

## ENC celebrates 45 years

In celebration of its 45th anniversary, the Environmental Nature Center is offering a calendar of 45 low-cost and free events planned for the year. The community is encouraged to participate. Events are listed at [encenter.org/visit-us/upcoming-events](http://encenter.org/visit-us/upcoming-events).

The ENC was founded in 1972 from land that was considered little more than an eyesore. After Newport Harbor High School constructed their Olympic-sized swimming pool, the excess soil was dumped near a gully that ran behind the adjacent Newport-Mesa Unified School District administrative offices. Nearby land was little more than a lot full of weeds previously used for an agricultural program. Dedicated and determined science teachers and student volunteers eventually turned the soil into a home for a living nature laboratory.

Since its inception, students from throughout the community have been invited to explore, maintain and nurture the land, all while learning to both use and respect its resources. The ENC has become a leader and authority on ecological responsibility, sustainability and environmental education.

"The 45 events the ENC has planned for this year are geared toward educators, families, children and adults," said ENC Executive Director Bo Glover. "There is something for everyone!"

Programs scheduled throughout the year include:

Citizen Science and Teacher's Night Out workshops teach educators how to incorporate hands-on learning for their students through applied science and outdoor exploration.

Campfire programs are geared to bring the community together to listen to stories, sing or play music, hang out with loved ones and make new friends.

Reading in the Redwoods and Little Naturalist programs introduce young children to nature and provide opportunities for families to spend time together in the outdoors.

The Adult Speaker Series provides monthly opportunities for adults to gather, socialize over wine and hors d'oeuvres and gain knowledge about interesting, timely topics.

For more information, call 949.645.8489, and visit [encenter.org](http://encenter.org).

