



CAMP CHRYSALIS – A BIBLIOGRAPHY

For us, a vital step of preparation for camping anywhere involves a visit to a bookstore and some reading, to learn more about what we may encounter in the field. We hope families will use this occasion to introduce young campers to this perspective and practice.

Among many good relevant books, those below are particularly interesting for their various purposes. All are in paperback; none are expensive, and some are quite cheap. All and more will be at camp; we use them and encourage campers to consult them. But a book of one's own is something else again. We suggest a visit with your child to a good nature-oriented bookstore (e.g. the Sierra Club Bookstore on College), as a way of staking a claim in areas and subjects that he or she will continue to explore over the years.

Rocks and Minerals, Herbert Zim, Golden Press, 1953.

Seashores, Zim and Ingle, Golden Press, 1955.

These stalwarts of the little "Golden Nature Guides" series remain the most convenient, attractive, and informative introductions for children of any age.

Plants of Big Basin Redwoods State Park, Cooney-Lazaneo & Lyons, Mountain Press, 1981.

Excellent-illustrated in color, this guide covers the flowers, trees, and ferns of the coastal mountains. Worth having well beyond the Big Sur trip.

Pacific Intertidal Life, Russo and Olhausen, Nature Study Guild, 1981.

A small, short, clear, well-illustrated guide, indispensable to any child visiting California tidepools.

The Intertidal Wilderness, Anne Wertheim, University of California Press, 2002

Gorgeous photographs, with dense, instructive captions. Used copies of the '85 Sierra Club edition are available via bookfinder.com for a hamburger's price.

Between Pacific Tides, Ricketts and Calvin, Stanford University Press, 1992.

A classic, as well as the essential reference work for our coast, rich, rambling, detailed, and loving. Extensively modernized in this fifth edition.

Discovering Sierra Trees, Steven Arno, Yosemite Association, 1973.

Magnificent pen-and-ink graphics illustrate the best brief accounts of the major Sierran trees. An inexpensive treasure, particularly recommended.

Discovering Sierra Mammals, Russel Grater, Yosemite Association, 1978.

Discovering Sierra Birds, Beedy and Granholm, Yosemite Association, 1985.

Discovering Sierra Reptiles & Amphibians, Harold Basey, Yosemite Association, 1976.

Fine guides to their natural history, with beautifully detailed illustrations.

A Sierra Club Naturalist's Guide: The Sierra Nevada, Stephen Witney, Sierra Club, 1979.

Recent comprehensive volume, an excellent introduction and field guide, useful from age 10 on.

Pacific Coast Tree Finder, Tom Watts, Nature Study Guild, Berkeley, 1973.

An excellent, pocket-sized guide -- and a good introduction to the concept and use of keys.

Animals Without Backbones, Ralph Buchsbaum, et. al.; University of Chicago Press, 1989.

The classic introduction to invertebrates, updated. This third edition has so many splendid illustrations that it'll delight a third-grader, yet serve as a lifelong reference.

Roadside Geology of Northern & Central California, Alt and Hyndman, Mountain Press, 2000.

This great introduction to geology, and to how our own land here was shaped, uses what's seen from the highways to illustrate, and belongs in the family car. It covers our Mendocino and Sierra trips, and much more.