



## Welcome to Santa Monica Mountains Institute!

This is an exciting time for NatureBridge and Santa Monica Mountains Institute. In partnership with Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, a unit of the National Park Service, NatureBridge is developing a fourth campus that will ultimately serve 10,000 youth per year.

Beginning this spring, our pilot program will serve an estimated 1,400 students over a two year period with multi-day educational experiences in the Santa Monica Mountains.

### Our Mission

Santa Monica Mountains Institute is dedicated to teaching science and environmental education in nature's classroom to inspire a personal connection to the natural world and responsible actions to sustain it.

### An Unmet Need

Despite a close proximity to open spaces, many children in southern California grow up with little or no exposure to nature. Thousands of local inner-city youth have never even been to the beach.

There are nearly 5 million school-aged children in the greater Los Angeles area.

Fewer than 4% of students have access to residential educational opportunities through their schools.

In the 2006-07 school year, only 23% of Los Angeles students met or exceeded state science standards.



### Our Commitment to Diversity

Santa Monica Mountains Institute is dedicated to serving culturally and economically diverse youth. We serve a diverse range of communities including underserved and under-resourced schools with a large number of academically at-risk youth. We strive to make our programs culturally relevant and available to participants regardless of economic status.



## Educational Focus

Using the NatureBridge educational philosophy and Core Educational Framework, Santa Monica Mountains Institute designs effective programs which:

- restore active, experiential learning to academics
- develop lifelong learning skills by inspiring wonder and appreciation for the natural world.
- provide an understanding of and appreciation for the natural world through science, the arts, physical activity, and cooperative learning.
- use appropriate challenges to build self-confidence and a sense of accomplishment.
- improve interpersonal communications skills and behaviors.
- enhance comprehension of environmental issues.
- empower participants to engage in environmental stewardship.

## Our Impact

Santa Monica Mountain Institute changes lives by introducing students to the wonder of nature and helping them to:

- discover that science is the key to unlocking nature's treasures.
- engage in a deep exploration of self and community.
- develop a life-changing personal connection to the natural world around them.
- translate their passion for the environment into lifelong stewardship and conservation.



## To Learn More

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