

Watsonville Wetlands Watch  
DOCENT GUIDE

TEACHING TIPS FOR DOCENTS

(Note: These teaching tips come from experienced docents and teachers. For class management tips, see the guide by the same name in this Docent Resources section.)

**INTRODUCE YOURSELF:** You are the host or hostess. Stay in front of your group and make eye contact.

**BE FRIENDLY:** Remember, actions speak louder than words.

**ASK QUESTIONS:** Begin by finding out what the students already know about the subject. In general, the more questions you ask, the better the students will learn. They'll remember their answers better than any facts they are told.

**KEEP THINGS SIMPLE!** When giving facts or explaining something, speak simply and clearly, and always add a few interesting details.

**BE EXCITED!** The most important thing you can share with the students is your enthusiasm for the Watsonville Wetlands!

**REPEAT YOURSELF:** Better yet, ask the students to repeat back to you what they have just learned. Repetition is a key to storing new knowledge in long-term memory.

**FINISH WITH REVIEW QUESTIONS:** At the end of a session, engage the students with rapid-fire questions about the lesson - questions that they should be able to answer easily. Students love knowing that they've learned something new!

**THANK THEM FOR VISITING THE SLOUGHS!** As a good host or hostess, remember to thank the students for coming to learn about the Watsonville Wetlands.

Revised 3/09