



PEEC
Pocono Environmental
Education Center

2019 Annual Report



PEEC.ORG

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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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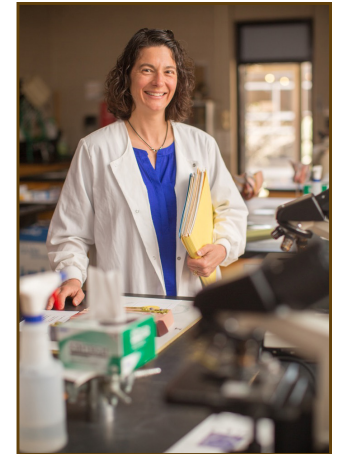
Nearly twenty years ago, I was engaged in conversations focused on curricular revision at my small college. We were asked to close our eyes and picture the year 2020. I am pretty sure that none of us came close to the uncertainty that is our current reality. For a year whose moniker indicates perfect vision (20/20), the future has suddenly become quite blurry. The phrase "new normal" is one that I have grown rather tired of hearing, how about you? I long for the old normal. I would love to be helping my son celebrate his high school graduation and plan for his freshman year in college. And yet our family has spent most of the spring in virtual quarantine, awaiting the announcement as to whether he will even have classes face-to-face with his peers in the fall. Everything is in flux. Everything seems so uncertain.

And yet...

There is one thing that remains crystal clear in this 2020 environment: the absolute importance of science and medicine in helping us get back to a "real and reliable normal." As our health care heroes tend to our loved ones, virologists study viral replication and try to better understand why some people are asymptomatic and others have severe reactions. While public health officials work with communities to provide information about best practices for containment, epidemiologists track the spread of the virus itself. Meanwhile, molecular biologists are working to develop better technologies for detection, and effective vaccines to prevent further outbreaks. Science abounds! Science is vital. Science-related careers are crucial.

Science careers start with an interest in the natural world. We share the excitement for nature study by integrating science into early childhood education, and our PEEC community is key to this strategy. For nearly five decades, students from as near as Milford and as far as Philadelphia and New York City have been inspired by visits to PEEC. Our summer camps and school programs encourage discovery and critical thinking. We need you – now more than ever – to help us achieve these important goals. Funding from our individual members is paramount in making camp experiences for urban youth possible. Your contribution to PEEC ensures those science interventions can continue. Let's make sure the new normal has us inspiring young people even more than before, and in the process has us increasing the pool of talented scientists on whom we depend. Now and in the future.

~ K. Joy Karnas, Ph.D., Chair, Board of Trustees



K. Joy Karnas, Ph.D.
Chairperson

PEEC People



Jeff Rosalsky,
Executive Director

PEEC Management Team

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Director of Development	Dennis Miranda
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Head of Maintenance.....	Marc Wetzel
Director of Education	Stephanie Sherman
Director of Operations.....	Derek Scott
Director of Group Program Business Development.....	Sheri Bone
Public Program Manager / Volunteer Coordinator.....	George Johnson
Asst. Summer Camp Director /	
Special Events Coordinator.....	Nathan Lanan
Program Planner	Emma Roth
Dining Hall Manager.....	Erin Taylor
Public Relations / Marketing	Janine Morley

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Sharon Kranch, Beth Kuemerle,
Dalton Marsh, Sarah McAteer,
Ryan McLaughlin, Allie Mulvihill,
Samuel Reiley, Briana Sebastian,
Autumn Tallant

**"I am Tarzan's half cousin twice removed."
Student, R.F. Wagner Middle School, Manhattan, NY**

2019

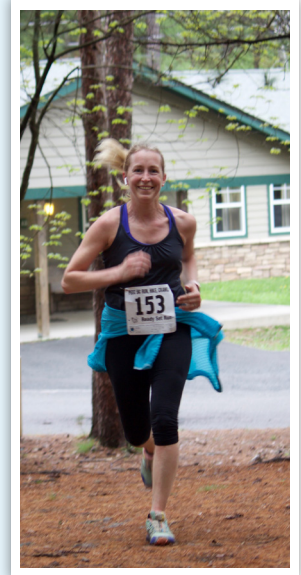
Fundraisers



Our 3rd Annual 100 for \$1000 fundraiser was once again an extremely successful event. In this non-event fundraiser, 100% of all donations go toward PEEC and environmental education. We are grateful to all our generous 2019 donors.



The 3rd annual Run, Hike, Crawl 5k Trail Race was held Saturday, May 4, 2019. The 5k trail runs through our main campus and through a variety of different woodland habitats along the Fossil and Scenic Gorge Trails. Everyone enjoyed the race and helped raise nearly \$10,000 for PEEC.



Fast Facts

- **General Fact:** PEEC is one of the largest residential environmental education centers in the world and serves over 30,000 people per year with a variety of environmental education and sustainability programming.
- **Education:** In 2019, PEEC hosted a total of 106 schools, boasting 92 returning and 14 new additions to our environmental education programming. Highlights of newly revived classes includes the Ornithology (Bird Study) and Habitat Study, both of which highlight the importance of seasonal changes at PEEC!
- **Public Programs:** 2,814 participants attended 118 scheduled programs, averaging approximately 23 per event. Our 15 grant-funded Bridge the Gap programs totaled 234 attendees.



“Just when you start having the most fun, it is time to go.”
Student, Summer Science in the Poconos, Newark, NJ

2019

Take a PEEC!



Newark Summer Science in the Poconos

The **Victoria Foundation** and **PSEG Foundation** once again funded a trip to PEEC for Newark students at the end of June. Eight schools (up from 6 last year) sent over 70 students for a 4 day and 3 night adventure. Students and their chaperones studied nature, hiked the Tumbling Water Trail, and participated in recreational activities which helped them become friends with the other students who came from many neighborhoods throughout the city.



Women on the Water (WOW) & Boys in Boats (B2)

PEEC staff led this program for 75 students from five different schools/organizations located in Camden, NJ and Philadelphia, PA. WOW/B2 promotes watershed awareness while paddling on the Delaware River and camping along its shores. This program is generously funded by the **William Penn Foundation**. Students spend 3 days and 2 nights on the river, taking water samples, and exploring different ways to calculate water quality on the river that provides drinking water to their home communities. Once home in their own neighborhoods, the students design and work on watershed awareness projects.



The Sci-Q Project

Imagine that you are a student in Junior High School, that you love science, and have the opportunity to come to PEEC to spend a week doing science things! That's what 20 eighth to tenth grade students from NY, NJ and PA did when they came to PEEC for a week long 'immersion in science' program generously funded by **Sanofi**. Students attended ESU for 3 hands-on classes led by college professors, paddled down the Delaware River to study geologic formations in the Water Gap, made hydraulic powered arm units, and visited the Sterling Hill Mine Museum. They also, among other activities, finished their week creating team 'boats' using only cardboard, duct tape, plastic bags and gallon jugs, and then raced the boats on PEEC's Front Pond.



"The peace and quiet of the river works wonders."
Student, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA



Bridge the Gap (BTG)

Also funded by the **William Penn Foundation**, BTG is a connector - a bridge - between people and their natural environment. This program has shown us that hiking, biking, and paddling are excellent ways to share the watershed message: healthy forests encourage healthy waterways. BTG is a tool that accomplished sending that message as it helped promote watershed stewardship. In 2019, more than 1250 people hiked on and around PEEC's trails, and paddled on our ponds and the Delaware River. Results of the survey taken by participants help us plan for future activities.



WATER! Watershed Awareness: Teaching Everyone Responsibility!

During the past 2 years, more than 670 students from the Camden and Philadelphia area attended this **William Penn Foundation** funded 3 days and 2 nights program focused on watershed health. PEEC, Camden and Philly all are located in the Delaware River Watershed, so it was Important for the students to learn what factors help keep a watershed healthy. They took notes about what was happening in the water-shed in our area and then compared them to what is happening in their own neighborhoods. Students then plan and carry out various watershed projects to help raise awareness and watershed health.



Educational Improvement Tax Credit (EITC)

Thanks to generous donations from **The Dime Bank, Wayne Bank, Weis Markets**, and **Waste Management**, 2019 saw over 500 local students and family members visit PEEC. Area students from Delaware Valley School District and East Stroudsburg Area School District visited the EcoZone then hiked on one of PEEC's trails as they hunted for items related to what they discovered in the EcoZone. The focus is Wildlife Study. Thanks to this funding, area families were also able to visit the EcoZone throughout the year on select weekends. EITC funding is important to PEEC in allowing local students and families to explore nature.



“Crepuscular” is a fun word to say!
Student, Summer Science in the Poconos, Newark, NJ

2019



Summer Camp

2019 continued the success of PEEC's Nature Adventure Camps and added a new adventure, Tike Hikes. These modified sessions invited 3-5 year olds and their favorite adults for a week of camp. We can safely say the adults had just as much fun as the kids! Overall, PEEC camps welcomed over 300 campers across eight weeks of programming and continued partnerships with Ricky Boscarino of Luna Parc, Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and other local organizations to bring unique camp experiences to PEEC. This year we had nine campers receive financial campership assistance from **Biondo Family Foundation** and generous individual donations.



Growing Green

Our partnership with Easter Seals of Northeastern PA completed its 8th year of camp Growing Green. This year, we hosted around 20 special needs campers over 6 weeks for 119 camper weeks! This successful program continued the tradition of allowing special needs individuals to experience nature through hiking, canoeing, visiting waterfalls and participating in weekly camp activities with PEEC staff and day campers.



Festivals

PEEC welcomed over 500 visitors to our two festivals: Earth Day in the spring and Harvest Festival in the fall. These festivals are a great way for PEEC to interface with the public, offering more than 30 local vendors and presenters, an animal presentation, live music, a chainsaw artist, a blacksmithing demonstration, games, crafts, and more! This year we also offered an electronics recycling program in partnership with Electronics Recyclers International and a plastic film recycling drive in partnership with Trex that collected over 500 pounds of plastic and earned PEEC a bench for our property.



Scouting Programs

In 2019, PEEC hosted a combined total of 111 Scouts BSA and Girl Scouts. This year PEEC took advantage of the new "Eco" series of badges for all ages, such as the Eco Camper, Eco Explorer and Eco Adventurer badges. Scouts BSA badge work featured tried-and-true offerings like the Environmental Science and Wilderness Survival merit badges.

**"Hiking at night was terrifying, but so much fun."
Student, R.F. Wagner Middle School, Manhattan, NY**

2019

Education & Operations Updates

Education Updates

- 2019 was a year of adventure! PEEC staff traveled nearly 70 miles of the Upper and Middle Delaware River with the “River Stories” class of Swarthmore College. This 7-day camping trip is a milestone in overnight river experiences offered by PEEC.
- Birding is back at PEEC! In 2019 we saw resurgence in this PEEC class allowing students to study our feathered friends. PEEC Instructor, James Frye, and Princeton University freshmen, developed a fun and interactive birding scavenger hunt featuring native PA birds.
- “A Park for Every Classroom” initiative comes to PEEC! In partnership with the National Park Service, PEEC hosted the August face-to-face workshop for more than thirty NPS staff, park partners and teachers to promote collaborative efforts for education in National Parks across the northeast region.

Trail Updates

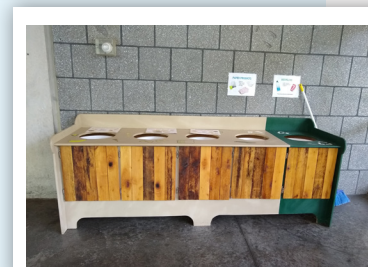
- With the help of the Delaware Water Gap Trail Crew and their volunteer Trail Stewards, several PEEC trails have new bog bridges and water bars in much needed locations. Additionally, several trails have had blazes and signage improved with the help of guest feedback.
- PEEC’s Ridgeline trail now features a connector trail which links to the NPS Hornbecks Trail, adding a second waterfall to our trail network.

Princeton Project Campus Additions

- Princeton University freshmen students, with assistance of PEEC Staff, built a new hydro-geo table for PEEC’s watershed class. The table provides students a hands-on experience in which to learn how water manipulates sediment, how streams “age” and things to consider when developing land in a watershed.
- Students also constructed a large compost sorting bin for PEEC’s dining hall. The bin helps guests determine what food can be composted by listing options in easy to identify categories such as “grains, greens, beans, etc.” This is a drastic improvement from our previous system which was a zero-sort bin for compost that didn’t aid with sorting.

Campus Improvements

- Our campus hoop house has been completely resided and the existing solar powered exhaust fan and lighting system has seen updates and improvements for the 2020 growing season.



“I had so much fun! I wish I could stay for a whole week! I would definitely come back some day!”

Student, Summer Science in the Poconos, Newark, NJ

2019

Financial Report

Revenue gains other supports

	2018	2019
Instructional Fees	1,046,971	1,037,398
Grants	655,811	331,976
Contributions	136,964	108,790
Insurance Proceeds	145,677	—
Misc	—	—
Fundraising	85,046	68,633
Investment Income	3,131	7,915
Net Unrealized (loss) Gain on Investments	(4,624)	2,248
Gift Shop	12,406	14,853
Other Income	—	—

Total Revenue, Gains and Other Support

Expenses		
Instructional	1,191,856	1,603,083
Management and General	297,478	147,867
Development and Fundraising	45,761	8,712

Total expenses

(Decrease) Increase in Net Assets from Operations	546,287	(187,849)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year as Previously Reported	453,743	1,000,030

Net asset, ending

Depreciation	46,099	45,383
Other Adjustments to Reconcile Changes in Net Assets	415,118	19,716

Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities

Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities / Payments for Property & Equipment	(292,662)	(80,998)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	(34,095)	9,666
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	134,460	(239,465)
Cash and Cash Equivalent: Beginning of Year	624,620	759,080

Cash & Cash Equivalent: End of Year

Supplemental Disclosures:		
Cash Paid During Year for Interest	2,715	1,098



Sqi-Q



Summer Camp



Fabric Arts at PEEC!



Women on the Water (WOW) Trip

“This trip was a very transformative experience for me because it gave me the opportunity to align myself with peace. Being on the river and living alongside it grounded me in a way I never imagined it would.” Student, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA



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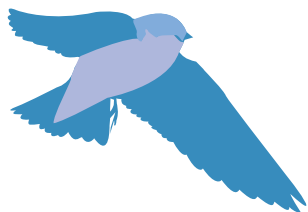
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TREE SWALLOW



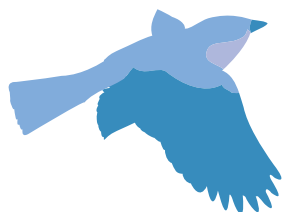
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"Living in nature is not easy, but it's a lot of fun!"
Student, Summer Science in the Poconos, Newark, NJ

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"The experience of being on the river 24/7 allowed me to absorb so much of the river's beauty, so now I feel fondness and appreciation for that place. The river is a powerful and complex ecosystem and we're lucky to have it to enjoy and learn from."
Student, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA

2019

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PEEC

**Pocono Environmental
Education Center**

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Where Learning comes Naturally