

NATUREBRIDGE LEADS THE WAY

We are NatureBridge, formerly Yosemite National Institutes, and our mission is to inspire personal connections to the natural world and responsible actions to sustain it. We educate the next generation of leaders to respect the natural world, understand the scientific principles that govern it, and preserve it for future generations.

NatureBridge is the largest nonprofit residential environmental education partner of the National Park Service. We operate four environmental education campuses in some of the most stunning places on the planet. Each year we help more than 30,000 people from diverse backgrounds find a personal connection to nature through field science education, youth leadership, and teacher training programs.

NatureBridge is built to last. Powered by a combination of earned revenue and philanthropic support, we are highly sustainable and adaptable. For nearly 40 years, we have led the way in residential environmental education for America's youth. We have introduced almost one million students to the wonder of our national parks. We have inspired many of them to conservation and service. And we are committed to continuing to lead for the next 40 years and beyond.

WE ARE AT A CROSSROADS

Many Americans, especially our youth, are losing touch with nature and living at odds with the natural environment. Our schools and teachers are struggling through budget cuts and working with limited resources to combat a growing crisis in science and environmental education. They cannot do it alone, and we cannot afford to stand idly by as our children become increasingly separated from the natural world. We must work together to prepare the next generation to care for the planet.

The profound experiences we provide in America's national parks help to counter these trends. Through the magic and wonder of nature at our campuses, students make the connections and gain the skills they need to become lifelong stewards and leaders in their communities.

NATURE IS OUR CLASSROOM

For too many children, learning is limited to a textbook and a classroom. At our campuses, experience is the book and nature the classroom. We partner with school teachers to go beyond typical classroom limitations and bring science to life. Students gain new appreciation for the national parks and the plants, animals, and landscapes within them.

Transformation is inherent in what we do. Our approach results in countless magic moments, when students recognize nature's significance through observation, investigation, writing, drawing, dialogue, and collaboration. It is these moments that continue to impact the lives of our students long after they leave us.

OUR CAMPUSES BRIDGE THE GAP

Yosemite National Park. Olympic National Park. Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. These are the places where we connect youth to nature and inspire them to:

- discover that science is a key that unlocks the secrets of the natural world.
- realize the importance of conservation and their personal power to make a difference.
- engage in deep exploration of self and community.
- develop life-changing personal connections to the natural world.



We are the bridge to new learning opportunities that enhances scientific skills and changes lives.

- More than 85% of NatureBridge schools return every year and actively integrate our programs into their academic cultures and curriculums.
- More than 35% of participating schools need and receive partial or full financial assistance.

Our curriculum aligns with state and federal standards and includes many subjects including earth and marine science, watershed ecology, geology, and local cultural history. All NatureBridge programs are guided by our Core Educational Framework, which supports multiple learning styles; builds academic, social, and emotional skills; and:

- **provides a sense of place** by bridging the gap between nature and the classroom.
- **creates lasting connections** by teaching K-12 students that science can open the door to understanding nature and appreciating our connection to it and to each other.
- **builds stewardship** by empowering youth to take positive action to conserve the natural world through civic responsibility.



OUR COMMITMENT TO GROWTH AND DIVERSITY

In 2008, we launched a bold initiative to establish NatureBridge programs in more national parks, to reach more students from underserved and under-resourced communities, and to dramatically increase the number of students served.

We are committed to serving a diverse group of people from all economic, social, and ethnic groups. Everyone must feel welcome in our national parks, and everyone must see their own heritage reflected in the stories and meanings interpreted by our faculty. We'll continue to expand our reach by building on a curriculum that is relevant to diverse audiences, and by providing more need-based scholarships.

STRATEGIC PARTNERS

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