



Inspiring Park Champions of the Next Century



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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

Solution

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 their 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.”²



Challenges

- Funding
- Supporting teachers with successful implementation
- Ensuring all partners achieve their goals
- Risk management

Models

BioBlitz: 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.

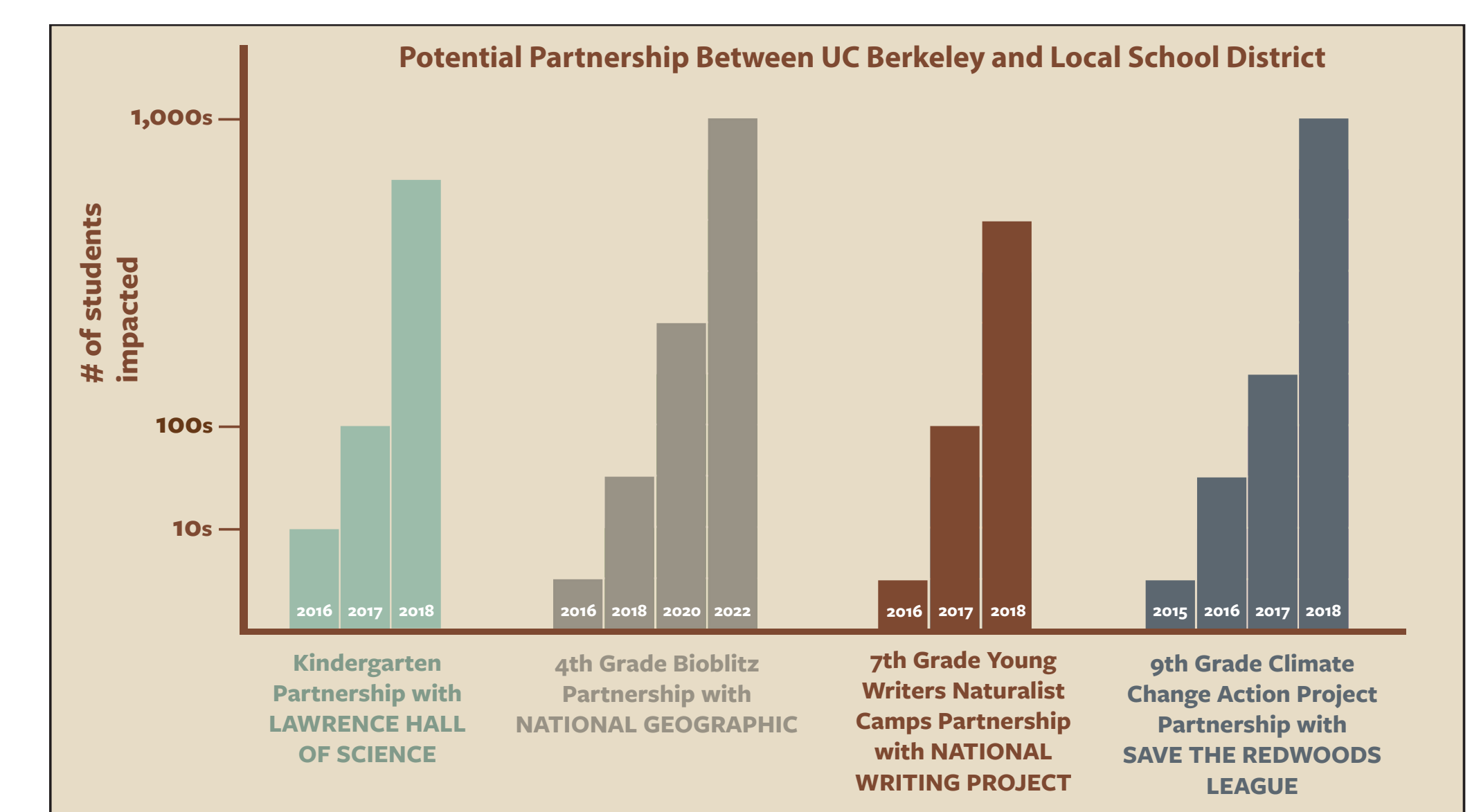


Climate Change Action Internship: In 2015, we partnered with Save the Redwoods League to train UC Berkeley interns who led science based research activities on the impact of climate change to redwoods. They also advised Berkeley High students on their Climate Change Action Plans, which included teaching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



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, 2600 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 Service 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.



References

1. Education and Learning Committee Report, National Parks Second Century Commission, 2009
2. Advancing the National Park Idea, National Parks Second Century Commission Report, 2009

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