

RAIN BIRD® LEARNING CENTERS AT CAL POLY POMONA'S BIOTREK PROJECT FAQ

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RAIN BIRD LEARNING CENTERS AT CAL POLY POMONA'S BIOTREK PROJECT

WHAT IS IT?

Rain Bird plays an important leadership role as a major partner in Cal Poly Pomona's BioTrek Project. Through Rain Bird's partnership, Cal Poly Pomona's BioTrek Project emphasizes the sharing of knowledge, values and behaviors that embrace nature and the ecological and biological sustainability of rain forests on Earth. Rain Bird is committed to the "hands-on" education-based project that reaches out to thousands of K-12 students.

The Project is composed of three learning centers. The Rain Bird Rainforest Learning Center, a 3,500 square-foot, freestanding greenhouse structure with displays and curriculum emphasizing tropical rainforest architecture, plant adaptations, plant-animal interactions, animals of the rainforest and the impact of humans in these environments. The Rain Bird Rainforest Learning Center demonstrates Rain Bird's commitment to the preservation of resources and conservation.

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The Rain Bird Aquatic Biology Learning Center provides learning opportunities centered on aquatic species, coral reefs and Southern California freshwater streams. The Rain Bird Ethnobotany Learning Center is a pavilion surrounded by outdoor gardens of chaparral and coastal sage species, and provides visitors with an overview of the effects people have on the plants in Southern California.

WHY BIOTREK?

The BioTrek Project is a natural extension of Rain Bird's commitment to the "Intelligent Use of Water" through product design as well as education. The BioTrek Project is a tangible, full experience for students and visitors who may never have the opportunity to see a tropical rain forest, and to understand the role and unique adaptations of fish and plant life in a multitude of environments. It is Rain Bird's hope that visitors gain a strong involvement and connection with the environment and that the BioTrek Project facilitates a responsible attitude toward future conservation issues.

WHERE IS IT?

The Rain Bird Learning Centers are located 32 miles east of downtown Los Angeles on the 1,400-acre campus of California State Polytechnic University in Pomona, California (Cal Poly Pomona).

**WHAT DO THE LEARNING CENTERS
TEACH?**

The Rain Bird Learning Centers within the BioTrek Project educate students and visitors on the importance of environmental conservation, and how the future is linked to present conservation efforts. The abstract ideas of 'species diversity' and 'mutuality' come to life when visitors see the many insects and animals, epiphytes and plant life existing in harmony.

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WHAT IS ITS HISTORY?

The BioTrek Project began in 1990 as a rain forest simulation set up in a small prep room in the Department of Science at Cal Poly Pomona, then was relocated to the roof of Building 8 on the Cal Poly Pomona campus. In 2002, it expanded into its three-learning center incarnation.

WHO BENEFITS?

In broadest terms, everyone. Specifically, anyone interested in interactive learning about the various aspects of the Earth's ecosystem including medicines, plant-animal interactions, aquatic biology, biodiversity and threatened or endangered species. BioTrek not only enables research by graduate students and faculty, but also provides an educational opportunity that is unprecedented -- for inquisitive parents and students at any age or grade level.

**CAN THE LESSONS OF BIOTREK
BE CONTINUED IN CLASSROOMS
OR AT HOME?**

Yes. Another illustration of Rain Bird's commitment to the "Intelligent Use of Water" is the company's Rain Forest Teaching Curriculum, an educational tool for grades K-12. The curriculum was developed by Rain Bird in partnership with Cal Poly Pomona and is available to all educators, students and parents at www.rainbird.com. The Rain Forest Teaching Curriculum and the BioTrek Project illustrate a 'highest and best' partnership between industry and a university to create a program of true significance and universal application.

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**WHY THE FOCUS ON
RAIN FORESTS?**

The Rain Bird Rain Forest Learning Centers show how critical water is to every form of life. A rain forest's physical density and numeric diversity of plant and animal species best illustrates the long-term implications of the global ecosystem. Rain forests are pivotal to earth's environment. A tropical rain forest can receive as much as 400 inches of rain in one year. Rain forests are constantly humid and evaporate large quantities of water into the surrounding atmosphere. This evaporated water forms clouds above the rain forests, eventually resulting in rainfall -- both in the rain forests themselves and around the world through a complex interaction of wind, temperature and geology.

ABOUT RAIN BIRD:

Based in Glendora, Calif., Rain Bird Corporation is the leading manufacturer and provider of irrigation products and services. Since its beginnings in 1933, Rain Bird has offered the industry's broadest range of irrigation products for farms, golf courses, sports arenas, commercial developments and homes in more than 130 countries around the world. Rain Bird has been awarded more than 130 patents, including the first in 1935 for the impact sprinkler. Rain Bird and The Intelligent Use of Water™ is about using water wisely. Its commitment extends beyond products to education, training and services for the industry and the community. Rain Bird maintains state-of-the-art manufacturing assembly facilities in the United States, France, Sweden and Mexico <http://www.rainbird.com>.

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