



Southern Region Updates

Sophia Barwegen, Coastal Discovery Center
Volunteer Program Coordinator

Overview

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About the Coastal Discovery Center



Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay

Established: Summer of 2006

- Closed for two years (2020-2022) due to COVID-19
- Reopened on Memorial Day Weekend of 2022

Hours of Operation: Friday, Saturday, Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(FREE)

Staff:

- Sophia Barwegen- Volunteer Program Coordinator
- Michele Roest- Southern Region Program Coordinator and Community Liaison

Coastal Discovery Center

Developed in partnership with California State Parks, San Luis Obispo Coast District to highlight “the relationship between the land and sea”.



Coastal Discovery Center: New Exhibit

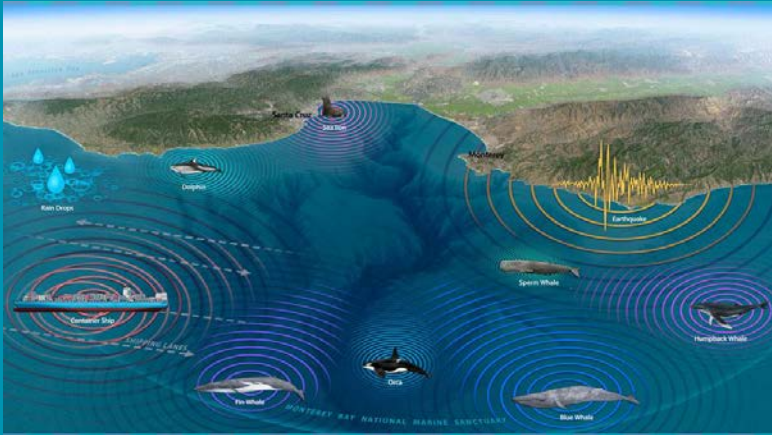
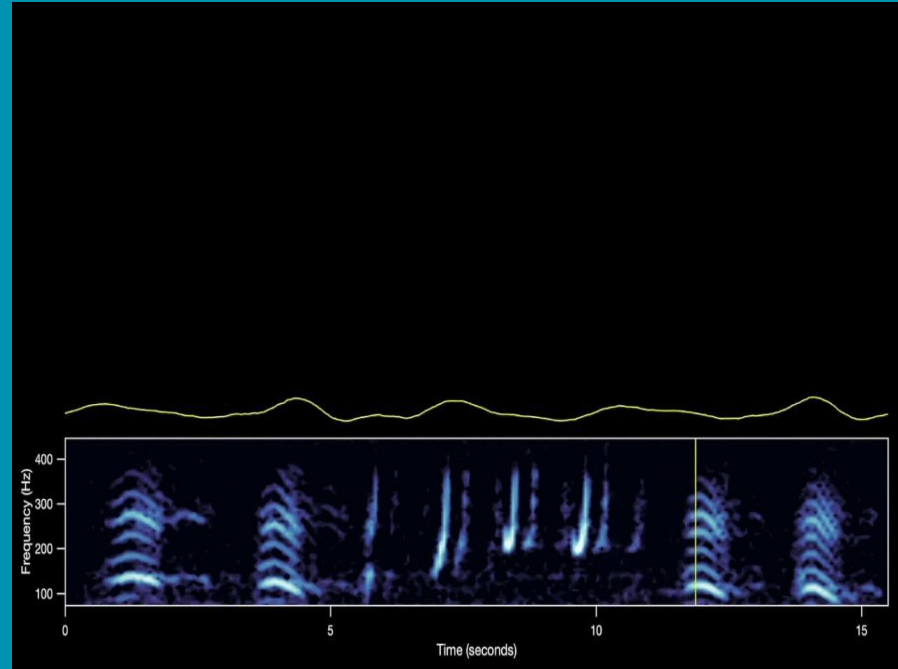


Exhibit: Sound in the Sanctuary

Major Partner: MBARI

Research Highlight: SanctSound



Coastal Discovery Center: Visitation

Coastal Discovery Center: Visitation Statistics

Since opening on May 27th, 2022, the Coastal Discovery Center has greeted 10,090 guests! So far, in May, there have been 207 visitors.

- Month with the highest visitation: July (1,487 visitors)
- Month with the lowest visitation: December (401 visitors)

Most common demographic groups that visit the center:

- San Luis Obispo County Locals
- Central Valley Families and Fishermen (coming in via Highway 46)
- European Tourists
- U.S. Based roadtrippers driving Highway 1

Coastal Discovery Center: Volunteerism

Coastal Discovery Center: Volunteerism

Volunteer Docent Program:

Coastal Discovery Center volunteers serve as docents in the visitor center, education assistants on field trips, and ambassadors of MBNMS.



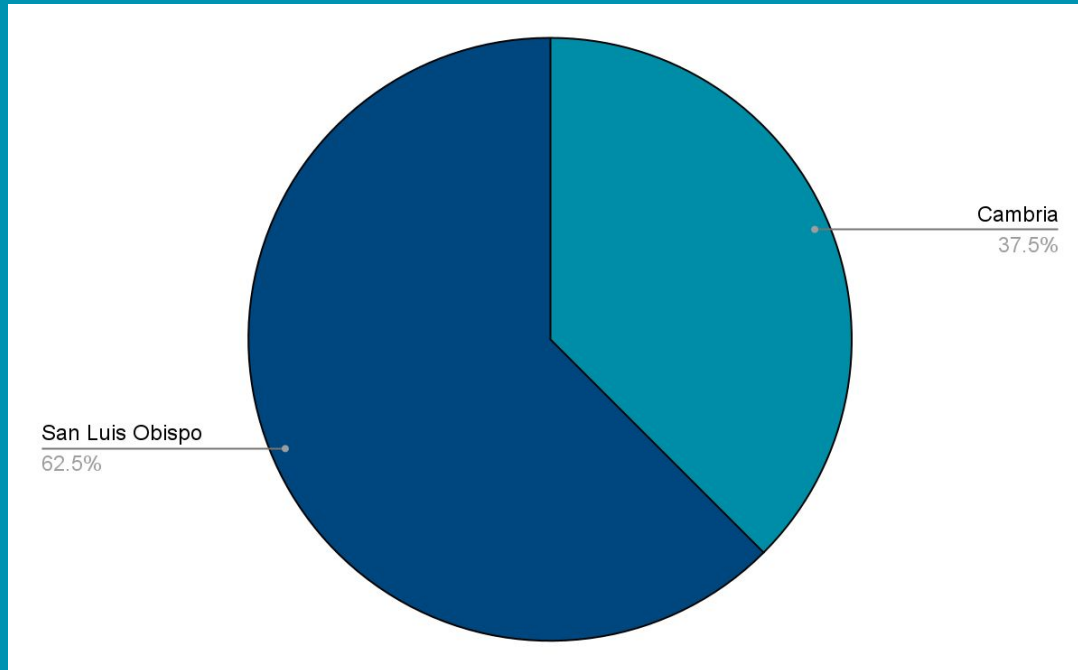
Coastal Discovery Center: Volunteerism

Our docents commit to a minimum of 6 months of service with 7 hours of volunteering per month.

- **Opening Weekend:** 4 Volunteers
- **Currently:** 16 Volunteers
 - 7 of the 16 are currently in our 2023 “Docent-in-Training Program” (hybrid training model)
- **Hours of Service Completed Since Reopening:** 656.5 hours
 - *Honorable Mention: Lisa Antrim, 148 hours of service since reopening*
 - Value of Service: \$19,662.18

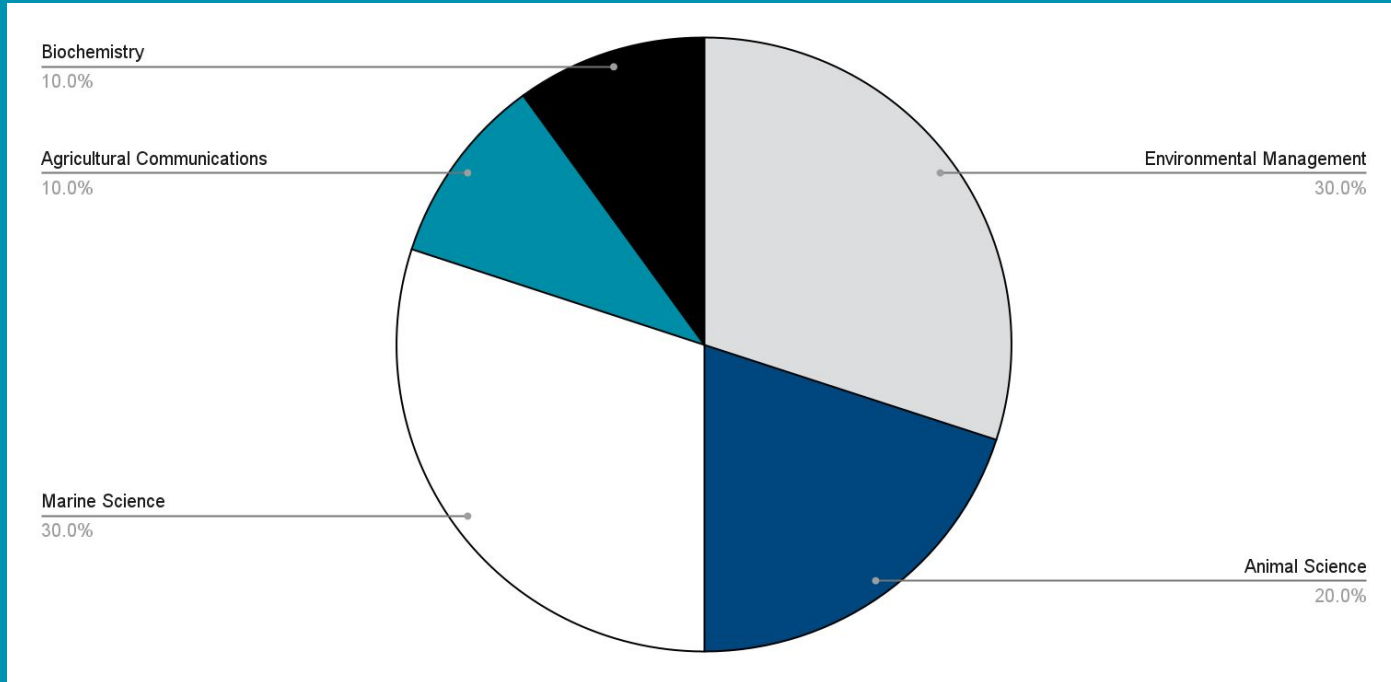
Coastal Discovery Center: Volunteerism

Where are our volunteers from?



Coastal Discovery Center: Volunteerism

What majors are our Cal Poly student volunteers?



Coastal Discovery Center: Education Programs

Coastal Discovery Center: Education Programs

Number of Education Programs Complete Since Reopening: 37

- **In-person Programs: 13**
- **Virtual Programs: 24**

Number of Students Served: 766

Number of Schools Served: 29

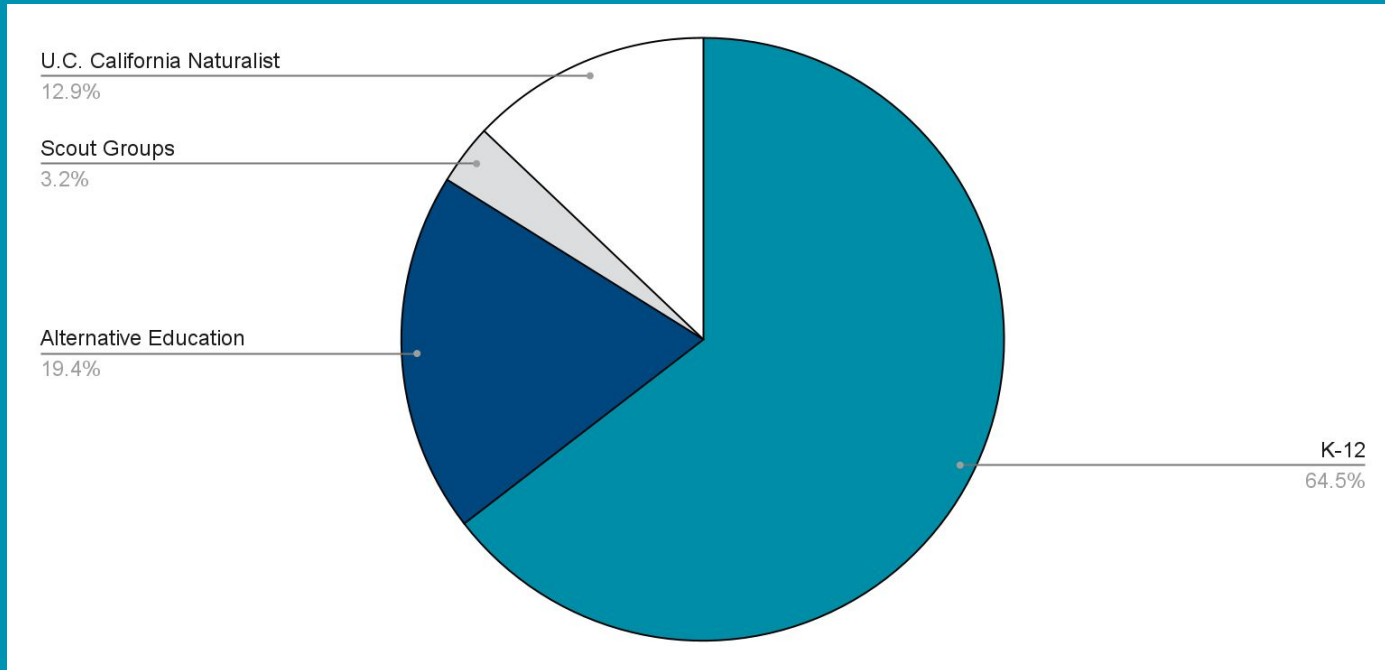
Number of Counties Served: 7

Remaining Programs for the 2022-2023 School Year: 7



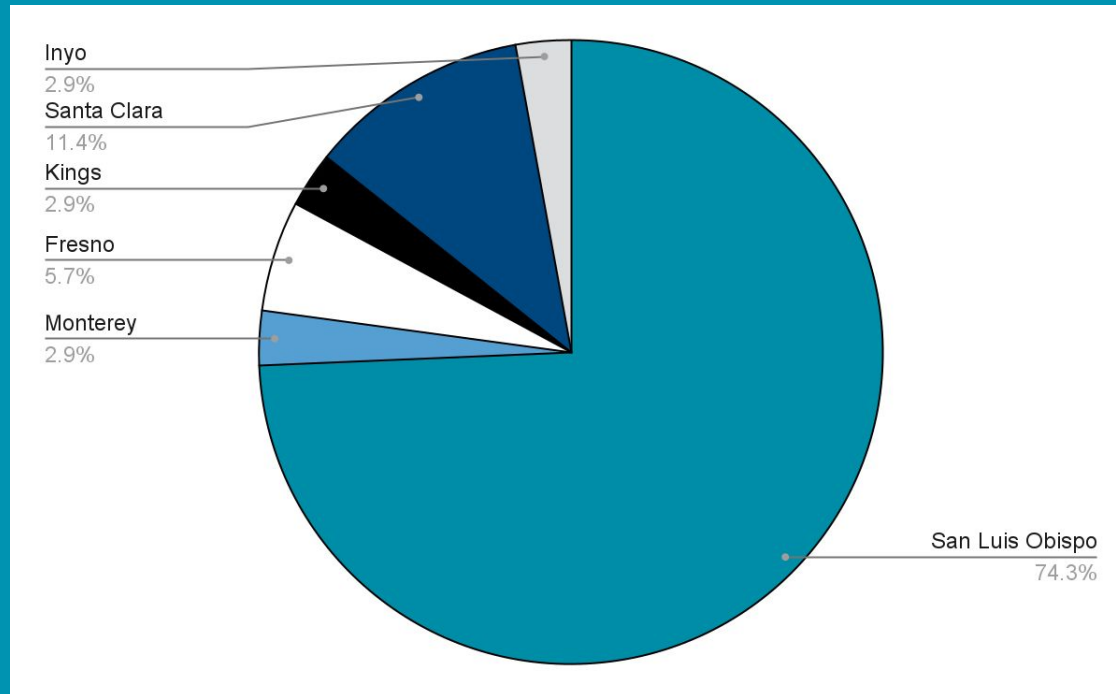
Coastal Discovery Center: Education Programs

Types of education programs are being run at the Coastal Discovery Center



Coastal Discovery Center: Education Programs

Counties visiting the Coastal Discovery Center for education programs



Coastal Discovery Center: Public Programming

Public Programming

Public Programs Offered Since Reopening:

- CCSPA Retail Pop-Up
- State Parks Biodiversity Day
- 50th Anniversary of NOAA
- Snapshot Day- Southern Region Hub



Next Planned Public Program: Get Into Your Sanctuary

- Saturday July 29th from 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 - CCSPA, State Parks, CDFW, and Cambria Fishing Club
 - FREE!



Southern Region: Elephant Seals

Northern Elephant Seals

The Coastal Discovery Center is located 4.3 miles south of the Piedras Blancas Rookery. In the winter, W.R. Hearst Memorial Beach is the temporary home of male northern elephant seals.

- ESAG Monthly Meetings (Elephant Seal Advisory Group)
- Elephant Seal Social Media Campaign Partnership with State Park, National Park Service, Friends of the Elephant Seal, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo



Thank you for listening! Any questions?



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