

# Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History

University of California, Santa Cruz



“We must feel with our senses and care with our deepest being to truly spur our curiosity about how things work.” —*Ken Norris*

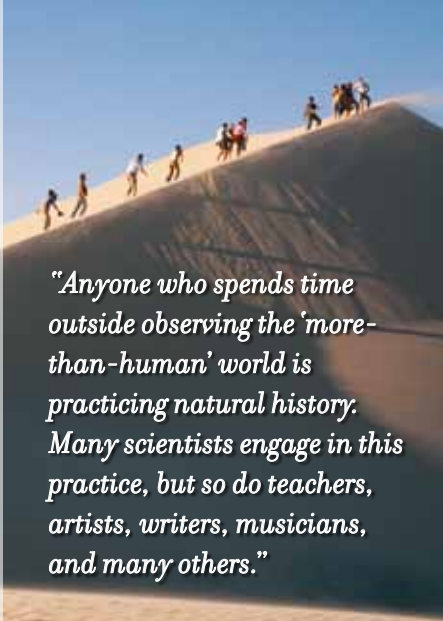
A vibrant campus and community  
resource for connecting people  
with the natural world—

*honoring and expanding the legacy  
of Dr. Ken Norris, UCSC's beloved  
Professor of Natural History*





Chris Lay  
Director, Norris Center  
for Natural History



*“Anyone who spends time outside observing the ‘more-than-human’ world is practicing natural history. Many scientists engage in this practice, but so do teachers, artists, writers, musicians, and many others.”*



Established in 2014, the Norris center expands on UC Santa Cruz’s long commitment to natural history training and experiential learning. The center is dedicated to cultivating natural history skills for students of all ages, fostering each student’s passion for the natural world, and supporting natural history research that serves as the basis for understanding the complex and rapidly changing ecosystems around us.

The Norris Center welcomes people from the UC Santa Cruz campus and beyond to engage in and support hands-on and field-based natural history learning and research opportunities. The center works in four main areas –

### Natural History Education

Demand for hands-on learning opportunities at UC Santa Cruz is at an all-time high. The Norris Center offers new natural history-based courses, research projects, and internships, along with scholarships to support a diversity of students.

### Engaging the Community

Open houses, publications, and collaborations with local organizations serve the broader natural history community. The Norris Center teams with regional museums and natural history groups to engage the community through lectures, field trips, workshops, and natural history classes.

### Curating Strategic Collections

The Norris Center is home to a large, diverse collection of natural history specimens—a critical resource for research and teaching that encompasses plants, fungi, lichens, marine algae, insects, fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.

### Training the Trainers

The Norris Center helps meet a growing need to train the people who teach natural history courses at universities, museums, and other venues. With teaching materials and training courses, the center serves as a resource for both new and experienced instructors, docents, and others who will shape the next generation of natural history practitioners.

Ken Norris with  
students in the  
Natural History  
Field Quarter class.



*Turn the page to see how you can get involved!*

# The Norris Center Is *Your Center!*

We are located on UCSC's "Science Hill" in Room 239 on the main floor of the Natural Sciences 2 (NS2) building.

The center's founding and initial activities were made possible by a generous grant from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Ongoing funding comes from the Packard Foundation endowment, the March Conservation Fund, and our community of supporters.

-125,000+  
natural history  
study specimens

-Training for  
naturalists and  
teachers

-Lectures, field  
trips, exhibits

-Curriculum  
development

-Library, work  
space, lounge



To volunteer or arrange a group or individual visit, or to receive training to use the natural history collections, contact Chris Lay, Norris Center administrative director, at (831) 459-4763, [norriscenter@ucsc.edu](mailto:norriscenter@ucsc.edu).

The Norris Center's programs flourish because of your generosity. To learn how you can help support the center, see [norriscenter@ucsc.edu](mailto:norriscenter@ucsc.edu), or contact Karen Holl, Norris Center faculty director, at (831) 459-3668, [kholl@ucsc.edu](mailto:kholl@ucsc.edu).



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Learn more about the Norris Center  
at [norriscenter.ucsc.edu](http://norriscenter.ucsc.edu)