



Bienestar

Building housing, hope and futures

Audubon Family Outing

May, 2011

Outcome Report

On Saturday, May 7th the Audubon Society of Portland hosted a trip to Cannon Beach for Bienestar residents living in Forest Grove. In attendance were three children, three adults, two Bienestar staff members and four from the Audubon Society.

Attendance numbers were lower than expected due to two families cancelling at the last minute due to illness, unexpected work obligations, and the unfortunate prediction of rain in the forecast. Those who did attend were rewarded with an outstanding trip which was modified due to the inclement weather. Instead of visiting the Cannon Beach tidal pools, as originally planned, Audubon staff decided that the group's first stop would be the seaside aquarium.

On the bus ride to the coast, Audubon staff Andrea, Lelonie, and Gladys talked about the birds and animals the group could expect to see. They led games and discussion which taught the children and adults about these creatures and helped everyone prepare for what laid ahead during the day.



At the aquarium, visitors had the opportunity to feed the seals and view some of the fish, crustaceans, and plant-like creatures that call the Pacific Ocean home. The children enjoyed getting up close and personal with anemones, urchins, star fish, and sea cucumbers in the "touch tank" tidal pool. Steve from the Audubon society was very knowledgeable of the many creatures on display and, along with aquarium staff, explained what makes them all unique.

After the aquarium, the group had lunch at Cartwright Park located in Seaside, under a newly built roof structure. As the group ate their packed lunches, Audubon staff pointed out various tree species located in the park and explained how to identify them.

Since it was no longer raining, the group then went to Arcadia Beach, just South of Cannon beach. There, participants had a chance to examine a beaver chew,

learn how the moon affects the tides, and wonder the beach on their own. During this stop, the sun finally came out, providing some warmth as everyone explored the small tide pools and examined the interesting formations of the sandstone bluffs.

Next, the group stopped at Haystack Rock, where the Audubon society provided the group with binoculars and scopes to search for tufted puffins. None were spotted, however harlequin ducks, oystercatchers and a variety of gulls were all seen on the rock.

One final stop was made in Cannon Beach where everyone had the opportunity to explore the town, visit the shops, and buy coffee, ice cream or snacks before returning home to Forest Grove.

Bienestar is grateful to the Audubon Society of Portland for hosting the trip, giving resident the opportunity to experience the Oregon Coast, and educating them about the plants and animals that call this area home.

Respectfully submitted,

Javier Urenda
& Aleksi Merilainen

