



**ECOLOGY PROJECT  
INTERNATIONAL**

# BAJA

## EDUCATOR TRAINING

Professional Development &  
Field Science Using the NGSS\*

### EXPLORE THE DEPTHS WITH EPI

On Ecology Project International's (EPI) Baja Educator Training program, you'll be immersed in one of the great sanctuaries for marine life—the Gulf of California. Jacques Cousteau once called it the “world’s aquarium,” and it is the perfect lens through which to deepen your knowledge and application of the NGSS.

Explore a brilliant diversity of marine and desert life through critical environmental research and conservation projects—all while learning strategies to help your students observe, question, collect data, discuss, and critically analyze the world around them. Dive head-first into the NGSS framework using Baja’s real-world phenomena to develop lessons and unit plans that will captivate your students and kindle their passion for science.

**PROGRAM LENGTH:** 7 days

**TUITION:** \$2,195 (plus airfare and college credit)

**PD HOURS:** 40 hours

**COLLEGE CREDIT:** Optional 4 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.



### SAMPLE ITINERARY

- Day 1:** Arrive in Baja and meet your EPI instructors before shuttling to EPI's campus in La Paz.
- Day 2:** Set up camp and explore your home base in the Gulf of California; practice snorkeling.
- Days 3-4:** Snorkel while conducting underwater censuses and gathering data on marine invertebrates. Head out into the field for student activity modeling, professional development, and exploration.
- Days 5-6:** Participate in coral restoration, discuss educational frameworks, and take a stroll along La Paz's famous Malecón boardwalk. Plunge into La Paz bay, a safe haven and nursery for whale sharks (weather-dependent).
- Day 7:** Shuttle to the San José del Cabo airport; depart.



# B A J A EDUCATOR TRAINING

## THE GULF IS YOUR CLASSROOM

This training will give you the unique opportunity to assist with conservation research and work in a UNESCO World Heritage Site. These waters are home to more than 800 species of fish and 2,000 invertebrates, as well as 39% of the Earth's marine mammals and 70% of Mexican fisheries. Above the water, you'll find stunning beaches, red rock cliffs, abundant bird life, reptiles, and desert plants. Your bascamp is the spectacular Espiritu Santo Island, a protected island just a short boat ride from La Paz, Mexico. The island's waters are a marine reserve thanks to their unique ecology and bounty of rare and native species.

## LIFE AT THE WORLD'S AQUARIUM

We've built in ample time on the course for you to apply what you learn. You'll increase your comfort with lesson planning using the NGSS as well as teaching science in and out of the classroom, all while assisting our research partners with surveys on marine invertebrates or humpback whales. By contributing to these ongoing studies with EPI instructors and research partners, you'll develop the skills to become both a better science *teacher* and a better *scientist*.

## FIND YOUR PHENOMENA

The desert rockscapes and cerulean seas of Baja will inspire you and your cohort. While camping on Espiritu Santo Island, you'll have time for collaboration, planning, and writing lessons. You'll also have space to share your teaching challenges, best practices, and opportunities to enhance science education. The course culminates with your presentation of a lesson plan created for your classroom, and you'll return home with a template for creating future lessons and/or unit plans on your own, as well as resources to support and guide you on your continuing teacher journey.

## SKILL BUILDING

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

- Read and interpret the NGSS for classroom use
- Create lessons that align with the NGSS using the 5E Learning Cycle
- Teach science in or out of the classroom
- Use research-supported teaching tools and strategies to bolstering development of students' science and engineering practices (SEPs)
- Identify and collaborate with research and conservation partners in your community

