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## Students Learn Watershed Ecology and Mentoring Skills On Local Creeks and Rivers

### *\$25,000 Gift from Oracle Helps Ignite Passion for Scientific Inquiry and Environmental Stewardship*

*San Jose, CA – June 13, 2018* – More than 1000 students from 39 classes rolled up their sleeves and pant legs to get their hands and feet wet this school year in the museum's BioSITE program. Participants learned first-hand about water quality, the protection of plants and animals, and qualities that make up a healthy watershed in the year-long course work. A \$25,000 contribution from Oracle helped make this year's success possible.

Students rub elbows with real scientists during the program, which brings together field work conducted on local waterways with real scientific methods of observation, research and documentation. The teens learn valuable mentoring and facilitation skills by teaching elementary students to conduct water quality tests and record and interpret data throughout the year. Through scientific inquiry all the participants see the impact their choices have on the environment and the relevancy of science in their every-day lives. BioSITE was recently awarded the "Superintendent's Award for Excellence in Museum Education" by the California Association of Museums.

"We couldn't offer this intense field research and outdoor classroom experience without the generous support from enlightened sponsors like Oracle who help make this type of hands-on learning possible," said Biret Adden, BioSITE and environmental education manager at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. "It's so exciting when the students see the direct impact they can have on the world. Our evaluations indicate that after a year of BioSITE, elementary and high school students are more likely to perceive themselves as scientists."

Teachers also benefit from professional development that teaches how to use the BioSITE field work in classrooms to inspire science learning and environmental stewardship.

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## [About Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose](#)

With over 150 interactive exhibits and programs, **Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose** is one of the largest museums of its kind in the nation. Since opening its doors in 1990, the museum has welcomed over 8.6 million visitors and has offered new exhibits each year that respond to children's diverse educational needs. The striking 52,000 square foot purple building was designed by Mexico City-based architect Ricardo Legorreta and is a beacon of discovery. Encompassing the broad themes of community, connections and creativity, hands-on exhibits invite self-directed, open-ended explorations. For more information about the Museum, visit [www.cdm.org](http://www.cdm.org).

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