



Inspiring Park Champions of the Next Century



THE PROBLEM

The very existence of our parks depends upon today's youth finding our parks relevant to their lives and to the future of the nation. Research indicates declining overall visitation as well as a discrepancy between the current visitors and the demographics of the United States.¹

THE SOLUTION:

UC BERKELEY COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES EDUCATION OUTREACH PROGRAM

VISION: To inspire park champions of the next century

MISSION: Education outreach that connects the diverse university community with youth for shared transformational experiences in the parks

WHY OUTREACH IN THE PARKS?



Direct, place-based experiences in the parks and increased access to a world-class university will impact the youths' collective futures as park visitors, enthusiasts, advocates, conservationists and scientists.

"Just as the 1916 act that created the National Park Service established the structures needed to maintain the park during the first century of the National Park Service, education will be central to the Service's success in caring for the parks and carrying out its broader mission during the next century." (*Advancing the National Park Idea, National Parks Second Century Commission Report, 2009*)

UC Berkeley mentors will have the opportunity to function as the ambassadors and role models to the youth, while building leadership skills, career opportunities and relationships with organizations aligned to their area of expertise and interest.

MODELS OF SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS



BioBlitz 2014

During the National Geographic sponsored BioBlitz at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in 2014, UC Berkeley students collaborated with Berkeley High School students from 20 different countries, including a follow up poster session at the David Brower Center for their families and representatives from the National Park Service, UC Berkeley, BUSD school board, Berkeley City Council, Lawrence Hall of Science, and nonprofit outdoor education programs.

Climate Change Action Internship 2015

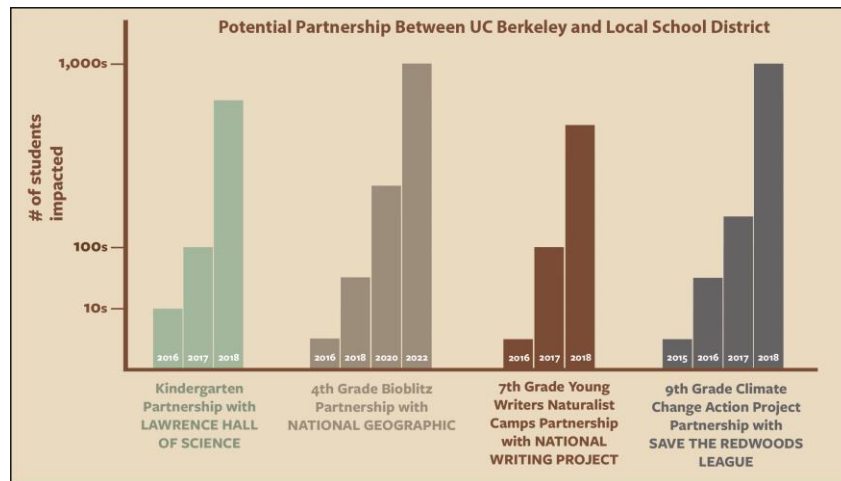
In March 2015, we partnered with Save the Redwoods League to train UC Berkeley interns who led science based research activities on the impact of climate change to redwoods. They also advised Berkeley High students on their Climate Change Action Plans, which included teaching elementary school students about the impact of climate change.



¹ Education and Learning Committee Report, National Parks Second Century Commission, 2009

Scalability

Replicating the models at UC Berkeley: If funded, we will replicate successful models, forge new partnerships and scale them up across a school district. For example, in the City of Richmond, the location of the new UC Berkeley Global Campus, there are approximately 650 students per grade. In a given year, 2,600 students can benefit from science in parks programs geared towards four different grade levels.



Scaling up National Parks Education Outreach across the University of California: If each of the 10 University of California campuses adopts our model for Education Outreach by partnering with one school district, nearby National Park Services sites (as well as California state and regional parks) and organizations such as National Geographic and Save the Redwoods League, we could bring tens of thousands of youth into the parks annually.



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