

# Farm to School Program

## 2021-2024

University of California | Desert Research and Extension Center | Farm Smart



The Farm to School (FTS) grant opportunity funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), took place over a three-year period through the Farm Smart educational program at the Desert Research and Extension Center (DREC). The project focused on expanding the educational opportunities for local schools, promoting nutrition and healthy habits, and increasing the understanding of the local agriculture industry. Through hands-on activities, farm tours, and classroom education, the grant allowed us to promote the engagement of students, educators, and community members, fostering an understanding of where food comes from and how it is produced..



Through the Farm to School Initiative, Farm Smart hosted a summer camp for elementary students to promote the education about Native American tribes of the region as well as the diversity of California landscapes.



# 1,320

new\* Farm Smart participants



The USDA Farm to School Initiative allowed us to host a Farm to School Conference as well as two Agriculture Tours over the grant period. These educational programs provided teachers, food service staff, and other community organizations to gain insight on the local agricultural industry.



# 80+

participants in conference, training opportunities, and ag. tours

## Workforce Development

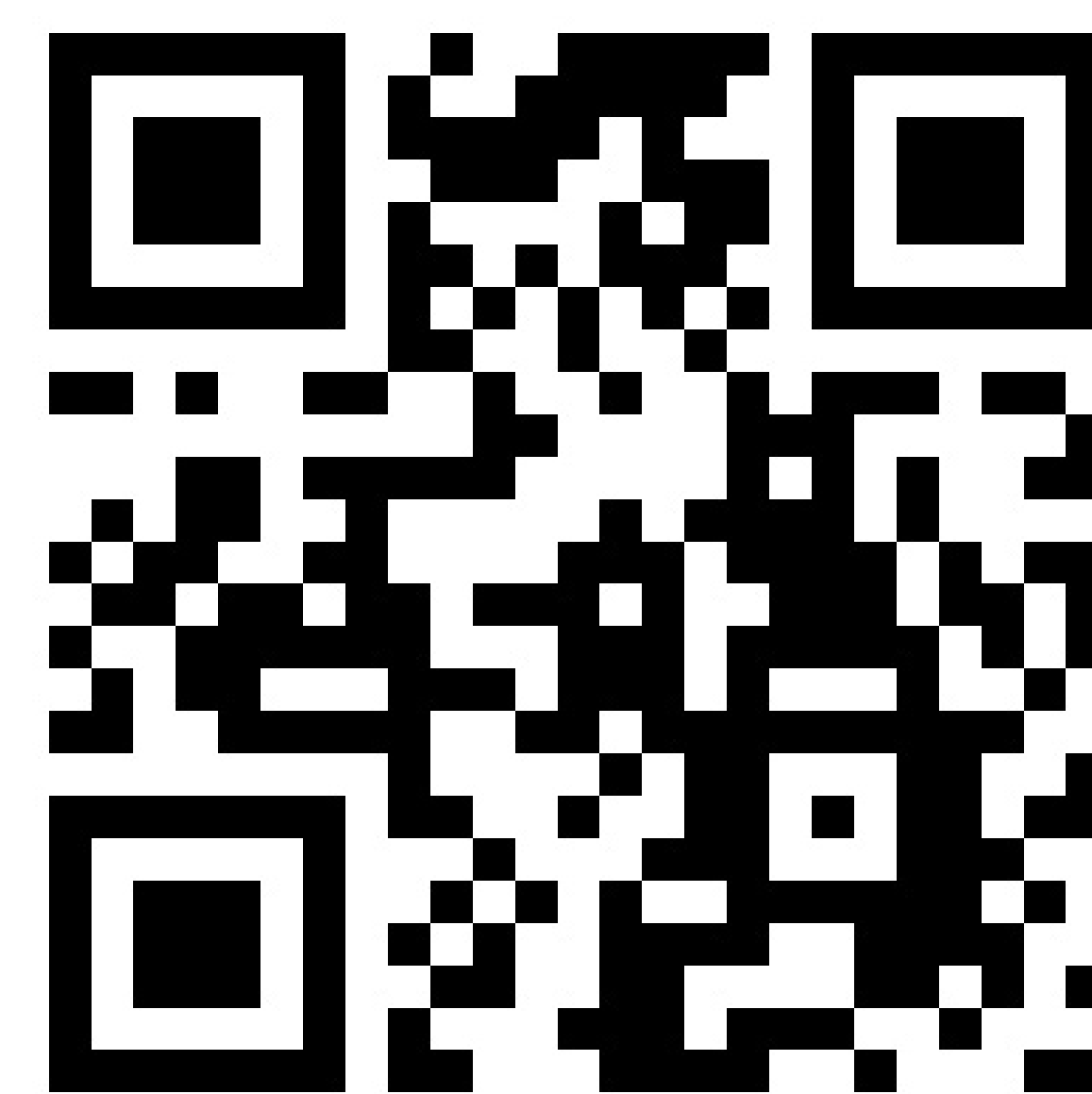
1 Full-Time Educator & 2 Paid Internships



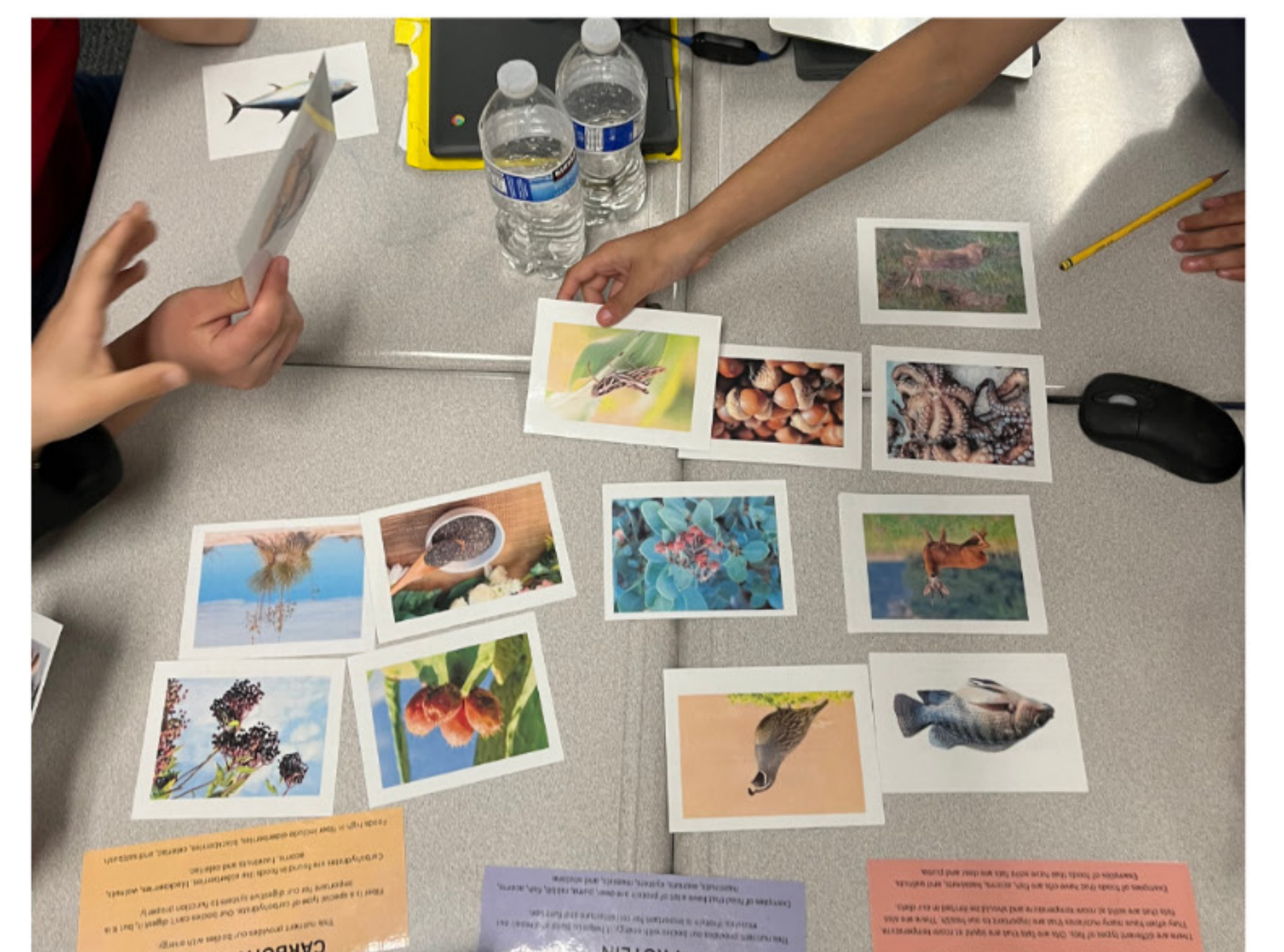
Our two interns were able to assist in over 45 field trips in the two years. They played a key role in coordinating a number of taste tests and outdoor activities.



The Healthy Choices Through History curriculum included a taste test and cooking activity which allows students to put their nutrition lessons into practice with their food choices.



Learn More Here



The new curriculum developed for the FTS grant included two in class lessons where Farm Smart educators and interns introduced lessons about native plants and animals in Southern California.

## Our Partners:



## About Us:

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