Fourth Graders Visit Folsom Dam's ARWEC as Part of the Every Kid in a Park Presidential Initiative

On Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2015, fourth-grade students from Foulks Ranch Elementary in Elk Grove, California, enjoyed their first visit to the American River Water Education Center (ARWEC) at Folsom Dam. The students enjoyed a tour of ARWEC, activities in the school house and lunch held at the picnic grounds and water-wise gardens.

The fourth-graders were then escorted to the Beals Point recreation area at Folsom Reservoir for a short hike while learning about the American River watershed, the benefits of Folsom Dam and the impacts of the drought.

ARWEC's mission is to increase the public's knowledge of the American River watershed - its natural features as well as human interactions within the watershed. Emphasis is on increasing the public's understanding of the water cycle and watershed and how individuals can actively participate in resource conservation. Folsom Dam's multiple roles in supplying water, controlling floods and generating hydropower are also highlighted.

ARWEC's Water Wise Garden features drought-tolerant native trees, flowers and grasses in a beautiful landscape design. Best management practices are used and displayed in the garden.

ARWEC welcomes fourth-grade visitors as part of President Obama's *Every Kid in a Park* initiative (www.everykidinapark.gov/). The initiative provides free access for every fourth grader and their family to 2,000 federally managed lands and waters (after 12 years, every school-age child will have been able to visit these public sites for free, inspiring the next generation to be stewards of our nation's shared natural and cultural heritage).

