



ECOLOGY PROJECT
INTERNATIONAL

BAJA EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

Professional Development & Field Science
to Bring Your Classroom to Life

On Ecology Project International's (EPI's) Baja Educator Workshop, you'll travel to one of the great sanctuaries for marine life, the Gulf of California. From EPI's sustainably designed campus in La Paz, we'll head into pristine waters alongside local conservation scientists, EPI instructors, and your cohort of educators. Each study and conservation project will become a lens through which we can explore the NGSS* framework, three-dimensional learning, and the development of inquiry-based, thematic storylines.

PROGRAM LENGTH: 5 days

PD HOURS: 20 hours

COLLEGE CREDIT: Optional 2 graduate credits through Hamline University. Separate registration and tuition fees apply.

*NGSS is a registered trademark of Achieve. Neither Achieve nor the lead states and partners that developed the NGSS were involved in the production of this product and do not endorse it.



WORKSHOP SAMPLE ITINERARY

- Day 1:** Travel to San José del Cabo airport. Meet your EPI instructors and shuttle to La Paz.
- Day 2:** Participate in field activities including microplastic research and using phenomena in lessons.
- Day 3:** Dolphin identification and hydrophone data collection, pedagogy workshops, La Paz exploration.
- Day 4:** Marine census and coral restoration activity; curriculum workshop. Workshop close and celebration.
- Day 5:** Morning shuttle to the San José del Cabo airport; depart.





BAJA EDUCATOR WORKSHOP

The stark landscape of the Gulf of California stands in contrast to the teeming life just below the water's surface. On EPI's Baja Educator Workshop, you'll be immersed in the rich, marine environment of what Cousteau called "the world's aquarium." These waters are home to more than 800 species of fish and 2,000 invertebrates, as well as 39% of the world's marine mammals and 70% of Mexican fisheries.

LIFE AT THE WORLD'S AQUARIUM

We'll engage in a variety of research and conservation activities centered on the spectacular Bay of La Paz. You'll investigate the ecology, local management, and conservation of this unique and biodiverse ecosystem home to incredible species of wildlife. Discover the secrets and science behind this nutrient-rich marine environment and what can be learned about the health of the ecosystem. Then, dig deeper into local conservation issues by exploring the reality of microplastics on La Paz beaches and the degradation of coral reefs. You'll explore the impacts of these issues and engage with the community to discover how they're being addressed and how you can help.

THE GULF OF CALIFORNIA IS YOUR CLASSROOM

Throughout the workshop, you'll learn strategies to help your students observe, question, collect data, discuss, and critically analyze the world around them. In addition to first-hand, deep science exploration, you'll have time to collaborate, plan, and write lessons with other science teachers. You'll also have space to share your teaching challenges, best practices, and opportunities to enhance science education with your cohort.

Return home with a template for creating future lessons and unit plans, as well as new resources and peers to support and guide you on your continuing teacher journey. Dive head-first into the NGSS framework using the rich, real-world phenomena of Baja to develop lessons and unit plans that will captivate your students and kindle their passion for science.

PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the workshop, you will be able to:

- Explore strategies to facilitate students' exploration of phenomena and pursue lines of inquiry through a scientific process.
- Model tools to support best educational practices while exploring environmental science, and nature in the field.
- Collaborate with colleagues and share ideas about how to integrate, modify, and use the ideas and activities shared during the field experience

