



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Looking for a Winter Break Activity for the Kids? How About a Trip to See Some Wild Neighbors?

December 22, 2022. San Diego, California. Do your kids ever wonder what our wildlife neighbors are doing when we aren't looking - the coyotes, foxes, bobcats, birds, and raccoons with whom we share our yards, streets, and parks? A new exhibit gives us a glimpse into just that, features some photos from Laguna Beach and Irvine, and will inspire children and adults alike.

Caught on Camera: Wildlife When No One's Watching opened November 18, 2022 at the San Diego Natural History Museum in its top- floor photography gallery. The show features remarkable images of southern California wildlife "caught" on film with the help of camera traps set up by scientists, photographers, and other curious people. Camera traps are not traps at all, but devices that use motion- or heat-detecting sensors to snap photos as animals run, jump, or fly by—not unlike a hidden camera on a roller coaster. The photos provide a rare glimpse into unseen activities of local wildlife and clues that help us protect them.

The exhibit is part of the Museum's strategic plan to forefront conservation science and inspire people about the biodiversity of our binational region. Presented in English and Spanish, it will remain on view for close to two years.

Some of the images featured were provided to the museum by Laguna Greenbelt, Inc. These photos were obtained in 2017 and 2018 in the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor in partnership with Kevin Clark, Director of Biological Services at the San Diego Natural History Museum.

The Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor is a 6-mile-long habitat connection between the Santa Ana mountains in inland Orange County and the coastal wilderness parks around Laguna Beach and neighboring cities. It is essential for the long-term resiliency of the landscape and all of its inhabitants.

"These images represent our local investment of time, money, and energy by our staff and volunteers in our effort to understand wildlife movement through the Corridor so that we know where to address any obstacles for wildlife moving between the two ecosystems," says Norm Grossman, President of Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.

"Caught on Camera is intriguing and visually stunning, but it also conveys how camera traps can play a role in conservation," says Justin Canty, vice president of education and engagement at The Nat. "We hope visitors will be inspired to participate in conservation in their own way, whether it's through sharing their own observations or simply getting to know the local wildlife we share our environment with."

Admission and Hours

Caught on Camera is located on Level 4 of the San Diego Natural History Museum; it is free for members and included with general admission (\$22 adults; \$18 seniors/students/military; \$12 youth; children 2 and under free). The Museum is open from 10 AM to 5 PM six days a week (closed Wednesday). Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

For more information, please visit sdnat.org/caughtoncamera. More information on the Irvine-Laguna Wildlife Corridor is available at: <https://wildlifecorridor.org/press-kit/>.

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Contact: Gabriela Worrel / lagunagreenbeltmedia@gmail.com / (951) 265-2696

Laguna Greenbelt, Inc.

P.O. Box 860 • Laguna Beach, CA 92652 • LagunaGreenbelt.org • (949) 494-8190