

Capitol PORTS[®]

Connecting Legislators to Classrooms



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

*Why should I participate
in the Capitol PORTS
program?*

The Capitol PORTS program represents an innovative and inclusive form of constituent outreach. Legislators can illustrate their commitment to their districts and introduce themselves to the next generation of constituents in a way that also meets educational mandates.

*How long are the videoconference
programs?*

Typical programs with legislators are 45 minutes to one hour long.

*Where do the videoconference
programs take place?*

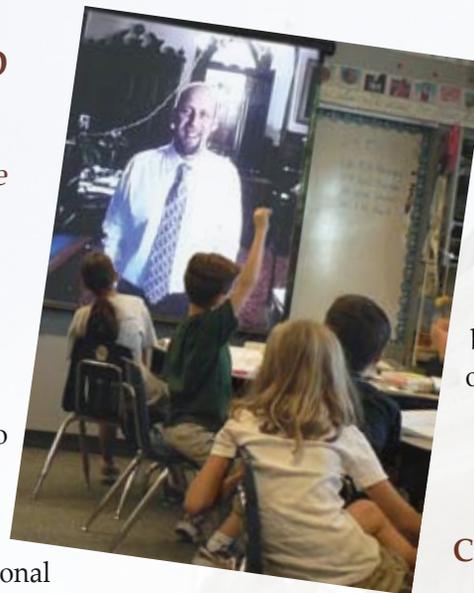
In the Capitol's Historic Governor's Main Office (Room 109).

*What kind of questions can I expect
during a videoconference?*

Questions vary by age and program topic. Questions range broadly from general career history to legislative topics.

*How much notice do you require to set
up a video- conference?*

Depending on the availability of both a legislator and a school, a video-conference program could take place within 48 hours. For school districts new to videoconferencing, more time is necessary to ensure a quality connection.



*How can I learn more
about the PORTS
program?*

Information about other PORTS Units of Study is available at www.ports.parks.ca.gov. Capitol PORTS programs can be viewed by staff or members as they are occurring.

Contact Information:

PORTS Program Manager
(916) 947-8073
www.ports.parks.ca.gov

Capitol PORTS Interpreter
(916) 320-6894

California K-12 High Speed Network (HSN)
www.k12hsn.org

California State Parks supports equal access.
To receive this publication in an alternate
format, please contact:

CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS
P. O. Box 942896,
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001
For information call: (800) 777-0369
(916) 653-6995, outside the U.S.
711, TTY relay service

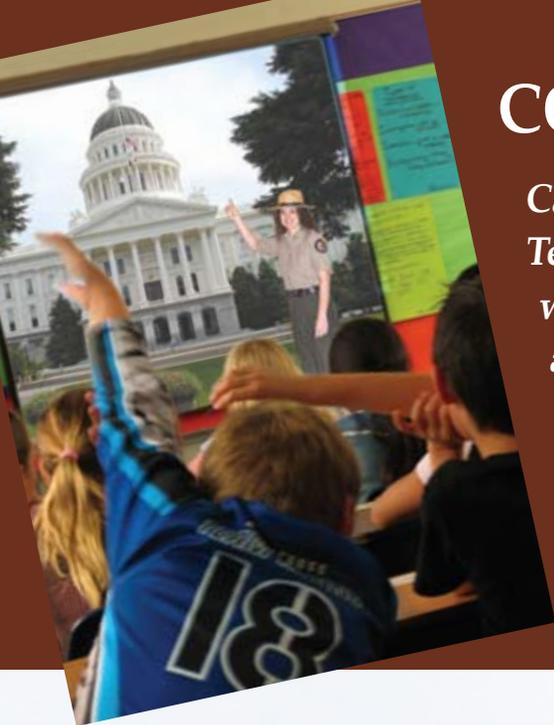


www.parks.ca.gov



CONNECTING TO THE FUTURE

California State Parks invites all legislators to use the Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) distance learning program to converse directly with students in their districts via videoconference. California State Parks manages all the technical and logistical elements of this free program and works with legislative staff to schedule the programs. All the legislator has to do is come to the Historic Governor's Office on the first floor of the California State Capitol Museum (Room 109) and talk to the students in their classroom.



PORTS

PORTS is a distance learning program developed collaboratively between public schools and California State Parks to reach an increasingly economically, geographically and socially diverse student population. This series of units of study uses the power of videoconferencing and California's K-12 High Speed Network (HSN) to deliver academic content standards-based programs in the context of California State Parks.

CAPITOL PORTS

At the California State Capitol Museum, the PORTS program brings the importance of state government and the role of legislators into classrooms throughout California. The "Your Voice in Government" unit of study prepares students through lesson plans and multimedia materials on the PORTS website (www.ports.parks.ca.gov) to talk to their legislator. Through videoconferencing technology, students have the opportunity to ask questions of those with firsthand knowledge about the legislative process. For legislators, videoconferencing with students in their districts provides rich opportunities for community and constituent outreach.



SCHEDULING

To participate in a PORTS program, contact us and we will work with you to choose a school in your district and schedule the conference.

"The students were fascinated by being able to ask questions and get responses from an expert so far away. . . It was a great program in all aspects."

Participating Teacher