



**PEEC**  
Pocono Environmental  
Education Center

# 2015 Annual Report



**PEEC.ORG**

# PEEC Board of Trustees

**MISSION:** The Pocono Environmental Education Center (P.E.E.C.) advances environmental education, sustainable living and appreciation for nature through hands on experience in a national park.

**VISION:** ...an environmentally enlightened world...

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It's hard to believe that the state of Pennsylvania still has not passed a budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year; which means many of your favorite state-funded programs are in a bind. This eight month budget stalemate is unprecedented, affecting everyone from small nonprofits that receive state assistance, to the state's higher education system. As many institutions pull back, uncertain about their funding, PEEC remains strong and continues to support the environmental education programs that you have come to expect.

PEEC is fortunate to have continued support through small grants, program participants, school districts (many outside the state of Pennsylvania), and individual donors. It's times like these that make everyone reflect on where their dollars go and how they are spent. This is especially true for charitable foundations. When you are watching PBS and you hear them acknowledge the support of "Viewers Like You," realize that this is something PEEC also values tremendously. In a year where both public education and the environment are victims of partisan politics, it's important that like-minded individuals review their priorities and redouble their efforts by supporting institutions like PEEC. We are getting closer to the day when we will break ground on the Sustainability Lodge, and in the coming year we will be looking to our donors to help us realize the vision of building something that truly represents PEEC's commitment to the environment and to science education for all. It will be a "grand" opening for sure, but also a time when we can celebrate YOU and your generous support!

Even though the economic news in Pennsylvania is cloudy, the groundhog says that spring is coming early this year... so break out your hiking boots and take a visit to your favorite environmental education center: See you at PEEC!

K. Joy Karnas, Ph.D.  
Chairperson



K. Joy Karnas, Ph.D.  
Chairperson

# PEEC People



Jeff Rosalsky,  
Executive Director

## PEEC Management Team

Executive Director - Jeffrey Rosalsky  
Director of Development - Flo Mauro / Ed Winters  
Director of Business Management - Mariann Oswald  
Facilities Manager - Ted Wetzel

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Beth Kuemerle, Nathan Lanan,  
Ryan McLaughlin, James Maloney,  
Hannah Miller, Katie Nelson,  
Mason Ritter, James Scott,  
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**"I am going to get a job here. I will be in the NBA in the winter and work at PEEC in summer." ~ Elkins Park Middle School, Elkins Park, PA**

2013



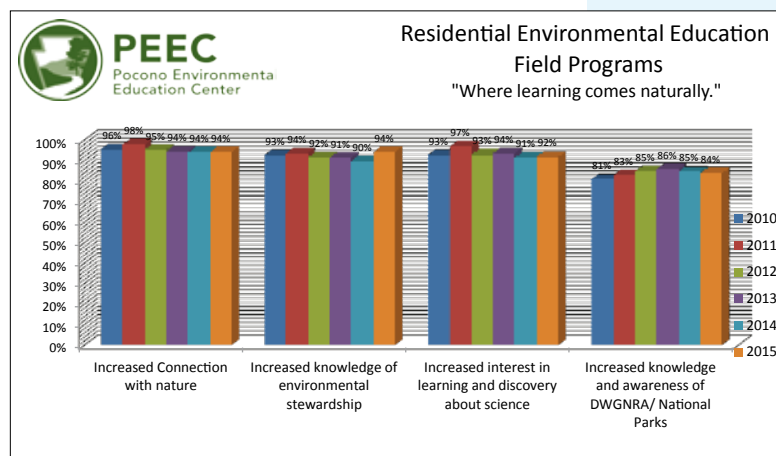
# In Their Own Words

My time during PEEC was a time I will always remember. One thing that I learned from the trip is to work together with my classmates and get through a challenge together. I didn't only learn about teamwork, I also learned about the environment, I learned that if the main part of an ecosystem dies then the entire part of the woods dies. But in the end, I also learned a few things about myself. I learned that the world is much bigger than I thought at first, learned that there is so much more life that we need to take care of. So I thank you for that, I thank you for this amazing experience.

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## PEEC's Program Assessments

- PEEC staff continues to be highly effective using hands-on techniques to teach environmental and sustainability education and spark interest in STEM fields.
- The immersive nature of our multi-day residential programs set the stage for a lifelong interest in science and the natural world.



Source: Based on PEEC evaluations representing

3112 participants	for 2010
1957 participants	for 2011
2364 participants	for 2012
1331 participants	for 2013
7088 participants	for 2014
4568 participants	for 2015

**"I didn't miss my phone." ~ E. T. Richardson Middle School, Springfield, PA**

2015

# Take a PEEC!

## Nature Adventure Camp

PEEC's Nature Adventure Camp is designed to help campers grow and explore while under the guidance of highly-trained staff members. In 2015, 339 campers attended eight weeks of day and residential camp programs. 17 campers received financial assistance through camperships, which are funded by the **Heather Rosborough Fund**, the **Biondo Family Foundation**, and generous individual donations.



## Festivals

Earth Day and Harvest Festivals are activities for the community to celebrate the planet and local resources. Local businesses, nonprofit agencies, artists, and crafters come to PEEC each year to share information, goods, and services with the community. Hundreds of individuals and families attend each festival and enjoy a variety of activities, including crafts, music, games, hikes, and food.



## Scouting Program

PEEC's scouting program offers specialized educational experiences for Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. Badge Festivals are day programs that allow both individual scouts and troops to spend the day working towards outdoor and environmental badges. Several scout troops come to PEEC each year for an overnight trip to learn about environmental issues, group initiatives, and camping/survival skills.



## Bridge the Gap

In 2015, we engaged almost 300 participants in 18 outdoor recreation programs at PEEC and along the McDade Trail. Programs included paddles on the Delaware River; bike trips on the McDade Trail; hikes on PEEC trails and introductory paddles on our ponds. With funding for Bridge the Gap, we also engaged 100 local YMCA campers in environmental education classes this summer. The purpose of the Bridge the Gap program is to connect local constituents with the National Park and their watershed through recreation opportunities. It is our hope that through our programs, participants will feel a responsibility for keeping the Delaware River watershed—and their drinking water—healthy. We were also able to purchase eight new kayaks for use on our ponds. This was the second year of funding for the Bridge the Gap program provided by the **William Penn Foundation**.



*"It feels like home now, I don't want to leave." ~ E. T. Richardson Middle School, Springfield, PA*

2015



**Summer Science in the Poconos:** In June, we engaged 28 7th and 8th grade students from Newark, New Jersey in a 5-day, 4-night residential environmental education program. Students participated in interpretive hikes, hands-on ecology classes and team building activities during their stay. In October, we engaged 35 students from University Heights Charter School in Newark, New Jersey for a similar weekend-long program focused on environmental education. The purpose of this program is to engage students in science at an age where they are developing their interests. All transportation, lodging, food and programming were provided by grants from the **Victoria Foundation** and the **PSEG Foundation**.

**Ticket to Ride** – Over 500 area fourth graders visited PEEC during the fall for the Ticket to Ride Program that was funded by the **National Park Foundation**. The program involved a pre-visit trip to the schools, the actual trip to PEEC where students participated in an EcoZone tour and scavenger hunt hike on Two Ponds Trail, and a wrap-up post-visit trip to each school.



**Women on the Water (WOW)** Two groups of high school aged girls from the Philadelphia area came to PEEC for a canoe/camping trip on/along the Delaware River. These week-long adventures, funded by the **William Penn Foundation**, taught the girls about healthy rivers as they performed water quality testing and noted biodiversity along the river. A third group will be coming to PEEC in the spring of 2016 for a modified version of the trip.

**Sci Q** In July, 2015, twenty-two 8th-10th grade students from Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York came to PEEC to work with college professors for the Sci Q Project. They spent a day at ESU, working with four separate professors, learning about embryology, mammology, wildlife forensics, and astronomy. They learned about geology as they canoed through the Delaware Water Gap, and they performed DNA extraction from strawberries. The students worked in groups to create projects and finished the week building a water craft using cardboard, duct tape, plastic garbage bags and gallon milk jugs. This project was funded by the **Anna Spychala Family Foundation** and **Sanofi Pasteur**.



***“The teamwork station showed me how important planning is. Also how to work with others and how to share ideas. The confidence building station taught me to believe in myself.” ~ East Side Middle School, New York, NY***

2015



# Golf Outing 2015

The 15th Annual Golf Outing, held this past June at the Lords Valley Country Club at Hemlock Farms, was a great success. Golfers enjoyed this premier course and a delicious al fresco luncheon. The attendees enjoyed the wonderful weather and helped to raise over \$3,000 toward PEEC programs.



***“My favorite part of the hike was learning about the history of the Pocono Mountains, and how the flora influenced the whole ecological system. It was also a nice escape to engage with nature as a kid living in Manhattan.” ~ East Side Middle School, New York, NY***

# Wild Things Ball 2015

The Dragonfly Ball, the 3rd Annual Wild Things Ball, was held Saturday, September 19, 2015 in PEEC's Visitor Activity Center / Dining Hall. Once again, music was provided by the Robbi Kumalo Band and the event was catered by Krave of Newton, NJ. Over 100 attendees enjoyed dinner and dancing while helping to raise in excess of \$70,000 for PEEC's 21st Century Sustainability Campaign.



*My favorite part was the bat cave because it looked realistic and the way in and out was really fun.” ~ Sandyston Walpack School, Layton, NJ*

2015



# Facilities



- Roofs we replaced on Cabins 5 & 6
- Total renovation, inside and outside, of Cabins 5 & 9
- Electrical meter, panels and main wires for cabins 43, 44, & 52 were replaced
- Security gates were installed on the main road and dumpsters
- Loch Lomand heating system was rebuilt



## Fast Facts

**Education:** 110 group visits - 26 new groups experienced PEEC for the first time and 84 established groups returned to PEEC in 2015.

**2015 Volunteers:** 50+ volunteers (not including scout troop or school group service projects) for a total of over 850 volunteer hours

**Public Programs in 2015:** 2300+ attendees to over 35 different programs, including festivals & special events



***“This class trip to PEEC was amazing. I loved the hike and seeing the dam it looked like the beavers took months to build it.” ~ Sandyston Walpack School, Layton, NJ***



# Financial Report

	2014	2015
<b>Revenue gains other supports</b>		
Instructional fees	827,302.00	1,040,009.00
Grants	421,554.00	285,485.00
Contributions	74,711.00	66,457.00
Misc	106.00	3,039.00
Fundraising	44,941.00	60,783.00
Investment income	392.00	1,081.00
Net unrealized (loss) gain on investments	2,197.00	(1,938.00)
Gift shop	15,127.00	15,332.00
Other income	—	—
<b>Total revenue, gains and other support</b>	<b>1,386,330.00</b>	<b>1,470,248.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Instructional	1,147,232.00	1,114,532.00
Management and general	266,912.00	295,857.00
Development and fundraising	56,076.00	64,331.00
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>1,470,220.00</b>	<b>1,474,720.00</b>
(Decrease) increase in net assets from operations	(83,890.00)	(4,473.00)
Net assets, beginning of year as previously reported	364,448.00	280,558.00
<b>Net asset, ending</b>	<b>280,558.00</b>	<b>276,085.00</b>
Cash flow from operating activities		
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(83,890.00)	(4,473.00)
Adjustment to reconcile increase (decrease) in net assets to net cash provided (used) by operating activities:		
Depreciation	72,664.00	74,067.00
Unrestricted non-cash contribution	29,194.00	—
(Gain) loss on disposal of equipment	(32,911.00)	—
Interest charges applied to line of credit	(13,667.00)	—
Unrealized loss (gain) on investments	(12,165.00)	—
Change in accounts receivable	48,686.00	(21,161.00)
Change in prepaid expenses	(1,350.00)	(3,187.00)
Change in inventory	75.00	1,016.00
Change in accounts payable	23,285.00	(22,307.00)
Change in accrued wages	—	—
Change in accrued expenses	(19,755.00)	3,083.00
Change in deferred revenue	36,015.00	(52,181.00)
Change in grants receivable	(48,250.00)	48,250.00
Change in pledges receivable	(12,500.00)	2,500.00
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(14,569.00)</b>	<b>25,607.00</b>



Games at Summer Camp



Wet & Slimy Fun



Easter Seals & Summer Camp



Creative Quilt Camp

***“Something I learned on the trip: If I push myself enough I can do anything. (and) The environment is very diverse.” ~ Women on the Water Participant, Women in Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA***

2015



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William Penn Foundation

*"I learned we are going to make a difference in this world." ~ Women on the Water Participant, Women in Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, PA*

2015

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**PEEC**

Pocono Environmental  
Education Center

PEEC IS CLOSE TO HOME

*Where Learning comes Naturally*