

July 24, 2013

Erika Swanson led a hike in Eaton Canyon for seven faculty of the Armory Center for the Arts, who are teachers in their "Children Investigate their Environment" program. The program teaches 4th and 5th graders, combining arts and science.

The hike was to be from 5:30 - 7:30PM starting at the gate by the Wilson Toll Road bridge, but that gate locks at "sundown or dark" which is vague. So the hike started at the Nature Center, since that gate locks at 7pm.

Erika: I went with a group of Armory Center for the Arts teachers to Eaton Canyon, to point out things that a geologist sees and help develop activities for them to incorporate more earth science into their 12-week program for 4th and 5th graders. We started out by the Nature Center there, pointing out the presence of the San Gabriel mountains, and their well-defined edge result from the Sierra Madre fault. I mentioned, too, a few aspects of plant life that are relevant, such as how the plants that grow in the riverbed are different from the ones on the hills, and how geologists have used this to estimate local climate in the past. After pointing out layering on the side of the dry streambed, I answered questions about the rocks within the streambed, and their histories. They seemed particularly excited about the story behind the little dikes. We then moved to the bridge, and I pointed out a few more things about the rocks on the wall there, including small fractures and faults, and answered the teachers' questions about geology. They requested activities for kids, and I will continue to work with them on that in the coming weeks.