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FAIRFIELD-SUISUN CITY, CALIFORNIA

Registration opens for popular Solano Water Institute for Teachers

By Daily Republic Staff

FAIRFIELD — The second Solano Water Institute for Teachers is set Aug. 3-5 and will include visits to county parks and open spaces and a boat tour of Lake Berryessa.

The Water Institute is designed to provide K-12 educators with the knowledge, skills and tools to effectively teach watershed science and land preservation from a locally relevant perspective, the Solano Resource Conservation District said in a statement.

The district hosts the three-day workshop. Participants receive a $200 stipend, and teachers can claim 21 hours of continuing education credit.

“This program was a huge success last year. The place-based learning experiences have been carefully crafted to help educators teach environmental science by connecting students to the environment they live in, developing a sense of

ownership and care for local natural resources, and encouraging youth to explore parks and open spaces in the county," Shea Kinser, education program manager for the district, said in the statement.

The first day is at Rush Ranch where participants will learn about the Suisun Marsh and related environmental matters. Day 2 includes the Berryessa tour with information provided by representatives from Solano County Water Agency, the state Department of Water Resources, the city of Benicia, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the state Water Education Foundation.

The final day focuses on hands-on training using the award-winning Project WET curriculum at Fairfield's Dunnell Nature Park and Education Center.

The Project WET curriculum aligns with the state-mandated Next Generation Science Standards and the Environmental Education Principles and Concepts outlined by the California Environmental Education Initiative, according to the statement. It provides a teaching tool for both classroom teachers and informal educators.

Registration is available at solanorcd.org under Educator Workshop. Space is limited, so early registration is encouraged. A waiting list will form in the order of submitted registration.