

WOMXN
IN THE
WILD

SUMMER 2026

5 DAY FIELD IMMERSION
JUNE 1-5, 2026



A THANK YOU FROM DR. ORTIZ

The five days of Womxn in the Wild brought me excitement, and surprisingly a sense of calmness. I was ready! This was my second run of the program at CPP with some slightly different activities from last summer, and all I can say is that I am so thankful to you, the donors, the guest presenters, and to the participants for making this experience a unique and fun one! I enjoyed every minute of this experience, from brainstorming a schedule that would integrate something new, holding an informational session to see who would be interested, and spending each day with these 10 womxn.

Although the days began early and some ended late, I am so proud of the group as they powered through and accomplished so much in so little time. Many of the days were challenging in length but also strength but they each got through it with a smile on their face and with each other.

Thank you for making this possible! I look forward to future offerings of Womxn in the Wild!

JANEL ORTIZ

COORDINATOR,
WOMXN IN THE WILD



SUMMER 2026 PARTICIPANTS



Selena Boroff

Agriculture Business & Food Industry Mgmt

Regenerative Studies Minor



Kiara Gomez

Animal Science/Pre-Vet



Ella Lau

Animal Science/Pre-Vet

Botany Minor



Andrea Lopez

Agricultural Science/Pre-Vet



Mirna Marcial

Animal Science/Pre-Vet



Alondra Ortega

Biology



Gianna Quigley

Agricultural Science



Jacquelyn (JR) Robles-Ernst

Geology

GIS Minor



Heidi Wiegmann

Geology

Soil Science Minor



Maggie Zheng

Environmental Biology



WHAT IS WOMXN IN THE WILD?



Established in 2019, **Womxn in the Wild** is a summer field experience aimed at providing womxn opportunities in the natural resources and agriculture, community, and transferrable skills. Participants dive into on-the-ground projects and attend workshops that focus on career readiness and resume/CV development. Participants immerse themselves in field projects through collaborations locally in Los Angeles County and surrounding counties to learn about the fields they are pursuing.

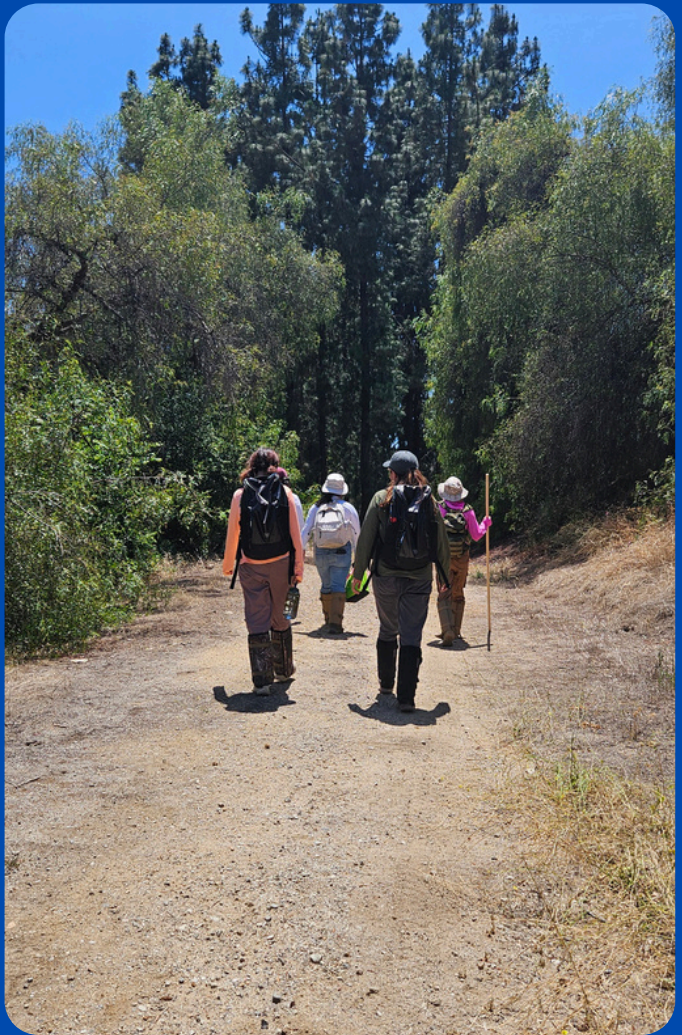
Why is this experience important?

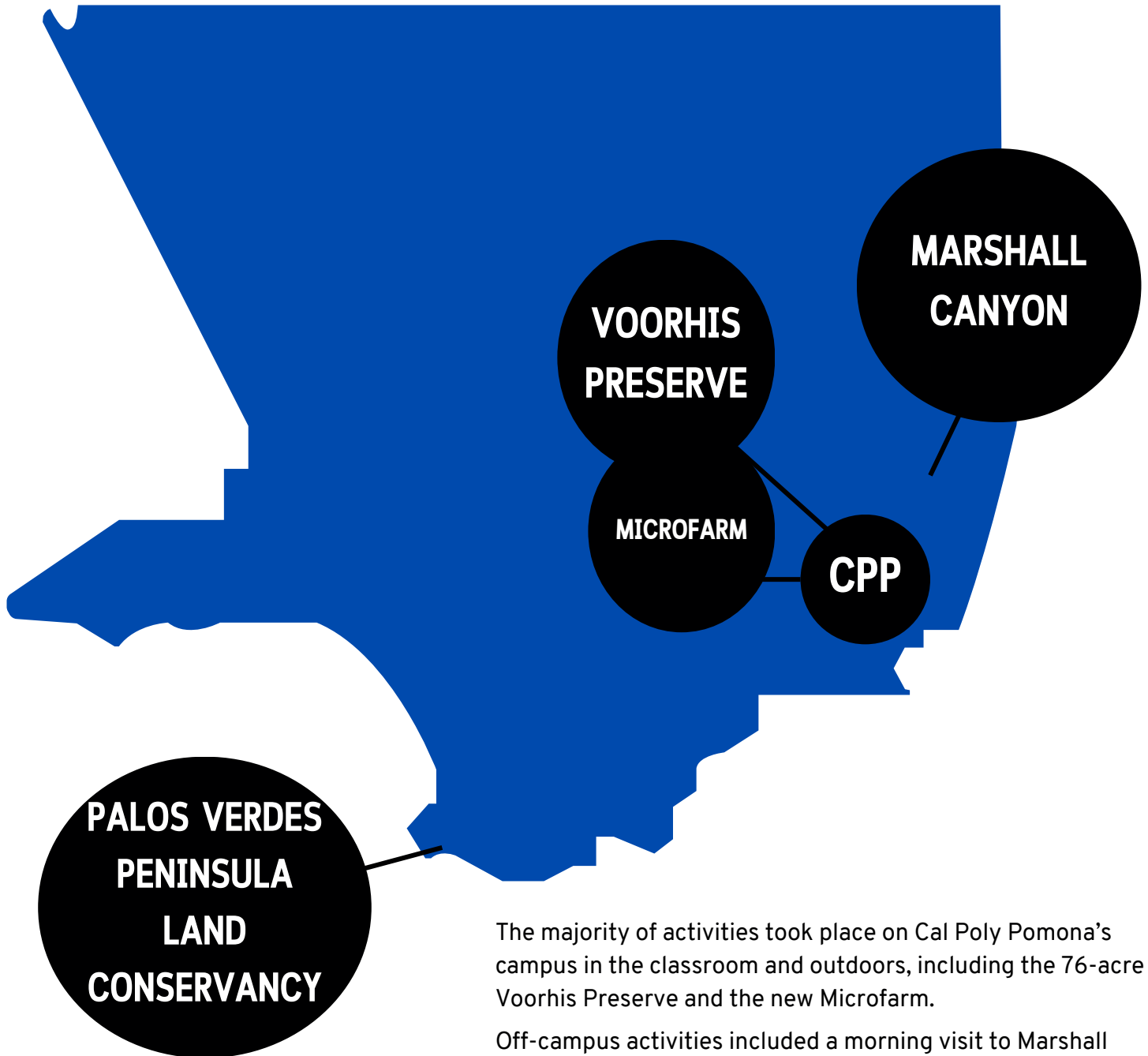
Traditionally, the fields of natural resources and agriculture have been male-dominated. However, more recently the number of womxn in the natural resources and agricultural fields has grown. Even with this shift, gender gaps still exist in pay, experiences, and rankings.

This is an opportunity for womxn to grow and develop themselves as scientists and leaders who will be prepared to move into career roles and become a part of the decision-making process.

Recruitment & Selection Process

The recruitment process begins with a required informational session and an application submission. Each application is scored by a rubric, ranking those who are closer to graduation and with minimal to no experience higher. A spot in the program is offered to the top 10 ranking applicants.





The majority of activities took place on Cal Poly Pomona's campus in the classroom and outdoors, including the 76-acre Voorhis Preserve and the new Microfarm.

Off-campus activities included a morning visit to Marshall Canyon in La Verne, CA and a full day visit to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA.

**5 DAYS IN
REVIEW**





ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Mon

1

- Field Safety
- Camera Trapping & Tick Sampling

Tue

2

- Bird Surveys
- Vegetation Monitoring

Wed

3

- Bird Banding
- Water Quality

Thu

4

- Camera Trapping & Tick Sampling
- Wildlife & Tick Identification
- Bat Monitoring

Fri

5

- Urban Farming
- Job & Internship Search
- Resume/CV Development



WHAT PARTICIPANTS SAID

“Well almost everything I did from camera trapping to vegetation monitoring was a new experience (especially since it was done with a professional program) so it will help me in my future endeavors.”

“I believe all the skills I've developed this week are valuable, whether or not I will be applying them in my career.”

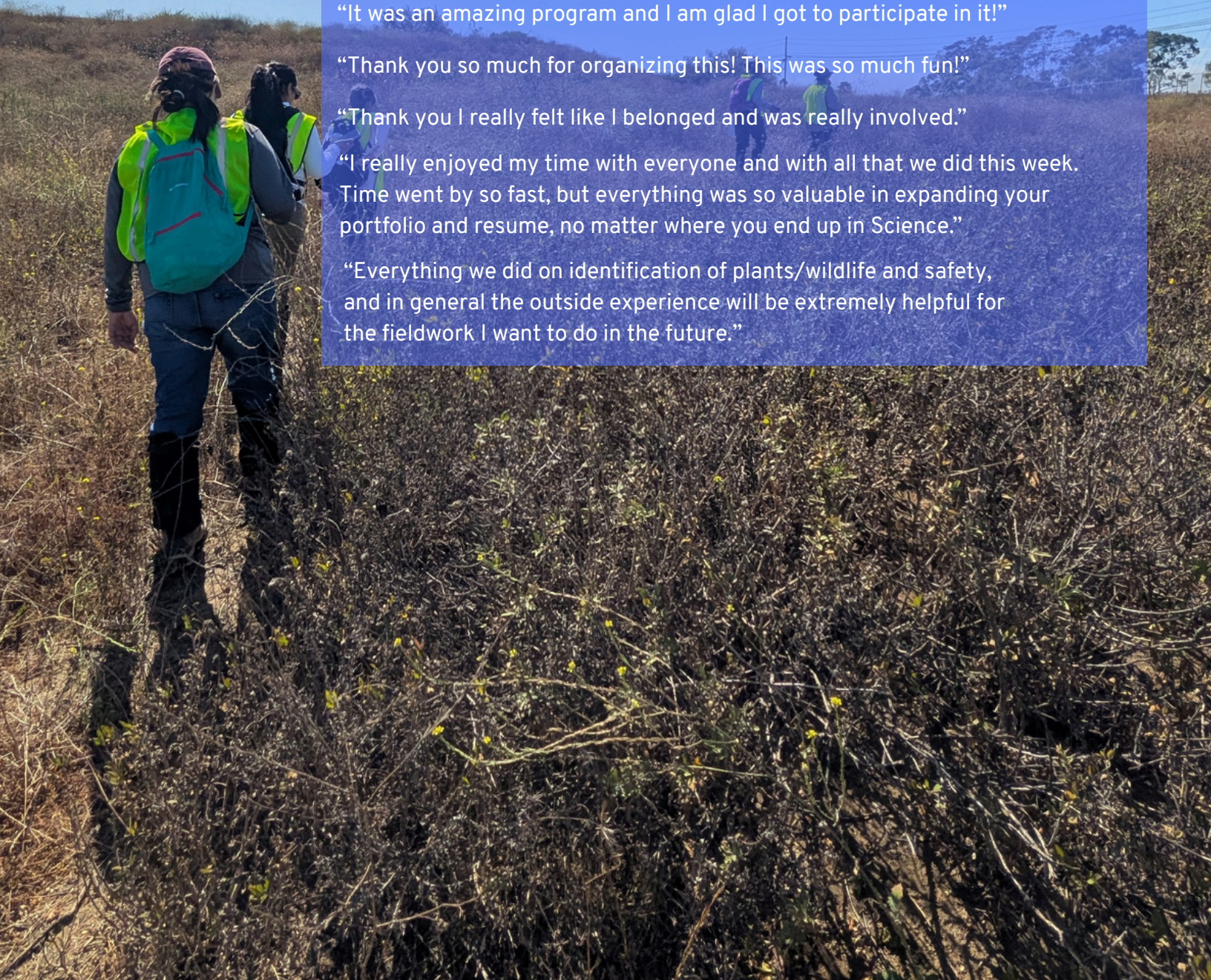
“It was an amazing program and I am glad I got to participate in it!”

“Thank you so much for organizing this! This was so much fun!”

“Thank you I really felt like I belonged and was really involved.”

“I really enjoyed my time with everyone and with all that we did this week. Time went by so fast, but everything was so valuable in expanding your portfolio and resume, no matter where you end up in Science.”

“Everything we did on identification of plants/wildlife and safety, and in general the outside experience will be extremely helpful for the fieldwork I want to do in the future.”







**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**



Questions/Comments:
Contact Dr. Janel Ortiz
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