

This weekend ENC to hold 12th Annual Spring Faire

Come and join the fun at the Environmental Nature Center's 12th Annual Spring Faire and Butterfly House Opening on Sunday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Faire will feature a Youth Art Exhibit, native plant sale, crafts, face painting, sing alongs with local performers, nature games, live native animals, and delicious food and beverages from local restaurants. More than 3,000 people are expected to attend.



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Photos courtesy of ENC

A monarch butterfly on milkweed

Orange County's only butterfly house will re-open at the Spring Faire. Visitors can observe native butterflies interacting with locally native host and nectar plants. Native plants will be available for sale. Native plants draw butterflies and birds, save water, reduce pesticide use and showcase color throughout the year.

Attendees can experience dishes and beverages that local restaurants will offer at ENC's "Savor OC". Confirmed restaurants include Damasq Café, Rita's ice Custard Happiness, Kean Coffee, Sensitive Sweets, White House Catering, Pie-Not, Three Seventy Common Kitchen + Drink and Al's New York Café. Local restaurants and catering companies are encouraged and invited to participate.

Guests can also purchase a reusable ENC bag for \$5, their ticket to the Craft Crawl presented by Girl Scout Troop 2917. This year's crafts feature endangered wildlife from California, such as Salt Marsh Bird's Beak, San Mateo Thorn Mint, the Green Sea Turtle, Northern Spotted Owl, the Wolverine and the El Segundo Blue Butterfly.

Attendees can get a relaxing massage from Greet the Day staff.

Children ages 4 - 18 will exhibit their art at the Youth Art Showcase. This year's theme is "Creativity and Climate Change." Prizes provided by Art Supply Warehouse, Saddleback College Fashion Program, and the ENC's Nature's Gifts store will be awarded to first, second and third place winners in four age categories.



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Youngsters take a closer look at ENC wildlife

At 10:45 a.m., the Young Singers of Orange County will perform on the Fire Circle Stage. At 12:45 p.m., guests can enjoy a live Bird of Prey presentation. At 11:15 a.m. and 1:45 p.m., children can sing along with Save the Queen Green. The Metropolitan Water District will also conduct a presentation on California's drought.

Face painters will paint butterflies and caterpillars on participants' faces, and henna artists will create beautiful designs on hands and feet. Fees from these attractions will benefit the ENC's environmental education programs.

Live hawks and owls from the OC Bird of Prey Center and a variety of arthropods, courtesy of Francisco the Bug Guy, will also be on display.

For more information, call 949.645.8489, ext. 103, or email lori@encenter.org.

Environmental Nature Center is located at 1601 E. 16th St., Newport Beach.

www.encenter.org