



Annual Report 2017





*Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day;
teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.*
– Maimonides

As the Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools executive director, I'm constantly evaluating the efficacy of our programs and our ability to make good on the promises we make to the schools, students, and families we work with. Ours is not just an outdoor camp, but a rigorous educational program that helps bridge classroom concepts with real world experiences. By design, we engage students when they are most receptive and developing their critical thinking skills.

We work with the whole student. We aim to connect students to their place and power in the natural world. We endeavor to give them the skills to create change where it is needed to steward our natural resources thoughtfully and sustainably.

One of the ways we do this is by teaching them the art of inquiry. Our focus isn't on getting or giving the right answer, but on asking the questions that allow a deep dive into the learning process and that unlock the mysteries of our planet. In our industry this technique is known as [Coyote Teaching](#) and helps make theoretical concepts real and available. In bringing classroom study to life, our approach helps students understand their vital role in the earth's ecosystem.

As a steward of our mission I ask myself, "What more can we do to create the critical thinkers our planet needs? As an organization, what is the gift and power we bring to their communities?"

These are the questions that keep our eyes ever on the horizon for the future of our work. They set the standard for how we train and equip our team of skilled naturalists to utilize the unique learning moments on the trail that ignite passion in all the students that attend. They guide us in creating the strategic plan that ensures we provide another 35+ years of exceptional environmental education. In short, they help us live into our legacy.

Upon reviewing another incredible service year, I am struck by the power of our work and a deep gratitude for the supporters like you who help make it happen. Thank you for walking this path with us as we inspire, empower, and transform children's lives through outdoor education.



Sincerely,

Tracey Weiss, Executive Director

MAPPING THE FUTURE OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Next Generation Science Standards & the Blueprint for Environmental Literacy

Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools is truly fortunate to call California home. Our state continues to be a nationwide leader in education that incorporates science and the environment.

This past year, we saw the adoption of the Next Generation Science Standard (NGSS), which empowers students to immerse themselves into an academic subject. In addition, State Superintendent Tom Torlakson passed the [Blueprint for Environmental Literacy](#). "Educating Every California Student In, About, and For the Environment," it provides a comprehensive roadmap for the future of environmental education.

A Goldilocks Moment

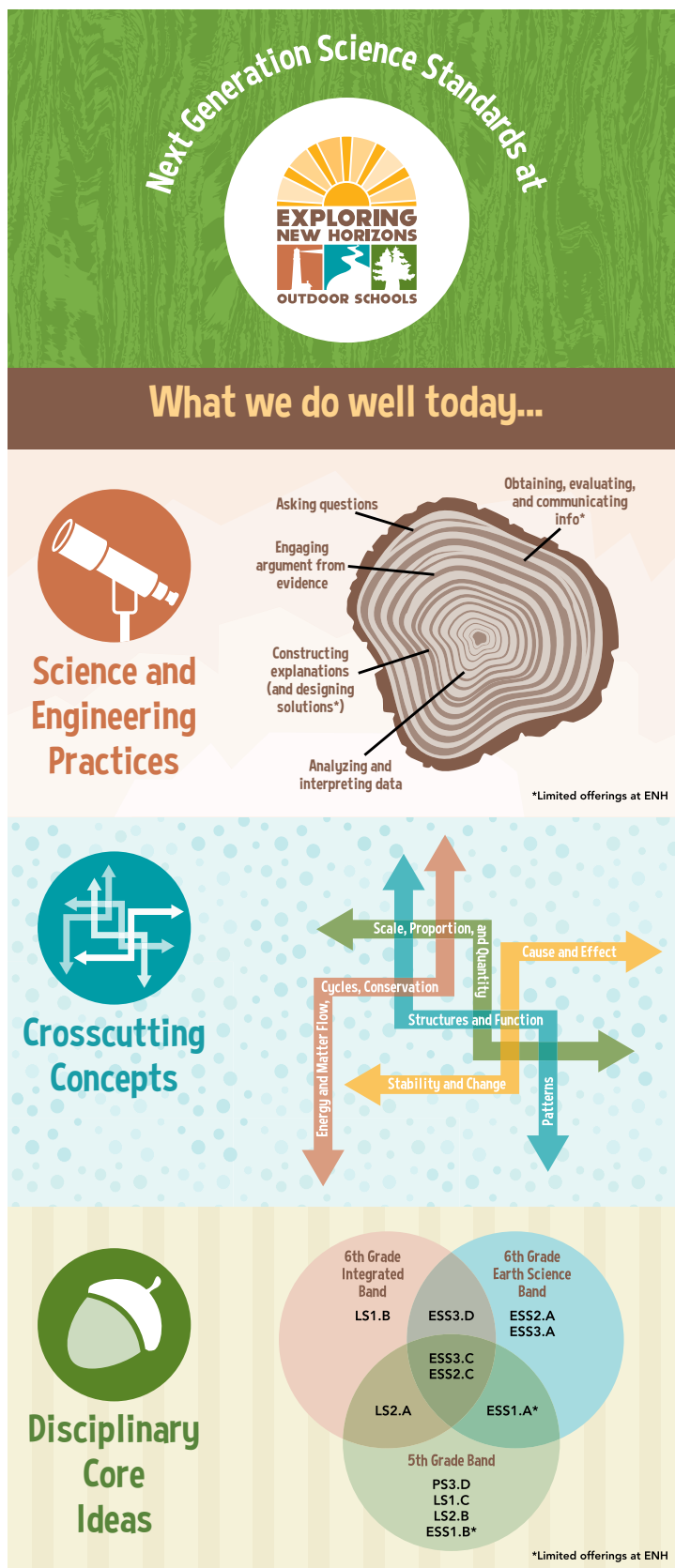
Together, these two developments have created a watershed, or, what is being called a "Goldilocks Moment" by the [Ten Strands Foundation](#). Focused on connecting education, environment and community, they've recognized that the conditions are "just right" to plant environmental literacy in California's education system. We are thrilled at the state-level focus on our work and the potential of programs like ours to impact all California students.

How We're Keeping Pace

NGSS is a natural fit with our own work helping students understand, demonstrate, and observe academic concepts in their outdoor classroom. NGSS empowers students to take an in-depth approach to their learning with lessons designed to develop critical thinking, scientific process, and real-life data.

In keeping with these new standards and our ongoing commitment to awaken young minds to the wonder of nature, Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools utilizes activities that help students learn the art of inquiry and develop a love of investigation.

Working in partnership with over 100 schools we are supporting students in understanding the earth's cycles, cause and effect, and patterns within the natural world.



The Power of Environmental Education

Education always evolves to reflect the needs of the workforce and the social challenges facing today's generation.

As we move ever forward towards technology, we see the effects it has on the connectivity of students and their ability to engage with one another in deep and meaningful ways. Each week we witness the profound gift of unfettered time in nature, away from gadgets and handhelds, focused on the earth and each other.

We know the work we do is needed now more than ever and we are hopeful that this new trend in education signals a future in which environmental literacy is an integral part of learning for all students, rather than just the lucky few.

Who I am

by Sally (5th grade)

*I start out as a little egg
So small I'm hard to see
It's dark and damp
Inside this camp
I'm ready to be free*

*Then I hear a crack
I'm out of my sack
I roam around a leaf
I'm out
I'm out
I say twice in disbelief*

*I've hatched from my egg
With healthy legs
But this isn't the life I want for me
I'm ready for step three*

*I wrap a cloak around my skin
Hating the feel of slippery tin
I wait
For fate
Waiting for the moment to reveal
The beautiful wings I have to conceal
I have wings that stretch from there to here
As magical as can be
As you can see
I am a strong butterfly!*

i hear





For over 35 years, Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools has held a unique role in the communities we have served. Providing outstanding environmental education to young students remains our emphasis, and one of the greatest effects of our programs is our ability to nurture the relationships between students and strengthen their communities as a result. We have thrived because of this interconnectedness and we're honored to serve as a pollinator in their community ecosystems.

Part of guaranteeing the continued success of our work is tending to the sustainability of our own ecosystem. This year, we've been hard at work developing our next strategic plan. We are dedicated to the long term health of our programs, which includes securing land to establish a permanent home for our school sites. This will open up even greater opportunities for Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools to operate in alignment with our values and mission.

As we continue to grow and look ahead to what the future holds for us, I want to recognize all of the amazing people who have nourished the Exploring New Horizons Outdoor Schools web of life. As we all know, a healthy ecosystem depends on diversity and interdependence. Thank you for what you bring to our community and your belief in our mission. We are so grateful to empower the next generation of environmental stewards with you!



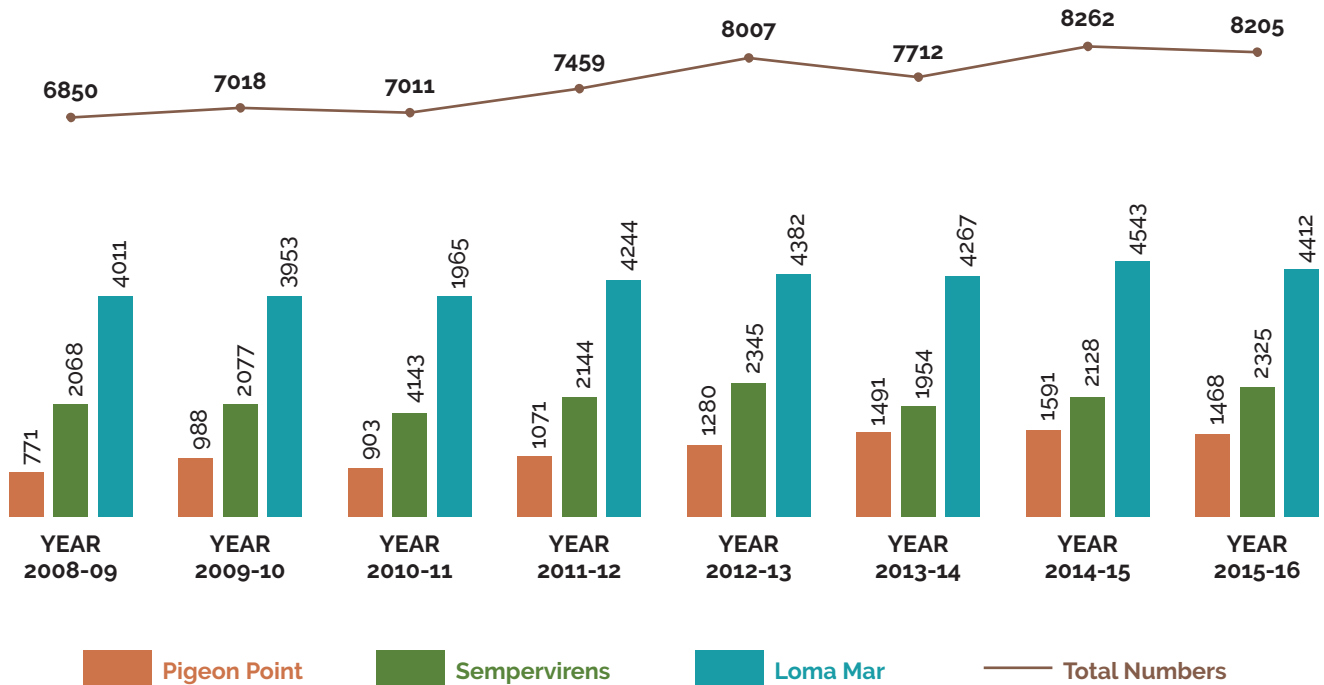
Sincerely,

Andrew Cerri, Board President





























STUDENT NUMBERS TRENDS





SCHOLARSHIP TRENDS

	YEAR 2008-09	YEAR 2009-10	YEAR 2010-11	YEAR 2011-12	YEAR 2012-13	YEAR 2013-14	YEAR 2014-15	YEAR 2015-16
SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN	 1105	 1040	 1021	 946	 975	 919	 757	 805
SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS GIVEN	 \$168,034	 \$157,985	 \$158,627	 \$105,701	 \$112,577	 \$120,091	 \$93,245	 \$71,357
GRANT DOLLARS RAISED	 \$164,268	 \$118,050	 \$119,784	 \$94,400	 \$110,511	 \$131,556	 \$97,290	 \$76,099



i feel

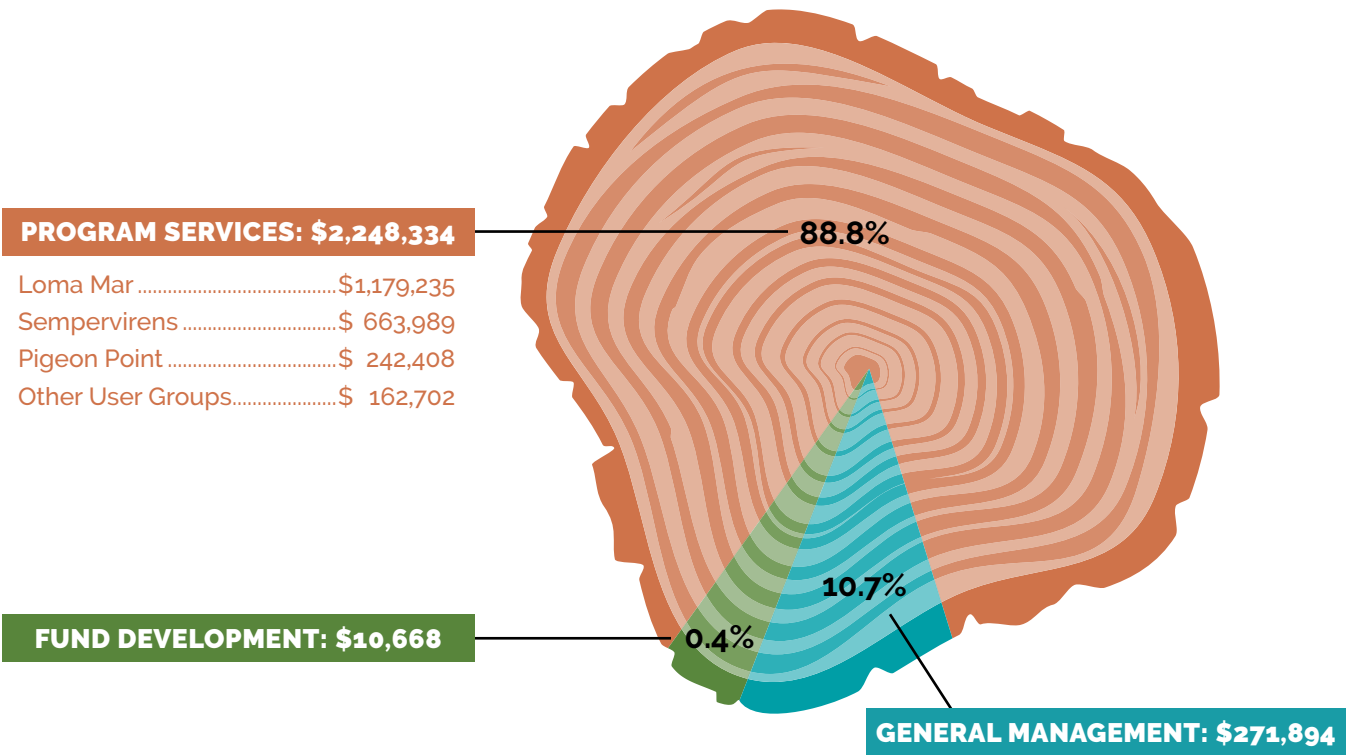
"I choose to work here because I can feel the impact that freedom in nature has on kids.

From the time they arrive on Monday, I am able to witness a shift in the way they see the world around them, and it's a beautiful thing."

Helen "Lupine", Loma Mar Naturalist

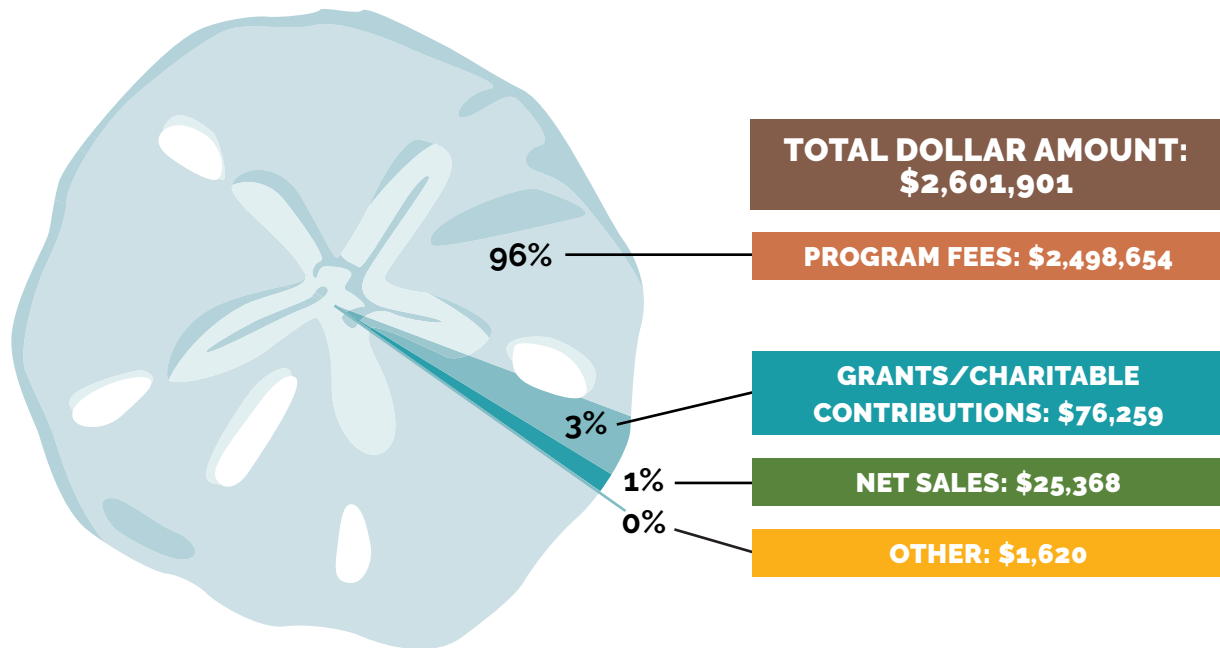


EXPENSE BREAKDOWN





INCOME BREAKDOWN



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