



WOMAN POWER

“There is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.”

– Kofi Annan

What an amazing year for the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation! Thanks to many amazing women friends, and their women friends too, \$16,905 was raised at two fundraising events in 2018. WOW!

On January 29, 2018, at Evelyn & Arthur: Women’s Clothing and Fashion, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida boutique, we shopped ‘til we dropped and enthusiastically raised \$9,505! It was an incredible experience for all those involved.

Later in the year, 180 women gathered at the Flourtown Country Club on October 10, 2018 for dinner and a fashion show. There were 18 models who wore individually-chosen ensembles from Scarlet Begonias, a woman’s boutique and gift shop in Flourtown, PA. The models were all Foundation friends, supporters and clients of Scarlet Begonias. A great time was had by all! Women shopped between October 11 and 13, thereby raising \$9,400 for the Foundation.

It makes me feel so good to know my wonderful women friends and Foundation supporters are always there — with continued patronage for the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation. It’s not possible to put into words how grateful Frank, Michael and I are for these efforts, completed solely to continue Kate’s vision for our world and the potential to turn lives around. Please don’t underestimate the value of your caring, kindness and generosity.



Lauren Emert, Adrienne Weissman, from E & A present a check to Ellen Svitek and Bernice Glaser, KSMF founders.



More Dinner/Fashion Show pictures on page 6



Sometimes I just stop and think about all of the milestones our dear Kate has missed these past almost 17 years.

In July I turned 65 and last month her Pop-Pop, Bob Clair turned 90. I get sad... have a big cry then come back to Kate's Foundation web site. This

Message

makes me feel good about all that our friends, supporters and family have done to help kids experience the Great Outdoors.

We started 2018 with a Sip and Shop 2 at Evelyn and Arthur that raised \$9505. We celebrated Kate's Bittersweet 16 with a Non Event Event and Ad Book which raised \$48,600. In October we had our first ever Fashion Show at Flourtown Country Club with fashions by Scarlet Begonias. We raised \$7400.

We received a \$2500 grant from the Joseph Alexander Foundation. Many supporters bought cards and certificates, bought with Amazon Smile and those projects raised \$9676.

We awarded \$121,800 in grants to 32 different programs. This year's new recipients

include: Phipps Conservatory (Pittsburgh); Baltimore Yearly Meeting (MD); Johns Hopkins Outdoor Club (MD); Exploring New Horizons School (CA); Camp Kesem (CA); Pajarito EEC (NM); Brewster-Pierce School (VT); and Strayer Middle School (PA).

As the cover article mentioned, I am bursting with pride that my women friends in Pa and Fl helped raise almost \$17,000.

WOMEN ROCK



Ellen for Frank, Michael and Bob Clair (Kate's Pop-pop)



Thanks to the generosity of donors like the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, Camp Rainbow welcomed and served 403 kids ages 7-17 this year. The Camp administered pre- and post-assessments to evaluate the campers' assimilation of Internal Developmental Assets (IDA). The goal is to assist campers in increasing their IDA, the "building blocks of healthy development". Studies indicate that youth who possess more IDA have significantly increased chances of resisting high-risk behaviors and of achieving success in school and the workforce. In 2018, 10% assimilated 11-16 IDA, 28% assimilated 5-10 IDA, 26% assimilated 1-4 IDA, and 36% assimilated 0 (this unusually high number is due to a new survey process which did not prove to be effective).



The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation's grant of \$4,500 was used to cover the costs of 15 campers at Camp Rainbow for one week each. The grant allowed Camp Rainbow to accommodate more campers than it would have without the grant funds.

Beginning in March, Camp Rainbow sent out and delivered 3,000 camp applications in English, Spanish, and Mandarin to Montgomery County school guidance counselors, social workers, and police officials. In May, the board began preparing the camp for summer and the executive director began hiring counselors. Campers began arriving Sunday, June 24, the last group departed Friday August 17, camp clean-up began and the camp closed by the end of the month.



This year we replaced our boating dock and this revitalized boating activities. In addition to structured rock-climbing lessons, we strengthened our environmental studies experiences offering more in-depth activities this year. Both these program additions were successful and we intend to continue in the same vein next summer.





Venture Outdoors has witnessed an increase in recreational paddling in southwestern PA over the past three years. In fact, paddling continues to be one of the organization's signature programs

serving close to 60,000 people annually through three kayak rental concessions and a variety of paddling programs including beginner level kayaking, early morning wake-up paddles, and destination paddles. Paddles are held on local rivers and on local and regional lakes. As the number of paddlers increases on local waterways, it is more important than ever to be a part of the conversation about safety on the water.

Recognizing the need to improve internal knowledge and skill levels for staff and volunteer paddle leaders, Venture Outdoors has offered a series of high-level trainings so all leaders remain proficient on proper paddling techniques, on-water rescues, and can confidently lead a group with a range of skill levels. This is Venture Outdoors' third iteration of training through the ACA.



Last year's kayak trainings focused on "coastal" waters and were done in a pool and on North Park Lake. Nine participants including three staff and six volunteers went through ACA coastal training last year. Since two of the three Kayak Pittsburgh rental concessions are located on local rivers, it was important in 2018 to add a course focused more on river kayaking.

Venture Outdoors contracted with nationally recognized ACA instructors Beth and Steve Wiegandt to teach the course. One full-time staff member, one part-time Trip Leader Specialist, and six Volunteer Trip Leaders participated in the course.



The three-day course was held in an open-air shelter and on two bodies of water, North Park Lake and on a site where the Conemaugh River meets the Loyalhanna Creek in Saltsburg, PA.

The course covered a variety of topics including paddle strokes and rescue skills as well as safety issues and hazards of flat-water kayaking, hypothermia prevention and treatment, Leave No Trace for the kayaker, and how to dress for paddling.

The course provided expert level training for staff and volunteers. The organization now has 16 staff and volunteers who offer 10-15 internal paddle trainings as well as 10-20 trainings for volunteers, members, and the general public. The newly trained instructors bring a wealth of knowledge to the organization and can assist Venture Outdoors in training additional staff and volunteers.



I am reporting to you that once again your financial support enabled Grassy Waters Conservancy (Conservancy) to provide the staff at Grassy Waters Preserve (Preserve) funding for a summer camp program. This year your support enabled us to hire two college interns and deliver an unforgettable outdoor experience to 95 middle school students enrolled in four inner city summer camps in West Palm Beach, Florida. The program took place at both the camp sites and at the Preserve.

The two college students who served as interns for the program were Samantha, a sophomore at Colgate University, who is majoring in Environmental Studies and Geography and Stefanie, a junior at the University of Miami, who is majoring in Biology and Marine Science. They were trained by the Preserve staff to work with the students at both the summer camps and the Preserve. In addition to their work with the campers, the interns designed two interactive boardwalk tour activity packets for students in grades 3-5 and grades 6-12.

The summer program for each camp, led by the student interns, consisted of a pre-visit to the camp, a field trip to Grassy Waters Preserve and a post visit to the camp. During the pre-visit, the campers were introduced to the Preserve and participated in a project wild activity on the school campus where they were taught how to identify and survey local birds by their song and other animals that may be signed at the Preserve.



During their visit to the Preserve, the campers took part in three activities:

- Through a "Swamp Tromp" campers got their feet wet on an off-boardwalk hike through the Preserve and pretended they were members of a Florida Native American tribe as they slogged through the marsh. During the swam Tromp, the campers learned how plants have adapted to live in the Preserve habitat and which species would be used for food, medicine and to build a shelter.
- Through "dipnetting" campers learned what lies beneath the shallow waters of the Preserve. They collected and observed the tiny marsh creatures that survive buried in the muck and suspended in the water. They learned the different methods each critter has developed to survive in the wetland habitat and discussed how the creatures interact in their shared environment.
- Through canoeing, campers developed or fine-tuned their canoeing skills while learning about the importance of the Preserve and the greater Everglades ecosystem. They learned about Everglades geology and natural history to discover why conserving this ecosystem is so important. They learned about the path of water from



Continued on page 7



Grateful CAP Students Write About Their Outward Bound Experiences

My experience at North Carolina Outward Bound has been the best experience of my life. I am able to create close friendships with the girls in my crew, and face my fears with heights by rock climbing. Being a city girl from Philadelphia having the opportunity to learn, meet and discover my strengths and weaknesses opened my eyes. To be able to get away from the city lights, family and friends for three weeks allowed me to enjoy nature, challenge myself and listen to other people's stories with different backgrounds. I chose an all girls crew and I was able to go canoeing and rock climbing with the girls who I became close and related with throughout my course. One memorable event was the instructors allowed us to work together to navigate to the top of a mountain where the campsite would be. This was fun and hard at the same time because everyday at a certain hour of the day while hiking we started laughing a lot. This was because of how tired we were toward the end of the day. We would call it noodle hour.

Eventually we got to the top of the mountain and I could see the beautiful sky and small houses within the wilderness. As the sun set, day turned into night it was the most extraordinary thing. I could see millions of stars as my crew bonded and ate dinner under the cold starry night. It was so perfect that nothing else mattered but me laying under the stars relaxing and the girls who I experienced the good and bad with. I am amazed at how I got through my struggles as well as being changed as a person mentally and physically in a good way over the course of three weeks. I am very thankful for the scholarship you have given me because I learned enough to know what I'm really capable of. Being able to get out of my comfort zone to experience the feeling of hiking for hours, canoeing, climb the highest mountain and get through mother nature's obstacles I can get through anything that comes my way and do anything I put my mind to. I appreciate a lot of things that come my way and that are already in my life more now. Thank you for letting me be able to experience this with people I have never met and now grew close to at Outward Bound. As well as learning the four amazing pillars that helped me throughout my experience which are self-reliance, compassion, craftsmanship and physical fitness at the North Carolina Outward Bound school.

Sincerely,
Genesis

... I truly appreciate the scholarship that I received to have than opportunity that was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. On this trip I made many friends, learned many new things, and also created lots of memories. Once experience that I will never forget is my second day of rock climbing. I was going up the rock and at one certain point I got stuck. I didn't know what to do or how to get up so I told myself I wanted to get down, but my crew mates pushed me and told me that I can do it. So, I pushed really hard to get up the rock.

– *Damara*

... I really would like to thank you for the experience you allowed me to have in honor of your daughter. If it wasn't for you, I would not have been able to step out of my comfort zone and become a better individual. I was able to overcome many challenges and try things I would not have done on my own, such as canoeing and rock climbing. If it was up to me I would have never thought of even doing either one. However, not only did the course challenge me in as many ways

possible but it also allowed me to meet many amazing people from all over the country. During the twenty-two days I was there I made lifelong friends that I will never forget. Although we are many miles apart, the challenges we experienced together will forever keep us connected. What you guys are doing is helping many young adults like myself step out of their comfort and gain a new perspective on life.

– *Unity*

... I am a student from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania who fortunately got the change to experience the two-week course at the North Carolina Outward Bound School. I really appreciate the donated money for all of this experience. The whole experience was very challenging, especially with the weather conditions and my struggle with patience. There were so many times where I felt like giving up. Luckily I had great crew members who helped push me to do better. Coming from the city, this whole experience is definitely out of my comfort zone. One major lesson I took back home with me is to not take the things I have for granted, and to appreciate the little things. I know for a fact I will never neglect what I have learned, the people I have met and the overall experience.

– *Adamariz*

... The fact that I actually went through two weeks amazes me even when not discussing it. The experience changed me when I did not even expect it to change me. The change within me was unexpected. I learned life lessons as well as learned about things outside of my everyday life. Mentally and physically it expanded my mind. It showed me no matter how hard something is you can always pull through. North Carolina Outward Bound was a life changing experience for sure and I appreciate everyone who made it possible for me to go.

– *Shadiyah*

... Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to go on this amazing trip. Because of you, I met Dayhana and now we are like sisters. I know that I will never have the same experiences with anyone ever again. Because of that we have a very special bond. Outward Bound had a huge impact on my life. I had an awful fear of heights ever since I was a kid. The plane to North Carolina was the first step of getting over my fear. The second step was rock climbing. I always tell people that it was the best thing I have ever done because I was able to see something many city people never see.

– *Ariana*

... Thank you for providing me with this once in a lifetime experience. Although the course was very challenging, it was an overall great accomplishment in my life. My trip was quite a wild one, I had terrible nights in which I slept in puddles, cried, and begged to go home from the agonizing temperature that I endured while the rain continued. I slept in mud, literally, woke up one night and seen my instructors outside my tent trying to dig tunnels to get the water out of our group tents. But not everything was terrible.

I spent nights with my group on a farm, looking upon the vast and far stars above us, it was so amazing. My view, wonderous mountains and colors, with the most clear sky during the day. You could never imagine how beautiful these views were in person. We played games, hiked (which was not always the most pleasant) and worked as a team to live together for those 2 weeks.

– *Jonathan*



"I think that nature is really cool and anybody who doesn't like nature that means that they really don't like themselves because everything here is a part of nature."

- Camp Attaway Camper, Age 10

Each summer, I take a few minutes after our weekly nature activities to interview some of our campers. I use these interviews to gain feedback about the nature program at Camp Attaway. Was it a fun activity? Did the camper learn something? Should we do the same activity again next summer?

The above quote was taken from one of these interviews. Since this program started, it has always been my goal to have campers develop an understanding and appreciation for the environment. I believe that the program was a success this summer overall but specifically for this camper who was able to share how he learned we are all connected. The continued support provided by the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation has allowed us to open the eyes of our campers to the beauty of the natural world and help them develop lifelong connections to it.



Our program featured many camper favorites this year and as in years past they continued to be a hit. Returning for its second summer was the making of sun prints. The sun print activity was paired with the annual Attaway seed planting. Both of these activities allowed campers to gain a better understanding of how all living things on Earth are connected through their reliance on the sun. By caring for their plants each day, campers not only took on the responsibility of caring for something outside of themselves but also felt the satisfaction of successfully helping the plants grow and thrive.

During the first week of camp, Reptile Man returned with a menagerie of reptiles for the campers to learn about. One camper said, "He was awesome. I liked him. I liked to touch the animals."



The focus during the second week of camp was teamwork. The Predator - Prey game has become an annual nature favorite. Through this game, campers learned about the relationships between herbivores, omnivores and carnivores. They also learned that all animals need food and water and that sometimes animals will work together to survive. Over the years campers have shown such a love for this game, that this year we played several rounds with campers having the opportunity to take on different roles during each round.

We had a truly exciting adventure while attempting to visit Patapsco Valley State Park to do our annual stream study. Due to significant flooding, all of the hiking trails in the park were closed and we could not reach our stream. This provided a perfect

learning opportunity as it showed the campers the awesome power of mother nature. Luckily, there was another section of the park that we could explore, and we found a trail that led us to a beautiful pond. We dipped our nets in, got a little (and in some cases a lot) muddy and were able to compare what we had seen at the stream in years past to what we were seeing at the pond. Although we only caught one small frog, the campers loved the overall pond experience. So much so that we will have to make the tough decision next year as to whether we will go back to the stream or try the pond again.



Having watched the nature program grow from the beginning, it is exciting to see what it has become today. I believe that if we can get even just one camper to explore the outside world a little more, learn something new about the environment, or start to like (or even love) being out in nature, that our program is a success. The financial support provided by the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation has truly allowed this program to flourish and the campers are reaping the benefits. By showing campers how to feel comfortable in nature and by nurturing their curiosity in it, we are helping them become stewards of the Earth.

Thank you so much!

Ladies of Florida...

Hope to see you at
the 3rd Annual Sip and Shop
at

Evelyn and Arthur's
Palm Beach Gardens store

EVELYN & ARTHUR
HAVE YOU HAD A GOOD LOOK LATELY?

February 6, 2019
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

Feel free to shop at any hour that is
convenient for you that day.

We Shopped Until We Dropped!

More fun at the Flourtown C.C. Dinner/Fashion Show





CENTER for
AQUATIC
SCIENCES

With funding from the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation and other supporters, the Center for

Aquatic Sciences sent 12 youth and 5 staff in the Community and Urban Science Enrichment (CAUSE) Program on an exploration of Maine. The CAUSE program is designed to provide a nurturing environment for youth that allows them to learn new ideas, explore new places and push their limits. Through a challenging aquatic sciences curriculum, the youth, in grades 9-12, gain an appreciation for the environment and discover ways that they can help protect it, both locally and world-wide.

The teens left Camden, NJ on an early summer morning and by evening were attending a field ecology program at the Ecology School in Saco, Maine. This year's



programmatic focus was on the importance of minimizing the effects of marine debris. The teens visited the tidepools where they discovered and observed marine organisms such as crabs, marine snails and other animals in their natural habitat. While there, they were tasked with removing any evidence of ocean pollution. From the collected debris, the teens created an anatomically correct squid that is on display at the Ecology School. On the final evening, teens practiced educational skits utilizing the E-5 teaching model and theater techniques.

After spending several days at the Ecology School, the youth then spent a day whitewater rafting. As many of the students do not know how to swim, and have never had a similar experience, this was an opportunity for them to overcome their fears and prove to themselves that they can do anything. After this trip, many felt confident enough to again face their fear of water during a 3-day canoeing and camping trip in the Poconos. The excursion ended, as it does each year with a visit to a local college or university. This year the youth toured the University of New England. Since the CAUSE youth program has a 100% high school graduation rate and 98% of the students enroll in college in the fall, this is always a positive way to end an exciting trip.



A Time To Remember

*As I heard the stranger next to me snore
I could see the orange fire roar
The rest of the campsite was mysterious and black
I thought about tomorrow and all I would explore*

*At Outward Bound, we had a schedule to keep us on track
I would sit in the wet grass and snack
And talk to a girl that was blonde
Then I would put on my heavy green pack*

*I saw beautiful things and I was fond
Of the mountains, trees, flowers and a huge blue pond
We reached our stop and I was filled with glee
Because we didn't have to go through trails and beyond*

*I will miss the butterflies and inchworms we would always see
In the woods with the greenery is where I felt free
I don't know much, but one thing I can guarantee
Is I will always carry memories of Outward Bound with me*

Ariana Velez
Community Academy of
Philadelphia
Summer 2018
North Carolina Outward Bound



Grassy Waters

(continued from page 3)

the clouds, to the marsh, to their faucet.

For the post-visit, the interns modified a Project Wild activity, Marsh Munchers, to match food webs the campers saw at the Preserve.

Below are a few of the comments that the campers shared as they designed their book covers and reflected on their Preserve experience:

“My favorite part was when we went hiking because it was new for me and I ended up having a lot of fun.”

“I would recommend a trip to Grassy Waters because everything was so amazing. I didn't use any technology and had so much fun. My favorite part of the trip was when we got in the swamp.”

“My favorite part was being able to see the different animals out in the wild. I had a great time at Grassy Waters because of the open space and the animals.”

Thank You! Thank You!

Once again this year the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation received a check in the amount of \$2,500 from the Joseph Alexander Foundation. Mr. Alexander's niece, Randi Windheim serves on the board of the Joseph Alexander Foundation and knew Kate when she was growing up.



Thanks to support from the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, First Waves provided underserved youth with experiences in watershed conservation, paddleboarding, and

filmmaking. The program successfully delivered three educational workshops, the production of a conservation documentary (premiering in May, 2019), and mentorship for 15 kids facing adversity in their lives.

In the first workshop, students began with a hands-on filmmaking class with Pittsburgh Filmmakers / Pittsburgh Center for the Arts. The students learned to use microphones, DSLR cameras, and other media equipment. The group also practiced journalism techniques by orchestrating on-camera interviews with their peers, mentors, and professional journalists.

Next, the students analyzed samples of the water, which revealed coal rocks floating throughout. A landslide upstream was the likely culprit taking paddling off the schedule for the day.



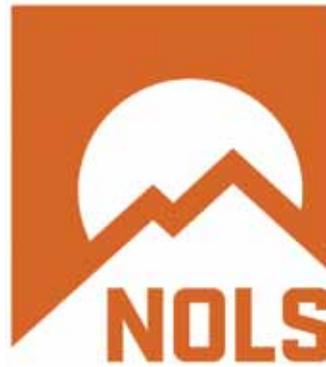
The kids were disappointed, but reflected on how the experience would leave them with an understanding about the impacts of pollution.

“The fact that there was coal in the water today really puts the big picture in a different perspective...I think it will be really helpful to know what’s in the water and why it’s coming through,” explained one student.

At the second workshop, First Waves implemented its inaugural tree planting program in partnership with the non-profit, Tree Pittsburgh. The kids planted native trees along the Stonycreek River and learned about their benefits to the environment. They also cleaned up trash from the shoreline.

Next, they suited up in paddling gear. Laughter and cheers echoed through the valley as the kids learned to paddle through the rapids with their mentors. Several exclaimed that paddling whitewater was “better than anyride at Kennywood!”

During the final workshop at Bottleworks Ethnic Arts Center, the kids learned to compile footage from their days on the river. The contrast in imagery from each day was stunning. One showed a world where we stand on the banks watching sullied water pass by. The other reflected one where we are immersed in the water that connects us. We are confident that First Waves carves a path toward the latter – where everyone can enjoy the benefits that healthy watersheds provide.



This year your gift of \$5,000 through the Kate Svitek Memorial Found in support of NOLS scholarships powered life changing experiences, leadership development, proficiency in technical skills and enduring community values for NOLS students.

Through your investment, Sierra Zischke from Scottsdale,

AZ was able to travel to South America to participate in a semester in Patagonia this year. Your gift makes a world-class wilderness education accessible to those who wouldn’t otherwise have the opportunity. Hearing from students is one of the most gratifying parts of the scholarship process; we’re excited to share Sierra’s letter of gratitude with you!

Dear Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation,

Because of your generosity, my life has changed. I was able to participate with the 80-day kayaking and climbing experience in Patagonia. It is difficult for me to find the words to describe the full scope of my experience and there is so much more I will gain in the future as I continue to utilize the lessons I learned. Thank you for helping me to acquire the tools to become the best that I can be and an influence for others in my life.

NOLS is a unique experience no other program can offer someone. The program is not just teaching, it provides the environment for an individual for self-discover. My opportunity to experience NOLS was eye opening and mind expanding. It allowed me to look at my life from an outside perspective, enabling me to see what and who I want to be. I learned so much about myslef, the world and the people around me. Sometimes it can be so easy to get caught up in trivial matters, this trip helped me to identify and learn what is important to me today and gave the perspective of the path I want to take for my future.

Throughtout my life I have experienced many hardshpas and have grown by overcoming them. ThisNOLS expedition presented me challenges and emaning situations that took me to a whole new level that I could never have achieved if I hadn’t had the opportunity to be part of this expedition and life changing experience.

Here is an example. After a long day of kayaking you are cold, tired and all you want to do is to sleep and get warm, but there are other priorities. You must set u camp, prepare meals and help your fellow campmates. While you are doing these tasks, you must keep your wet clothes on despite the intense desire to change into dry clothes because wearing them is how you dry them. This was very impactful to me, I learned perseverance, addressing priorities and excepting uncomfortable environments.

Once again, I want to express my deepest gratitude for supporting NOLS.

With gratitude,
Sierra Zischke

NOTE: Kate participated in this same trip. She too found it to be a life changing experience.

UVM Interns Share Their Experiences

Dear Svitek Family,

This past summer I was privileged enough to be able to take an unpaid Internship with Wilderness Inquiry, which ended up being one of the most beneficial and fulfilling things I have done so far in my life. I worked as a Sea Kayak Base Camp Intern, where I worked as a member of a small team at a semi-remote Sea Kayaking Base Camp on Lake Superior in the Apostle Islands. I worked mainly on camp operations, and was able to experience first-hand all the work needed to smoothly run Sea Kayaking trips on one of the largest, coldest, and cleanest freshwater lakes in the world. In addition, I worked in Minneapolis, MN at Wilderness Inquiry's Headquarters, helping to ensure trips had everything they needed to run smoothly and helped to lead multiple trips throughout the summer as well. I worked with underserved populations around Minneapolis and Chicago, helping them to experience the outdoors in ways they haven't been able to before.



I was first exposed to Wilderness Inquiry 4 years ago on a trip through my summer camp in Wisconsin, which sparked my interest in Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation. Returning this summer and training as an Intern and Outdoor Leader helped me to develop skills that will last me a lifetime in this field as I help others to experience nature in the same way I love to. I was able to make lifelong friends and gain new experiences that I'll remember for the rest of my life. Without your assistance it would've been much more difficult for me to travel and live so far from home for the summer, and I'm immensely grateful for your generous gift. I did some reading on Kate last semester before taking the internship, and I hope that my future work will help her dream to live on through my hands in the future.

Thank you,
Ethan

Dear Svitek Family,

When I found out that I would be hired as the new summer 2018 Education Intern at the Birds of Vermont Museum, I was ecstatic. I had just finished working as a Teaching Assistant for a Field Ornithology and Habitat Assessment class at the University of Vermont, and the prospect of continuing my not-so-original-but-aptly-named "Summer of Birds" was a dream come true. It did, however mean that I would have to find another part-time supplemental job in order to subsidize travel costs, rent payments, and grocery bills.

That was until, I read about the Kate Svitek Memorial Award.

I cannot thank you enough for the financial assistance you granted me; this opportunity would truly not have been possible without your selfless generosity and commitment to outdoor education. Because of this award, I was able to work alongside amazing field naturalists at the Birds of Vermont Museum, and feel as if I was actually making a difference. The Birds of Vermont Museum is a non-profit organization that opened in 1987 as a result of one man's passion for wood carving, ecology, birds, and most importantly, education. Since its origin, the mission of the museum has been to preserve and exhibit lifelike carvings for the purpose of educating people about the role of birds in the ecosystem .

In just the summer I have worked here, I have had the pleasure of working with school groups, groups for special disabilities, senior groups, nature camps, families from as far as Texas and France, and people of all ages, backgrounds, and interests. I was even able to reconnect an older Californian woman with Vermont carvers that she remembered from her childhood in

Hinesburg, VT!

These amazing opportunities would simply not have been possible without your contributions. The people I have met, connections I have made, and career-pathfinding have done in my two short months with the museum will last me a lifetime. Thank you, Svitek Family.

Sincerely,
Danielle



Dear Svitek Family,

I wanted to thank you so much for making my summer internship possible with the Katie Svitek Award I received. My summer was an invaluable experience for me up in Alaska. I worked for the Susitna River Coalition doing historical research, community outreach, and helped coordinate a ballot initiative called "Stand for Salmon" that was up for vote this past November. The river is currently not under attack from the hydropower project anymore but I helped get documents, information, and resources to secure the future of the river.

The money was used to keep me financially afloat up there. Food is extremely pricey since most all of it is shipped from the lower 48 states. I honestly don't know what I would have done without it.

Again, I can't express how appreciative I am for this award. Attached is a photo of myself on the glacier that feeds and gives life to the Susitna River. Thank you!

Cheers,
Laura





We have partnered with local school districts to place wildlife trail cameras on school properties as a way to help students identify the biodiversity of urban habitats, increasing awareness of wildlife in their backyards. To date, we have placed cameras on the properties of three different schools (Figures 1-3) in the Pittsburgh area, and one

on Phipps' campus. The teachers are partnering with Phipps to collect images from the camera on at least a monthly basis, and Phipps staff change the batteries in the cameras approximately every two weeks.

In addition, we are developing STEAM-based educational materials to teachers that will allow students to meaningfully analyze their camera's wildlife data and emotionally process their exploration of nature. (These materials will include creative writing prompts, instructions on how to use Excel to calculate simple biology indices, and ideas for art projects.)



Johns Hopkins Outdoors Club

My name is AsiaLuna Patlis, and I am contacting you on behalf of the Johns Hopkins Outdoors Club. We received a grant from you in the spring, and we recently got to put that money to use for a fall break backpacking trip to Shenandoah National Park. Many of the participants were seniors, and some of them had never been backpacking before. This trip allowed them a chance to experience something new in the outdoors before graduation. We deeply appreciate your contribution to the Johns Hopkins Outdoors Club. Without the generous grant from the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation this trip would not have been possible. An extended fall break backpacking trip has been a goal of ours, and the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation made that goal a reality. Attached you will find letters from the participants of the trips accompanied with photos from their time in the park. Thank you for helping us achieve our mission of leading outdoor trips.

With deepest gratitude,
The Johns Hopkins Outdoors Club

For the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, THANK YOU! For making the Shenandoah backpacking trip possible! It was definitely a beautiful trip. also tis was my first time backpacking in the back country and I learned so many new things. I have always wanted to go backpacking and this trip allowed me to have a great introduction to backpacking. The leaders were amazing. The food was surprisingly really good and the view in any point of our hike was always beautiful. I gotta admit, the hike itself was grueling as we hiked almost 15 miles one way but it was definitely worth it. In addition, this trip was a really good way to detox from all the work I had to do this past week. It allowed to relax and truly live in the moment. Finally, the coolest thing was how we gotta see a bear!!!

– Kenny

Dear Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation,

Thank you so much for the grant that allowed us to go to the Shenandoah National Park this weekend. I grew up as a military brat, so I knew how pretty the US was, but had never spent much time in nature. This weekend was such a great opportunity for me to finally see the true beauty of the Appalachians. Each day we were there, I was amazed at how something so naturally random and seemingly chaotic could look so perfect. I absolutely fell in love with all that I saw. Despite having fleeting moments of homesickness since starting college this fall, being at the park somehow made me feel so close to everything. This experience truly was a blessing to be able to enjoy the wonders of nature. I want to thank you again for allowing me this opportunity!

– Jenna

To the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation

I really appreciate the opportunity you have given us to get outside. In an increasingly connected and technology-centric world, it seems wherever I go it is harder and harder to break outside the loop. But thanks to your generosity, I was able to spend an entire 3 day weekend at Shenandoah National Park in the middle of the year while my mates were freaking about tests, mid-terms, applications and internships. And I needed it. Ever since coming to college, I feel less connected to the natural world, considering Baltimore is a fry cry from the town I grew up in. Your donation allowed me to set some of that back, if just for a weekend. One of my biggest regrets freshman year was becoming distant from the nature I was accustomed to growing up and after this weekend, I feel more at home.

– Cortland

To Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation:

This weekend, I had the opportunity to go on a backpacking trip with the Johns Hopkins Outdoor Club (JHOC) at Shenandoah National Park. It was my first extended outdoors experience for two nights in the backcountry. Rarely do I have the chance to escape the busy university work life, ditch the cell phone, and simply enjoy the serene landscape of the US. The most memorable parts of this trip were the encouraging and passionate JHOC trip leaders, lending outdoor skills such as setting up a bear bag for camp and hiking through the leafy, rocky, muddy and colorful forests of the Appalachian Trail. Not only did I renew my love of nature and exploring the wilderness, I also made new friends on this journey. Thank you for your support of our fantastic trip!

Kind regards,

– Mark



Thank you for the generosity you have shown to Boys' Latin of Philadelphia. The \$5,000 grant from the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation enabled our students,

teachers and school leaders to participate in North Carolina Outward Bound (NCOB) once again this year.

Critical to preparing our students for success in college and beyond is the opportunity to engage them in powerful and relevant learning experiences. Each year we partner with NCOB so that our boys may grow as individuals, learners, leaders, brothers and sons. With your support, six Boys' Latin students traveled to the Blue Ridge Mountains this summer. Jordan and Jewany spent two weeks, and Zion and Quadry spent three weeks hiking, backpacking and rock climbing. Nathan backpacked and went white water canoeing. Lawrence backpacked and engaged in community service. Each young man returned inspired and energized.

...Thank you for making it possible for me to have this wonderful experience. I now feel like I can do what ever I want as long as I set my mind to it. One of Boys' Latin core values is brotherhood and brotherhood means helping your peers out when they need it and show respect and love for your community. At North Carolina Outward Bound I helped my crew out when they were tired and felt like they couldn't do it any more. I motivated them and helped them push through. From this experience I learned how to trust people when trust is hard to find. I will forever be grateful for this experience and I hope someone gets to experience it in the future. I hope to have the opportunity to participate in NCOB again.

– Jewany

...Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to take part in Outward Bound this past summer. It was extremely fun and full of life lessons. I was paired with a very unique group of people. We learned to work as a team and move as one. My biggest take away from the trip was a saying that one of my instructors said, "You will never truly know what you like until you step out of your comfort zone." Emrick, my instructor told me that about half way through the trip and that is what got me through the rest of the action packed journey and is now a key quote that I live by. It's all thanks to you, so thank you once more

– Zion



Dear Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation Administrators:

On behalf of all the members of Philly STRIDE (Strengthening Transformative Relationships in Diverse Environments) I would like to thank you for your

generous \$3,000 grant towards our program. We are incredibly grateful, especially as first-time applicants, for your financial support of our efforts to cultivate and enhance an atmosphere of diversity and inclusion at Catoctin Quaker Camp and throughout the BYM Camping Program.

Your donation helped us send three campers from the Philadelphia area; Xan, Saleim, and Ionesti, to camp this summer, where they were able to test their limits on a 10-day 150 mile backpacking trip, form close bonds with their fellow campers, and immerse themselves in the supportive (and FUN!) community that our camp staff works to provide for all of our campers. We believe



that outdoor experiences encourage growth by placing children, especially those from urban centers, in a new and challenging environment, empowering them to realize their full potential by revealing that they are strong, independent, and creative. Additionally, our efforts to increase diversity and foster increased inclusion in our camps reflect our dedication to pursuing environmental justice by helping to provide access to the outdoors



for communities that have historically been excluded from such activities. None of these efforts would be possible without the financial assistance of groups like the Kate Svitek Foundation, who share our values and goals of expanding opportunities for young people to partake in meaningful outdoor experiences.

Please find attached to my email a collection of photos of Xan, Saleim, and Ionesti with their fellow campers on their 10-day trip. Their smiling faces may be the clearest representation of just how valuable the funding that you provide is in directly impacting the lives of the children who benefit from our program.

Again, we thank you and your organization for seeing the value in our program. Please know that your grant has changed lives for the better, and has helped us provide an experience for our campers that they will never forget!





On behalf of the participants of the Creeks to Coast Program, Los Angeles Waterkeeper (LAW) thanks the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation for your generous support. Last year, the Creeks to Coast Program partnered with 4 Title I high schools in LA County, including Aspire Pacific Academy, Aspire Ollin University Prep, Los Angeles Academy of Arts and Enterprise, and New Earth YouthBuild Charter.

Our team was able to engage a total of 95 students from these schools – most of which are located historically underserved communities in Northeast and South LA – in hands-on, experiential learning activities educating them about watershed health and inspiring stewardship of our shared environment.



Our Watershed and Marine programs staff provided each class with in-depth classroom lessons and fieldwork opportunities at the LA River, Ballona Creek, and LA County’s local marine protected areas. Students were first introduced to the program via classroom presentation, where they were also given pre-

instruction surveys that allowed our team to develop curriculum suited to their needs. Then, we took students to the LA River and Ballona Creek where they learned how to take water quality samples and trash assessments. Many of the schools we visited were located directly adjacent to the LA River, but many students had never even visited it before! Following this fieldwork onshore, students hopped aboard the Waterkeeper boat where they helped monitor our regional marine protected areas for illegal activities and collected water quality samples. After all field excursions were complete, students were then required to complete capstone-style end of semester projects that both showcased what they learned about the interconnections between our inland and coastal waterways, as well as explored civic action pathways they could take to improve the health of the environments in their communities.



We are very happy to report that students showed tremendous improvement in their knowledge of watershed health, and several students even presented their projects at a MPA Collaborative meeting!

As one teacher stated, “There were several students that I saw really transform in their persona, their attitude toward school and just believing that they could make a difference.”



In its third year, Conservation Leadership Academy offered 16 middle and high school students the opportunity to learn about conservation practices and careers during a week-long resident camp at Lacawac Sanctuary in Lake Ariel PA. One camper said it was “a learning experience of a lifetime.”

This year’s Conservation Leadership Academy was filled with many field trips like excursions to local farms to learn about sustainable farming practices and to the Delaware River to get hands on with wildlife in and along the river. Campers participated in various hands-on activities with experts in environmental fields like a Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resource’s Forester, a Forestry Specialist, and the director of Northern Tier Hardwood Association.



The director of the Lake Wallenpaupack Watershed Management District took the campers out on Lake Wallenpaupack, one of the largest recreational lakes in Pennsylvania, to take samples of the lake’s water quality and learn about keeping recreational lakes safe to swim and fish in. On a scientific side of things, campers learned about Aquatic Ecology at Lacawac and the ongoing research taking place at Lake Lacawac. Students took water samples in the lake and analyzed them in Lacawac’s laboratory while sharing the results with Lacawac’s Director of Science and Research, a PhD level scientist.

As always, the campers ended the week with a fun kayak trip on the Delaware River where they saw many Bald Eagles and learned about the conservation practices that lead to their return.

Without the support of the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, students would not have this opportunity to have hands on experiences in education and adventures through activities in the outdoors. One camper wrote in their evaluation of the program, “It was an amazing experience. The best week of my life. People were so nice and it was just so much fun. I really wish it was a lot longer.” Another camper noted that “This week was absolutely amazing. I honestly never want to go back home. It’s so relaxing here and I feel so happy and free here. I wish I could be here always.”



More importantly campers realized how important it is to learn about environmental issues and the natural world around us. “CLA made me realize that I love environmental science more than I thought I did and is what I want to do for the rest of my life.”

Conservation Leadership Academy and its support from the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation could be summed up in the words of one of the participants, “Thank you for all that you do and continuing to teach younger generations.”





The College Settlement of Philadelphia

600 WITMER ROAD - HORSHAM, PENNSYLVANIA 19044

To prepare young people to make a positive impact on the world.

More than 900 children and 70 counselors from 15 different countries came to the 235 acre Horsham camp of College Settlement in the summer of 2018 for an unforgettable camping experience. This summer was a wonderful opportunity for families whose children could be stimulated, surrounded by nature, and inspired to achieve their own “challenges by choice” in a safe place with caring, trained, and dedicated staff guiding them through the experience. Staff rose to the occasion with outdoor activities beyond the swimming, “creek crawling”, ropes courses and biking programs that we usually offer, and we were glad that we now have a new building on our day camp side that could provide a safe place for rainy day activities that included Zumba classes, arts and crafts, costume making (for Super Heroes Day) during the worst of the storms. We even had impromptu “slip ‘n’ slides” when the rain lingered but it was safe to be outdoors.



We also had many challenges – record heat, dramatic rains that sometimes lasted for days, and variation in our families’ ability to pay that we sought to address proactively once we became aware of the extent of the need. It is always a part of

our mission to make it as easy as possible for families to enroll their children in camp. We have both an overnight and a day camp, and provide transportation through buses for campers attending the day camp. Fees are structured on a sliding scale based on the School Lunch Program criteria, and because of the demographic we are committed to serving most families require this assistance in order to register their child. This summer, Camp scholarship financial aid exceeded projection by \$10,676.



There were more than twice as many scholarship requests compared to 2017.

Additional camper related fundraising was undertaken in order to ensure we could serve all campers without regard to economic circumstances---totaling \$11,500+—which covered the additional \$10,676 needed. The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation’s grant helped families to offer their children the gift of camp during a time when the needs were greatest.



The Schuylkill Center was awarded a grant of \$2,500 from the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation for the purpose

of providing educational support to underserved students in Philadelphia. Because of your gift, we were able to provide 1,264 hours of outdoor STEM learning to 414 Philadelphia public school students from some of the most disadvantaged schools



in the city. The majority of these students have minimal access to immersive nature experiences or opportunities to use nature as a context for learning science. Support from our partners, including the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, has allowed us to continue increasing our engagement of Philadelphia public schools nearly 80% over the last few years.

As a result of funding from the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, 173 Philadelphia school

students engaged in hands-on lessons focusing on aquatic ecology, 96 students engaged in lessons focusing on ecosystems and adaptations, and 145 students learned about wildlife and their habitats. Opportunities such as exploring pond life with nets and microscopes, exploring different habitats to discover unique animal adaptations for living in those habitats, and exploring how energy flows through an ecosystem by making observations while in an ecosystem are often first time experiences for most of these students. Our wildlife programs, where students get to meet and learn about live animals, provided a unique opportunity for the students build empathy by coming eye-to-eye with a wild creature.



We were very pleased with the level of interest among teachers and principals in these environmental education program opportunities. For the second year in a row, we’ve conducted less overall programs from previous years, however, we continue to increase the number of overall student contact hours. We have based this shift on empirical evidence that suggests more continual exposure to the environment has longer lasting benefits as opposed to bringing children to the Center for the typical “one-off” field trip.



On behalf of First Descents, thank you for your generous grant award of \$2,500 in support of our young adult survivorship programs. We are grateful for your belief in our

mission and are excited to continue our partnership with the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation. Thanks to you, more young adults will have the opportunity to experience the healing power of adventure this year. Thank you!

First Descents provides life-changing, outdoor adventures to young adults (ages 18-39) impacted by cancer. In 2018, First Descents will provide over 1,300 unique outdoor experiences to over 1,000 young adults across 120 program offerings nationwide.

The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation's generous contribution of \$2,500 is instrumental to this mission and will improve the lives of young adults impacted by cancer by helping First Descents provide more outdoor adventure programs.

Each year, over 70,000 adolescents and young adults (AYAs) are diagnosed with cancer in the United States. Furthermore,



5-year survival rates for AYAs have not improved since the early 1970s. Caught at a pivotal time in their lives – finishing college, building a career, starting a family, working to establish financial independence – these individuals are more likely to be diagnosed with late-stage cancers and are often under-insured or uninsured. As a result, young adults make up the most underserved and isolated cancer demographic.

To address the unique psychosocial effects of a cancer diagnosis at a young age, FD provides all-inclusive, week-long and multi-day adventure programs offering a range of activities that designed foster self-efficacy, build health life skills, create long-term social connection, and empower participants to their full potential. Program participants are pushed to their limits through legitimate outdoor challenges, all while experiencing some of the most beautiful places in the country with their peers.

The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation and First Descents believe in the healing power of adventure. First Descents is grateful for the opportunity to align with the Foundation's philanthropic interest in community initiatives, health and human services, and outdoor adventure to serve young adults impacted by cancer.



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Thank you for your continued support!



Digging into all aspects of habitat management proved to be an invaluable experience for the four summer interns benefitting from the Kate Svitek Memorial

Foundation support. Riverbend's Habitat Management Internship Program is a ten-week program for college students looking to acquire one-the-ground experience in their chosen field.

Our interns form an integral part of our summer team, stepping in at a busy time for Riverbend.



Each intern brought a unique perspective to the work that we do and threw themselves into every aspect of summer life at Riverbend. They helped run weekly teen volunteer days, summer camp activities, worked on habitat restoration projects, took care of storm clean-up, invasive plant removal, gardening, plant milkweed for a monarch butterfly project, research into the best native trees to plant and much, much more. It was wonderful to bring together a group of young people from different backgrounds who connected through their love of nature and the outdoors.

All of us at Riverbend would like to express our sincere appreciation for the mission and generosity of the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation.

"Working as a habitat management intern at Riverbend was one of the most rewarding experiences I've ever had. All my friends that had internships were stuck working inside offices, but I had the ability to be outside every day in nature. My favorite part of the whole experience was learning all these different species

of native and invasive plants that were basically right in my backyard. It was so rewarding to plant something like milkweed and see them grow tall knowing that they would attract monarchs. I am so thankful for this experience and the opportunity to help preserve nature firsthand."

– Kaitlin, University of Pittsburgh, Natural Sciences

"I really enjoyed my experience at Riverbend. It was lots of fun and very educational. It was a big help in helping me to decide what path I want to take after I graduate."

– Sabrina, Millersville University, Geography



"The primary reason I applied to the Riverbend Environmental Education Center Habitat Management Internship was to be able to spend my summer outside, but I had no idea how much more I would get out of this experience. The internship afforded me the opportunity to improve on my species identification, get a look into what happens behind the scenes of a nature preserve, and help kids understand the importance of nature. We also sat in on board meetings and were able to understand the details of managing a nature preserve."

– Zoe, Carleton College, Environmental Studies

"I had a great summer working as a Habitat Management Intern. The hands-on experience was crucial for me as a future Landscape Architect because it helped me understand more about the landscapes I will be designing. Also, the experience helped me understand possible issues I could face as a designer, like the water run-off issue we discussed at the property meeting. All in all, this was a very rewarding internship that I am so happy I had the opportunity to partake in."

–Grace, Penn State, Landscape Architecture



Neighborhood Bike Works inspires youth and strengthens Philadelphia communities by providing equitable access to bicycling and bike repair through education, recreation, leadership and career-building opportunities.

We teach youth how to fix bikes and we give them the chance to earn a bike. Our programs promote:

- Cognitive Development: Hands-on mechanics and problem solving
- Expanding Horizons: Discovering new places by bike
- Physical Fitness and Health: Making healthy choices
- Social and Emotional Development: Giving and getting respect
- A Safe and Supportive Space: Feeling like you belong
- Success in School: Making school subjects more interesting with real world challenges
- Environmental Justice: Clean air, clean water and great parks for West Philadelphia
- Career Readiness: Building confidence in youth potential

We see the impact of poverty on youth every day and there is a growing body of evidence that shows how growing up in poverty takes a lifelong toll. But for 175 students a year, Bike

Works provides some stability. NBW is a safe space where youth can learn hands-on mechanics, problem solving and discover new places they can reach by bike.

With the support of the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, we lead rides out of our shop to encourage youth to spend time outdoors and introduce them to green space that they can reach by bike. We place a particular emphasis on teaching youth about watershed ecosystems and showing where West Philadelphia's drinking water comes out of the Schuylkill River. On Bike Works



rides in the last year, our youth rode a total of 4,350 miles. With every mile, we hope to inspire in our youth the passion Kate had for exploring and preserving the outdoors.



Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition

Wissahickon Charter School - Awbury 6th Grade

Founding 5th Grade Cohort of Environmentalists

Some words of appreciation from the students who went on the Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition to the Pocono Environmental Education Center:

Thank you for paying for us to go on the Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition. I really appreciate it, because you didn't have to do it, but you did it in memory of your daughter.



My group did team-building activities and we had to work together to get everything done quickly. We had to use planks to get across the "swamp."



My classmates and I used compasses to go through the woods by ourselves. We thought we got lost, so we yelled "cookies!" so the leader could find us. It was a new experience, and we made it out!



The best part of the Kate Svitek Memorial Expedition was spending time with my classmates, and getting closer with friends.



We took a long walk at night and we learned about black bears, bats, and porcupines. I got to see things that I had never seen before!



If we go on more trips like this I am ready to go for longer!



100% of the students who attended the trip self-reported (via survey) that they are proud of themselves for what they accomplished on the trip.

Thank you so much for making this possible!

Hands-on, Wet-feet Education at Chincoteague Bay Field Station

A select group of Strayer eighth graders enjoyed a unique educational experience at the Chincoteague Bay Field Station in Wallops Island. They spent four days learning by being outdoors, immersed with an appreciation for the outdoors, the marine environment, and their role in it. The students participated in an array of classroom lectures, field trips, and hands-on activities. Specimens captured on the oceanographic boat trip and from the intertidal zone were studied in the lab that evening before being released back to their habitat. A walk through the Wallops Island sand dunes to the beach allowed our students to find beautiful shells, sand dollars, sea cucumbers, washed up horseshoe crabs and even a live whelk. They also collected two large bags of trash as their contribution to a cleaner and safer environment. The students explored the salt marsh to learn how life is determined by the inches it lives above sea-level before diving into the marsh mud themselves. On our final excursion we walked to the Assateague Lighthouse to view forest succession. What they learned by living these experiences could not be matched in a classroom. Thank you for financially supporting our students who participated in this hands-on, wet-feet educational experience.



"My son returned home from this trip not only with greater knowledge and a deeper sense of appreciation for nature, marine life and the outdoors, but also with new friendships and confidence that is priceless." – Parent chaperone



"This trip was an amazing experience and was truly phenomenal. I learned about the different types of plankton, anaerobic decomposition, different littoral zones in the intertidal zone, and about marine life in different ecosystems. A trip like this is a once in a lifetime opportunity." – Student testimonial

"This trip was life changing. It showed me a field of science I have never really been introduced to and I loved it. It opened my eyes to all of the amazing things we get from ocean life." – Student testimonial



PEEC
Pajarto Environmental
Education Center

The Passport to the Pajarto Plateau program is going strong at the Los Alamos Nature Center because of the support of the Kate Svitek memorial Foundation. Since the inception of the program in April 2015, over 11,591 hikes were reported and 309 people finished a passport.

Participants hike the trails in the passport booklet and look for a wooden post with a specially designed rubbing plate. Each trail has its own custom-designed plate. When hikers find the post, they make a crayon rubbing of the plate to "stamp" their passport. After a certain number of hikes are completed, they can record their hikes on a giant bar graph and receive a prize.

Based on the enthusiastic feedback received from participants, sometimes it seems like the whole town - young and old - are participating! Parents report their formerly reluctant children are begging to get out on the trails and older adults have thanked the program for improving their health and renewing their interest in hiking.

We recently posed a simple question to the community: "In your view, what does PEEC do that is most important?"

"PEEC Passport!! Our family loves this program – it is so fun to "rack-up" hikes in your booklet and feel accomplished when you find an etching. It gets us out trying new hikes!!"

"Providing multi-age, engaging programs. For instance, the Passports were a huge hit with my family and many we know."

"The hiking passports are fabulous! I saw more of the county trails and went on hikes I never would have done without it."



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Hope you all can join us!!!!



Camp Kesem at Stanford provides a safe, supportive and fun year round community for children who have a parent in treatment for cancer, in

remission or who has died from cancer. Camp Kesem offers these children a free week long camp experience.

Camp Kesem (Hebrew for magic) was founded by a group of Stanford students in 2000 and has since grown into a national organization.

Camp Kesem 2018 (June 18-24) took place at a YMCA camp in Loma Mar, in the Santa Cruz mountains. The served 132 campers from 81 families and were staffed by 75 student volunteers, director, 3 nurses and a therapist.

The campers participate in typical camp activities - sports, arts and crafts, theater, climbing wall, ropes course, swimming. Roots is the cancer specific programming that provides campers the space to talk about the impact that cancer has had on their lives.

The oldest campers, entering 10th and 11th grades, participate in the Outdoor Leadership Program (OLP) which focuses on 2 factors: leadership at camp and an outdoor leadership three day backpacking trip into the Golden Gate Park.

The Camp Kesem staff reported that 80% of the campers loved the supportive peer environment and 80% of the parents felt camp increased their kids' self esteem.

One parent said, "I feel my son is more open about his Dad who passed away this year from cancer. He does not avoid the subject and does not keep his feelings to himself."



Exploring New Horizons (ENH) is an environmental education program that provides hands-on residential experiences for 5th and 6th grade youth from the Greater San Francisco Bay Area. Since the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation grant was awarded to Exploring New Horizons in March 2018, the organization has served 370 low-income students from

seven schools at the Sempervirens campus in Boulder Creek, California. The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation's generous contribution made it possible for approximately 83 of these students to receive a discount and go to outdoor school when they otherwise could not afford to go.

All students have had transformative experiences such as taking a night hike to kissing a banana slug. One school that received financial support sent comics that the students created. These comics document memories ranging from licking Big Red, (the old growth redwood tree) to stepping outside of their comfort zone and trying something new during a night hike. Some students made a new friend while dancing at the Barnyard Boogie for the first time. These transformative opportunities would not have been possible without you.

Teachers love watching their students blossom and become more connected to their peers and to the natural world. Our naturalists taught fun, engaging hands-on lessons about local ecosystems, the watershed and ocean tide pools. Many of them can play an instrument, (one plays the cello!) making the learning environment a complete sensory experience.

"Thank you so much for the best week of my life. I really liked how we played camouflage. I also loved the tide pools." Joanna, 5th grade student.

"Thanks for all your hard work with our students! Everyone had a really great time. You were all professional and you allowed me to step back and let my kids be free. I appreciate the lesson of conserving food and not wasting it." Mr. Alves, 5th grade teacher.





We are pleased to share highlights of the guest programs that enhanced our 2018 Summer Nature Day Camp program, which reached over 280 children (50 more than last year) from northern Chester County, PA and the surrounding towns.

- Clem Bowen, a storyteller, used his enthusiasm, energy and instruments to tap into campers' imaginations with his stories about animals and their habitats.

- Phil Witman, of Cold Blooded Ideas brought his variety of unique reptiles and amphibians, with which he delighted all campers as they learned about the characteristics and survival methods of these animals.



- Indian Run Environmental Education Center awed campers with up-close looks at a red-tailed hawk, screech owl, and barn owl as they learned about the amazing features of these predatory birds. While also learning that these birds are non-releasable due to injuries sustained in the wild, campers shared their ideas on how humans can help preserve wildlife and their habitats.

- Jungle John entertained and educated campers with a diverse number of reptiles, while also discussing threats to their wild counterparts, and what campers can do to help protect such animals.



- Educators from Lenape Lifeways enlightened campers on the ways of life of the Lenape people as they lived over 500 years ago. Campers examined over 50 items such as animal pelts, dolls, photos, and replica tools.

- Bee Positive shared their beekeeping knowledge, samples of equipment, live bees, and visuals to teach the children about the importance of bees.

- Nick Zurga, local outdoor expert and school teacher, engaged campers in activities based on using their senses to explore the natural world; demonstrated various tools; and discussed how to be safe if they ever find themselves lost.



- Safari Parties brought her menagerie of exotic and native animals to teach the children about adaptations and how each animal uses their features to survive.

Thank you again for your continuous support of our Summer Nature Day Camps and Green Valleys' mission of environmental awareness and stewardship among the next generation.



In 2018, the Sauvie Island Center provided 52 scholarship field trips. The Svitek Foundation funds supported four of these field trips, funding 110 students from Elmonica Elementary, a high-poverty school where 40% of students qualify for free and reduced lunch. It is also a very diverse school, with approximately 33% of students identifying as Asian or Pacific Islander, 33% identifying as Hispanic, and 26% identifying as white.

All scholarships funded by the Svitek Foundation this year were held in the fall. During the fall season, students participated in the following hands-on activities:

- Plant Parts Investigation – Students explore the farm while searching for and tasting food that represents each of the six plant parts: roots, stems, leaves, flowers, fruits and seeds.
- Soil Investigation – Students explore the Sauvie Island Center's worm bin, finding decomposers, learning what makes up healthy soil, and investigating the role it plays on an organic farm.
- Seed to Harvest – Students plant, tend and harvest vegetables from their own field. the Grow Lunch Garden while learning plant life cycles on a farm.

During their field trip, students tasted many vegetables, including kale, mustard greens, fennel, broccoli, cucumber, nasturtium flowers. 91% of students reported they tried a new vegetable and 95% said they tried one that they liked.

Along with planned curriculum, students experienced many "nature moments" while spending their day outdoors, including spotting deer, frogs, and huge flocks of sandhill cranes and cackling geese flying overhead. For over two-thirds of students, this was their first time ever visiting Sauvie Island.

Teacher feedback on evaluation forms has been very positive. Of the 99 teachers who completed evaluations this year, 100% felt that the field trip was valuable and applicable to classroom goals.



We thought you would enjoy hearing the following quotes from teachers, parents and students who attended field trips with your financial support:

"I thought worms would feel disgusting, but I like touching them!" – Sincera, 4th grader

"It was great! I look forward to trying what we learned out here back in our classroom." – Dianne Dronkers, teacher

"Please organize more field trips!" – Sandhye, parent chaperone

"Students left saying they like vegetables now." – Alison Hower, teacher

"My son tried things he won't try at home. I as a parent learned as well. He wants a compost bin now!" – Jen, parent chaperone



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