

# The Land Conservancy OF SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

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## Santa Margarita Demonstration Forest Starts School with a Fresh Look

Fourteen members of the Santa Margarita 4-H Garden Project, led by Judy Shakley, prepared the Demonstration Forest (DF) at Santa Margarita Elementary School by weeding, mulching and beautifying the site before the start of the new school year. The annual back to school forest service project has been a Santa Margarita 4-H tradition for many years.



Santa Margarita 4-H Garden Project volunteers.

Student volunteers participating in Cal Poly's Week of Welcome Group #302, led by Casey Allard and Robin Garcia, followed up the initial preparation with a stewardship service project at the DF by cleaning and organizing the tool shed, clearing weeds, refreshing tree signs, mulching, watering, and more. Cal Poly forestry student and "Learning Among the Oaks" Trail intern, Valerie Grant, also led some of the WOW volunteers in helping water and mulch young oaks along the trail area behind the school.



Cal Poly WOW Group 2010 volunteers.

During both work parties, the volunteers got a lot done and had fun. Perennial Santa Margarita Community Forestry volunteers George Sullivan and Jack McCabe assisted with green waste pick-up for both work days.

Special thanks to these 28 volunteers as well as all past volunteers who have made a big difference for all who use and enjoy the DF. The DF is located on the grounds of Santa Margarita School (along the H St. entrance) and has been maintained by Santa Margarita Community Forestry volunteers since 1997.

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**Santa Margarita Community Forestry** is a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting conservation and stewardship of Santa Margarita's community forest through education and volunteer service. The group envisions a healthy and beautiful town landscape supported by residents who appreciate its natural value to present and future generations. Since the beginning, emphasis has been on working with local children to provide opportunities for hands-on outdoor learning experiences. Santa Margarita Community Forestry has operated as a chapter of The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County since 2002. For more information visit [www.smcf.org](http://www.smcf.org)

**The Land Conservancy of San Luis Obispo County (LCSLO)** is a local nonprofit land trust working to protect and restore local lands for the benefit of people and wildlife. Since its formation in 1984, The Land Conservancy has led collaborative efforts to permanently protect over 10,000 acres of land in San Luis Obispo County. For more information visit [www.LCSLO.org](http://www.LCSLO.org) or call (805) 544-9096.

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