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Chevron supports student *Science, Technology, Engineering and Math* (STEM) education with Inside the Outdoors

COSTA MESA, CA, FEBRUARY 14, 2014 – In the past three years, Chevron Corporation, with local offices based in Brea, has given Inside the Outdoors Foundation \$250,000 in funding to support K-12th grade student learning in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education programs.

Funding received in 2014 marks the third consecutive year that Chevron has provided support to Inside the Outdoors programs, demonstrating the company's ongoing commitment to science-focused education.

“STEM education is critical to producing a workforce that can compete in the global marketplace,” said Hector Infante, manager of policy, government and public affairs at Chevron. “Investments developed through programs such as Inside the Outdoors are also investments in the long-term success of our company.”

Since 1974, Inside the Outdoors has been providing hands-on programs to students across Orange County and in parts of the Inland Empire and Los Angeles County. Our programs utilize nature's classroom to stimulate children's innate curiosity and sense of play to create a learning environment that builds the foundation for students to pursue STEM-related careers.

Inside the Outdoors (ITO) operates under the umbrella of the Orange County Department of Education but receives no tax-based funding to run its programs. Therefore, ITO's foundation relies heavily on the generous support of private funders such as Chevron to keep the program thriving.

Unfortunately, the downturn in the economy has made it extremely difficult for schools to provide anything for students beyond basic instruction. Some 70 percent of the students who attend our program are from low-income schools and receive sponsorship to attend. Many of the students have never been beyond the concrete streets of their neighborhoods, even though they live just minutes from the beaches, forests, and mountains that are part of Southern California's many natural treasures.

Chevron's funding will provide *S3: Students, STEM, and Service-Learning* education experiences in local Orange County parks and natural areas for **15,500** K-12th grade students and **630** teachers. STEM-based student projects will impact an additional **31,000** students, parents, teachers, and community members through peer-to-peer teaching and science fairs. More than **47,130** participants will connect to STEM-learning through nature's classroom as a direct result of Chevron's support of ITO.

"We greatly appreciate Chevron's generosity, allowing students from urban communities to experience and Inside the Outdoors program and to interact with nature's living laboratory," said Pam Johnson, executive officer for Inside the Outdoors. "We believe the focus on STEM fosters a love of science that encourages environmental stewardship and could even set the foundation for a career in science."



Photo caption 1: A fifth-grader works with an Inside the Outdoors naturalist to record water quality data near a pond at Rancho Soñado in Silverado Canyon.

Photo caption 2: A fifth-grader records her findings on an iPad supplied to the Inside the Outdoors program with the generous support of Chevron.

For more information about Inside the Outdoors, please contact Lori Kiesser, Development Officer, at (714)708-3889.

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