



Erin Peterson
Principal

Roseville City School District
BLUE OAKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
8150 Horncastle Avenue
Roseville, CA 95747
771-1700



Derk Garcia
Superintendent

Nature Bowl

What is the Nature Bowl?

Nature Bowl is an annual science based educational program for 3rd - 6th graders that increases ecological knowledge and conservation literacy. In team settings, students eagerly learn about the environment while building teamwork skills and sharpening their creative and critical thinking abilities. Nature Bowl, currently in its 32nd year, is coordinated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and partner organizations.

How Does Nature Bowl Work?

During Nature Bowl, teams of Sacramento Valley and Northern/Central Sierra Nevada elementary students in grades 3-6 work together in science and nature-based activities. Each team consists of a coach and 3 to 9 children who participate in one of two divisions. One division is for 3rd/4th grades; the other division is for 5th/6th grades. Teams register for a specific semi-final site where they will compete with other teams. Two teams from each semi-final site will advance to the finals. Although Nature Bowl is competitive in format, the competitive aspect of the program is de-emphasized, so all students feel comfortable and achieve success in learning.

Who Can Participate?

Blue Oaks will send a team of up to 9 fourth grade students and a team of up to 9 fifth grade students coached by [Mrs. Wells](#). **The participants need to attend after school meetings on Thursdays from 3:00-4:00 pm November - April.** Nature Bowl will take place at the Placer Nature Center on April 2nd. **In addition to the meetings, the participants will have assignments to be completed at home. If your child is selected for Nature Bowl, a \$30 participation donation per student will be needed in order to cover costs. Scholarships are available for students who need financial support.**

How Do I Become a Team Member?

- Turn in application and essay to Mrs. Wells by October 29, 2018.
- Once the application is received, you will receive a study guide for a test on October 30, 2018.
- Top 9 scores in fourth grade and top 9 scores in fifth grade on the test and essay will be invited to participate.

What Types of Activities Do the Teams Participate in?

The Semi-finals and Finals each consist of a series of rounds in which teams are presented with different environment-related activities and questions. The topics and concepts addressed have been carefully tailored to align with California's state Next Generation Science Standards and the Environmental Education Initiative and generally relate to local or regional environments.

Nature Bowl Application

Student Name: _____

Parent Name & e-mail: _____

What are your before/after school activities, and what days do you participate in these activities (**Please note that Nature Bowl practices will take place Thursdays after school from 3:00-4:00 November - April**):

Every Blue Oaks Nature Bowl team member is required to personally adopt a cause for the environment and write a one-minute long “Environmercial” about it. The cause should be something that you personally care about. It could be something very specific such as working to protect a threatened or endangered species. Or it can be something such as helping to save a local habitat or working to conserve some natural resource. **However, it must be something that directly relates to the Central Valley or Sierra Foothills of California.** You are expected to become an “expert” about your cause and are required to propose solutions to the problem.

Essay: On a separate sheet of paper, please explain why you would like to be on the Nature Bowl team and what cause you would be interested in researching and why.

By signing below, I acknowledge that Nature Bowl is an academic club that will require regular attendance, homework and parental participation/support. I also understand that my child will be expected to complete work outside of the club time and turn in projects by the due date. Lastly, I understand that failure to meet the above stated requirements may result in my child being dropped from the club. If your child is selected for Nature Bowl, a \$30 participation donation per student will be asked in order to cover costs. Scholarships are available for students who need financial support.

Parent Signature: _____

Student Signature: _____

Timeline

October 15, 2018 - Applications go out.

October 29, 2018 - Applications and essays are due and given to Mrs. Wells by end of school day. Once the application is received, the student will receive a study guide for the test on October 30th.

October 30, 2018 - Test administered during the school day.

November 5, 2018 - Selections for club will be announced. Selections are based on the quality of the application and results of the test.

November 15, 2018 - First Meeting