

Annual Report 2013-2014



We **believe**
that every child
deserves
to experience
the **magic** of
discovery
and the **joy**
of learning
in the **natural** world.



A Message from Tracey Weiss EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Each time I turn on the news, I hear a new story about the challenges and pressures facing our education system today. Teachers are working harder than ever to prepare students to face the challenges of the 21st Century – including our changing natural environment.

Outdoor education requires time, energy and resources to get students out of the traditional classroom – but why is this important? Creating an environmentally literate public stems from early, positive experiences in nature and an understanding of the interconnectedness of all living things.

EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS OUTDOOR SCHOOLS engages students during this “make or break” time by connecting them to nature, introducing them to the sciences and opening up their awareness of possible career paths by inspiring stewardship and community service. We introduce children to the magic and mystery of nature, offering them new ways to look at the world and themselves.

Upon completion of Exploring New Horizons, teachers report to us that students have increased interest in science, pride and stewardship, confidence in nature, a sense of place on the coast and in the redwoods, improved group and social skills, increased writing and music skills, as well as increased fluency in English and confidence in public speaking.

Research reveals that outdoor education:

- Usefully employs all of a child's native intelligences, ranging from math and science smarts to interpersonal communications.
- Helps keep students engaged in their school work and make them less inclined to drop out of school.
- Is particularly effective at helping under-resourced, low-income students perform measurably better in school.
- Increases scores on statewide standardized tests in basic skills, reading, science, and math.

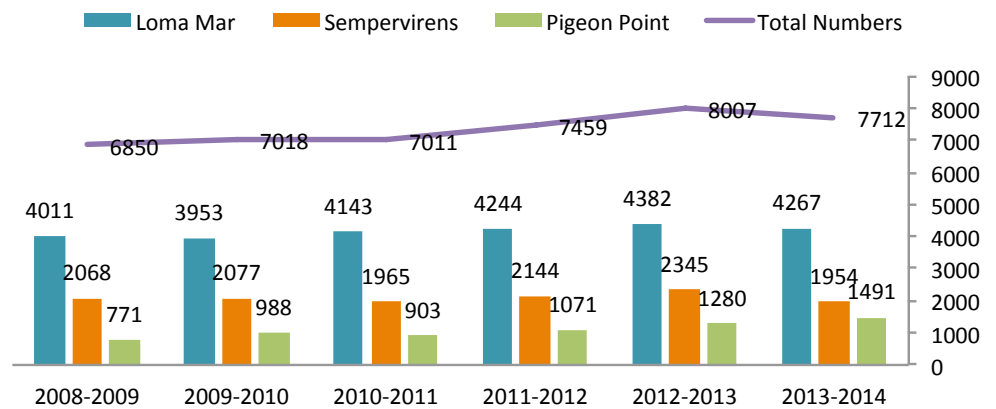
EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS OUTDOOR SCHOOLS is an experience where a love of nature and a loving nature are role-modeled every day. Children grow academically, socially, and emotionally over their time with Exploring New Horizons, and are transformed in a supportive and educationally rich environment that immerse them in the natural world. Our programs also connect children with themselves and one another, while encouraging respect self-esteem and cooperation. It's why our students continue to say **“This was the best week of my life.”**



Joyful Exploration in the Unplugged World



EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS STUDENT NUMBERS



EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS OUTDOOR SCHOOLS

provides exceptional outdoor residential education to K-8 students at three unique locations through a rich and relevant curriculum tied to state and national education standards. Serving over 8,000 students from 95 schools annually from the SF Bay area and the Central Coast, Exploring New Horizons offers customized programs to both large and small groups at our three campuses: Pigeon Point, Loma Mar, and Sempervirens.

OUR PROMISE

Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools allows children to safely explore and learn about the natural world through relevant and fun outdoor educational experiences. This life-changing opportunity instills a deep connection with nature and the joy of learning.

OUR EXPERIENCE

Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools is committed to educating and empowering children to make thoughtful, conscious, and sustainable choices for themselves and the environment. By providing children rich educational opportunities to safely explore the natural, un-plugged world, our naturalists foster a sense of adventure and love of learning while encouraging children to creatively envision and work together towards a positive future.

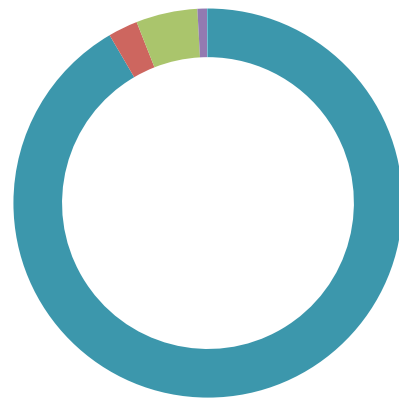
Sustainable Growth



EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS

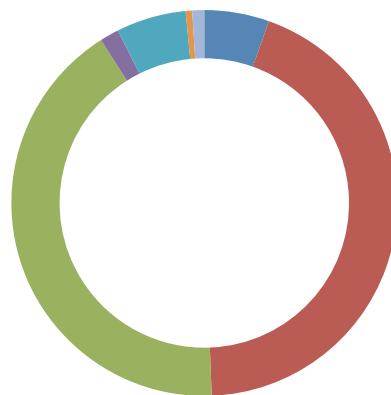
FINANCIALS

JULY 2013 THROUGH JUNE 2014



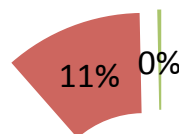
Income Distribution 2013-14

- Program Income: 91.6%
- Sales: 2.5%
- Grants: 5.1%
- Donations: 0.8%
- Other: 0.1%



Expense Distribution 2013-14

- Scholarships: 5.1%
- Facility Use: 41.4%
- Payroll Expenses: 39.3%
- Office Supplies: 1.5%
- Insurance: 5.5%
- Professional Fees: 0.5%
- Other Expenses: 0.9%



Expense Breakdown

- Program Services : \$2,072,345
- General & Administrative: \$260,962
- Fundraising: \$7,456

20 years from now I will still remember this trip because of all the fun experiences I had, like having to kiss a banana slug and even being away from my mom for the first time overnight... One thing I will remember the most in 20 years is the sunset painted across the sky when the dolphins seemed to fly in and out of the beautiful ocean blur. So by the time I am 30 I will still remember every little detail...but most of all I realized that I can do things on my own and as a team.

Nina Balestreri



MOSS : Expanding Horizons and Inspiring Stewardship



“By participating in MOSS students learned the vital lesson that they can help steward the natural world, and more importantly, that there are natural areas close to our school here in San Francisco!”

~ Mrs. Riggs 5th grade teacher at Dianne Feinstein Elementary school

Meaningful Outdoor Science and Stewardship Program Expands!

In the 2013-2014 academic year Exploring New Horizons received funding from the Dean Witter Foundation, the Gamble Foundation and the Yahoo Employee Foundation to pilot the expansion of our Meaningful Outdoor Science and Stewardship (MOSS) program from schools in Salinas to the San Francisco Unified School District public schools.

Each year, more than 7,500 students experience one of three Exploring New Horizons' outdoor school facilities, where we see firsthand the transformative power that a single week of outdoor school can have on the life of a child. The MOSS program was designed to further integrate and expand the traditional outdoor school model that we've perfected over the past 35 years with a year-round formal partnership with local school districts.

From Concepts to Real World Experiences

Through a uniquely comprehensive approach that combines classroom, hands-on outdoor learning, and community engagement, MOSS provides wrap-around environmental science education and stewardship opportunities that foster appreciation for the environment and the sciences.

Before attending one of our outdoor schools, our program coordinators visit each class to introduce students to some of the basic concepts in our programmatic framework along with the hands-on activities that they can expect during their immersive experience both with Exploring New Horizons and later in their MOSS community engagement work.



MOSS: Gaining Ground and Establishing Roots

Dear Friend,

Thank you for helping our class go to outdoor school. I had lots of fun hiking and learning new things. The whole intier day was busy. everybody was laughing, playing, and, being who they are. Outdoor school was awsome everyday we were active, running, playing, and learning knew things. I learned that nature is fun if you don't have electronics everywhere you go. I think you should keep donating money so kids can experience a chance of a life time.

Sincerely,
Ray Shaunti
(as written by Ray)

During their week at outdoor school, students receive lessons on restoration ecology, field science skills, landscape restoration, team building and community service. This curriculum reinforces the themes, concepts and learning objectives we introduced in the classroom as they see first-hand the real-life application of science on the trail.

Following their outdoor school experience, students participate in a local restoration effort in partnership with local nonprofit organizations like Save the Bay. This experience then solidifies what they've learned both in the classroom and at our outdoor school through applied restoration in their own community.

Empowering Students and Teachers Alike

At the end of this program pilot year, we found that students who participated in MOSS reported an increase in the likelihood that they would participate in future community restoration events. They also demonstrated an increased likelihood of sharing their environmental knowledge and stewardship practices with their friends and families! And participating teachers reported a noticeable increase in student enthusiasm for and mastery of the material.

Fostering Young Stewards

In today's world, it's easy to despair that the many environmental crises facing our society are simply insurmountable. But as our work continually demonstrates, when provided with reoccurring, meaningful and extended opportunities to get outside, youth not only shift their comfort with the natural world but also develop a deep passion for protecting natural resources.

Seeing that spark come to life within each child is what drives us to continually improve and expand our programs. As we look to the future of our regional partnerships, we hope to bring the MOSS program to the schools we serve in Contra Costa and Alameda counties.

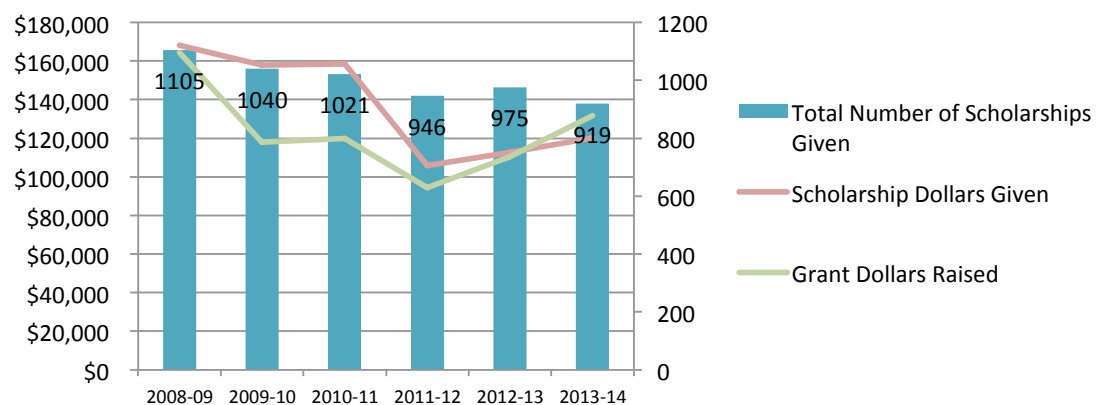




Learning to Explore and Lead



EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS SCHOLARSHIP TRENDS



We strive to ensure that no student misses out on our outdoor school experience for financial reasons. Last year approximately 10-15% of participating youth received financial support from our scholarship program due to shifts in district administration and thus a greater challenge in getting elementary students outside. We continually work with public, private and federal agencies to develop creative solutions that ensure students access to the ocean and rich natural resources within their own back yards.



Gifting It Forward

Exploring
New Horizons
Outdoor Schools is
grateful
for the continued
generosity of our
loyal donors
and **supporters**.

GRANT PARTNERS

National Oceanic Atmospheric
Administration
Leshner Foundation
Bear Gulch Foundation
Save the Redwoods League
Gamble Foundation
Yahoo Employee Foundation
Cliff Bar Foundation
Monterey Peninsula Foundation
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REDWOOD GROVE (\$1,000+)

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COASTAL OAK (\$501-999)

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REDTAIL HAWK (\$101-500)

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Steve Fambrini
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Mitchell Yee

MONARCH BUTTERFLY (\$51-100)

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Sid Greenbaum
Allegonda Grob
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Brittany Imwalle
William Kacarovskis
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Donald Shortridge
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BANANA SLUG (\$50)

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Suzanne Graff
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Gretchen O'Henley
Julie Reber
Shawnee Spittler
Jack Stout
Sidney Tynan
Jennifer and Robert Castelluccio

exploringnewhorizons.org

Creating Community



Inspiring, empowering, and
transforming children's lives
through outdoor education.

exploringnewhorizons.org

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A Message from Andrew Cerri 2015 BOARD PRESIDENT

Growing up I camped up and down the great state of California with my parents, thrived on more adventurous explorations with the Boy Scouts of America, and had a great time as a camper and counselor at science camp. As the newly elected President of the Board of Directors for the 2014-15 school year, I am truly honored to be part of the greater effort to educate children about the natural world.

For over 35 years **EXPLORING NEW HORIZONS OUTDOOR SCHOOLS** has provided a rich outdoor educational experience that connects students to nature. Last year we served 7,712 from over 100+ different schools, from Truckee to Salinas. Many of these communities rely on the aid of our donors and their generous contributions through our scholarship program. Over 900 students received scholarships in the 2013-14 school year, providing a truly unique experience that would have otherwise been unattainable.

Every day we see the impact our programs have on our campers and their educators. It's no accident that of all the schools that visited our program the previous year, 87% returned in 2013-14. As an important means of enriching California State educational curriculum, we are continually evaluating our programs and operations, and working to ensure our program is aligned with educational changes such as the Next Generation Science Standards. And of course we're always plotting sustainable growth to ensure we can continue for decades to come.

To that end in 2015 we are updating our 5-year Strategic Plan. We'll talk to our many stakeholders, assess all facets of our organization and look for opportunities to grow and deepen our program impact. We will emerge with an even greater clarity of purpose and a roadmap for achieving our ambitious goals, such as expanding our MOSS program into more school districts across the state. It's a joy to share my love of California's natural beauty with others. And I thank you for investing in the environmental stewards of tomorrow. With your continued support for Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools, you are helping inspire, empower, and transform children's lives through exceptional outdoor education.