



PEEC

Pocono Environmental
Education Center

2020 Annual Report



PEEC Board of Trustees

MISSION

The Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) 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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I've been a science educator for more than two decades, teaching college students the finer details of gene expression, while also working with teachers and elementary school students to encourage young people to persist in the science pipeline. In that time, I have discovered two things that are absolutely necessary to engage students in science learning: 1) ensure the material is relevant and applicable to their own lives, and 2) provide hands-on opportunities for learning. The challenge of this past year has been that just when science became suddenly relevant in an all-too-real way, those necessary hands-on activities became temporarily inaccessible. The pandemic has highlighted the need for more scientists and scientifically literate citizens, yet science education has suffered.

Students have seen their virtual news feeds become inundated by technical topics such as viral replication and vaccine development, and they are naturally eager to better understand the science behind how COVID-19 has transformed the world around them. What an opportunity to engage the next generation of scientists!

As we return to classroom learning and explore ways to fill the achievement gaps widened by the pandemic, it is vital that we again provide active learning environments where students can experience science firsthand. Your contributions to PEEC help us fulfill that critical mission and to advance environmental education.

PEEC educators are already engaging with summer campers, helping them to better understand the science that surrounds them. School groups are reserving spaces on our campus in hopes that the 2021-2022 academic year will bring with it a return to field trips for students from Milford, Philadelphia, Newark, and New York City. The Center has developed an exciting calendar of events in order to engage the public in science. I don't want to spoil the surprise, but PEEC will hit an important milestone in 2022. As we move past our "honeymoon" period and shift into our "golden years" for environmental education in the Poconos, I am sure that I can come up with **FIFTY** excellent reasons that you should visit PEEC this year!



*K. Joy Karnas, Ph.D.
Chairperson*

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

PEEC People



*Jeff Rosalsky,
Executive Director,
and Family*

PEEC Management Team

Executive Director	Jeffrey Rosalsky
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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
Director of Group and Grant Coordination.....	Emma Roth
Public Program Manager / Volunteer Coordinator	George Johnson
Asst. Summer Camp Director /	
Special Events Coordinator.....	Nathan Lanan
Program Planner.....	Emma Roth / Jessica Brumbaugh
Dining Hall Manager	Erin Taylor
Public Relations / Marketing	Janine Morley

Instructors & Interns

James Frye, Nate Gilson, Courtney Hafner, Amelia Hoskins, Stevie Kitching,
Andrew Ouellette, Greg Pizzano, Erin Quin

Helping the Community

In coordination with **Greater Pike Community Foundation** and **Pocono Pro Foods**, along with local business donations from **Tucker Silk Mill**, in Easton PA, PEEC was able to provide hundreds of meals for Pike County Meals on Wheels during 2020.

We also received a generous donation of 8,000 bagels from Pocono Pro Foods, which we helped distribute to Jo's Outreach, LYF Outreach, Police, Fire, and Ambulance Corps in Monroe and Pike Counties, and to our Delaware Valley Schools for students receiving free and reduced lunches.

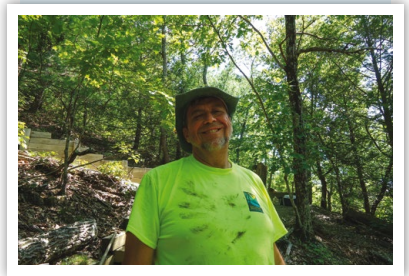
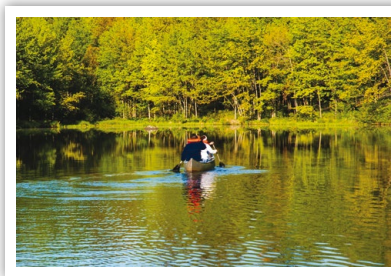
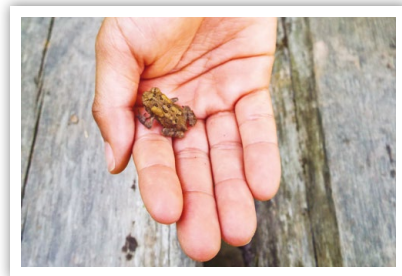


Fast Facts

Volunteers: The Trail Stewards were able to volunteer from August-November with approximately 40 hours/person. During that time, some of their projects included:

- Installing green pavers at the entrance of the Two Ponds Trail.
- Replacing warped boards on the spillway bridge at Front Pond.
- Continued clean-up and work at George W. Child's Park.

Public Programs: 1,275 participants attended the programs which were able to continue in 2020. Our 19 grant-funded Bridge the Gap programs totaled 212 attendees.



Take a PEEC!



The Sci-Q Project



The Sci-Q program is a great opportunity for rising 8th-10th graders, eager to pursue careers in science, to get together and spend a week immersed in scientific discovery. While many changes had to be made this year to the program, eleven bright students from PA, NJ, and NY joined us at PEEC for a week of on-campus learning and fun. The students participated in a variety of experiments and projects, such as building water filtration systems, learning how to date rocks, building and racing their own cardboard boats, and constructing and launching bottle rockets. In lieu of field trips, outside presenters were brought in to share their knowledge. Professor Sandy Whidden from ESU took the campers out to survey the bat population at PEEC, and Kathy Uhler from Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation Center gave a presentation on owls with live specimens. This program was generously funded by **Sanofi**.



Growing Green

For the 9th year, PEEC continued our partnership with **Easterseals of Eastern Pennsylvania** and Camp Growing Green. For the first time ever, camp was entirely virtual. Campers joined PEEC staff each day over Zoom for a variety of lessons and games. Campers met PEEC's EcoZone animals, planted window-sill gardens in cups, went on scavenger hunts, and even sung songs around a campfire. This allowed the 32 campers in the program to learn from and experience nature in a new and safe way.



Summer Camp

Summer Camp for 2020 brought our largest year for summer camp on record. PEEC hosted 12 weeks of camp starting in mid-June and going until Labor Day, serving a grand total of 363 campers. COVID-19 safety precautions allowed PEEC to operate with a mostly "normal" year as campers remained socially distanced and masked-up on-site. PEEC welcomed 85 new campers to the PEEC family as our outdoor camps allowed many families a chance at normalcy during the pandemic. The Volunteer Counselor program stayed strong with 7 Volunteer Counselors in 2020.

In Their Own Words...

2020 Summer Camp Testimonials

Edited for Length, Clarity, and Privacy

"Aanya has loved every minute of PEEC and I've seen her grow a lot over these past few weeks. She went from 24 hour lockdowns to summer bliss! She was like a flower blooming! Thank you, and thanks to all the great counselors for that precious gift. We look forward to next summer."

- Joye, Summer Camp Parent

"I just wanted to say 'thank you' to you and all the staff at PEEC for making camp so safe. We really appreciate your diligence and safety protocols in light of the pandemic. You all have done an amazing job. Everything has been great!! We will definitely be back! And if there are weeks added for this summer, please let us know."

- Irene, Summer Camp Parent

"I wanted to write and share the overwhelming gratitude we have for PEEC Camp and everyone who created the safe, supportive, fun and educational environment that you have provided for children and their families this summer. Your dedication to the safety of this community is unparalleled and has provided us with the ability to feel alive and connected again. Our daughter is back to building healthy and critical relationships with other children and educators. We are able to be productive at our jobs and our household is full of conversation, love and hope in a way it hadn't been for months. Thank you for all that you have done, are doing, and will do to allow this summer to be amazing. Words can't express our appreciation. So much love to you all!"

- Sabrina & Brian, Summer Camp Parents

"Thank you and thanks to all the PEEC staff for making this happen. Rose had an amazing, educational and enriching experience. Thank you. You're the Best!"

- Greg, Parent of a Volunteer Counselor

"I just wanted to thank everyone at PEEC this summer for the outstanding job you're doing running the day camp. We weren't sure how it would go because we live 50 minutes away in the Lehigh Valley, but it's been such a positive experience that we added on another week, then another one, then more. Our daughters don't mind the drive because the days are so fun & the counselors are so universally outstanding. We don't mind the drive because we get to bring our laptops, sit on the porch, & actually get uninterrupted work done. And all 4 of us are completely confident in their safety because of all the extra measures you all are taking so seriously. I am so impressed & so appreciative of all you do for the public generally & for the camp kids, specifically. Please know how much we appreciate the good work you all are doing."

- With gratitude, Sue, Summer Camp Parent

"I just wanted to take a minute to say how fantastic your summer day camp program is! PEEC is above and beyond the best camp in the area. Cooper really loves going to camp and I can see how relaxed and happy he is every day. Thanks so much for all that you are doing and for making this a possibility this year. As working parents, summer day camp is a need for our family. That PEEC is flat out amazing is a huge bonus. I can't thank you and your team enough."

- Carly, Summer Camp Parent



Education & Operations Updates

Education Updates



Spring 2020 - PEEC developed a number of educational videos for our YouTube channel including:

- “The Beaver Chronicles” highlighting the surprising industrial abilities of our local Pickerel Pond beavers.
- “DEWA Hidden Gems” exploring unique places in the Delaware Water Gap to hike.
- “Edible and Medicinal Plants” that show some simple, yet underappreciated backyard plants and their wonderful values.
- Various educational videos for school groups on our class offerings and EcoZone topics.

Our educational videos continue to be available on [PEEC's YouTube Channel](#).



School Care - In the fall of 2020, PEEC hosted a School Care initiative for virtual learners. The program was offered September through November for kids in hybrid learning, full-time virtual and home school.

In Their Own Words... 2020 PEEC School Care Testimonials Edited for Length, Clarity, and Privacy



“During these challenging times for children, PEEC has created a safe place for them to get to be kids again. The school care program allows them to be outside, explore nature, and have a change of scenery. As a working parent, the school care program is a creative solution to some of the challenges families face in these current times. We are lucky to have a resource like PEEC in Pike County.”

- Jodi (School Care Parent)

“Our daughter loves PEEC. She was thrilled to learn that she could attend “school camp” after having a wonderful time at PEEC camp over the summer. Along with her remote academic education she gets nature education and outdoor exploration. It’s great model and we feel fortunate for the opportunity.”

-Jessica (School Care Parent)



“I truly want to thank all of you for everything you have done for Jacob. You all have made this year so much better for him. PEEC gave him something to look forward to each week. He told me last week that PEEC was his favorite place ever besides Disney World. That’s a pretty big deal if you ask me. You all have made such a positive impact on his life and I’m so thankful for that! We will see you for summer camp.”

- Grace, School Care Parent

Education & Operations Updates

PEEC in the Classroom - Fall 2020 also launched our “PEEC Into the Classroom” Outreach initiative for both in-person and online learning in topics like Animal Survival, Native Plants, Geology and Water Quality. In the remaining months of the year, 40 outreach lessons were taught in 7 different schools. Seven hundred forty-five elementary to high school students received either virtual or in-person outreach lessons.

In Their Own Words... 2020 PEEC School Care Testimonials

Edited for Length, Clarity, and Privacy

“I am trying to see if we can work something out so we can get the 7th graders who missed their trip last year to get a taste of PEEC and have our 6th graders also get a taste through these programs. The PEEC experience is so deeply a part of our district’s culture, and these kids are very devastated to not be able to attend!”

– **Palisades Middle School Teacher, Kintnersville, PA**

“Southwark Science folks - I can vouch for the GREAT programs PEEC puts together - if any on that list below are subjects you cover with your students, I highly suggest you reach out to Emma and get PEEC to come visit your class!”

– **Southwark School Teacher, Philadelphia, PA**

“Thank you so very much for the presentations we have enjoyed thus far! The teachers and students have had terrific feedback and we are so glad we have been able to benefit from this outreach.”

– **Circle of Seasons Charter School Teacher, Fogelsville, PA**

“Thank you so very much for allowing my students to participate in this program. They really enjoyed getting familiar with some of the minerals and learning about the rock cycle. We are grateful programs like this exist and will definitely look to book something again in the future!”

– **Frankford Township School Teacher, Branchville, NJ**

“Stephanie did a wonderful job. The kids really enjoyed it and we all learned a lot!”

– **East Stroudsburg Elementary School Teacher, East Stroudsburg, PA**



Campus Improvements

- The back of the main building has been renovated to include several additional restrooms, new shower stalls, and luggage storage rooms for overnight groups.
- The Bird Blind on the Two Ponds Trail saw tremendous updates following a rebuild in 2018 by a local Eagle Scout. Additional 2020 updates for a Girl Scout Gold Award by Gianna Derrenbacher include new information on local bird species, a painted mural, a new gravity fed feeder system, and a live stream of the feeders.

Fundraising & Financial Report



Our 4th Annual 100 for \$1000 fundraiser raised over \$96,000 for PEEC in 2020. In this non-event fundraiser, 100% of all donations go toward PEEC and environmental education.

Thank you to our generous donors!

2020 was the inaugural year for the Scranton Area Community Foundation's NEPA Gives. PEEC raised nearly \$12,000 and won several awards. NEPA Gives was a great success with donors from around the world helping to support PEEC in a single day of giving.

	2019	2020
Revenue gains other supports		
Instructional Fees	1,037,398	172,169
Grants	331,976	677,188
Contributions	108,790	150,630
Insurance Proceeds	—	—
Misc	—	—
Fundraising	68,633	23,655
Investment Income	7,915	5,397
Net Unrealized (loss) Gain on Investments	2,248	1,742
Gift Shop	14,853	3,657
Other Income	—	—
Total Revenue, Gains and Other Support	1,571,813	1,034,448
Expenses		
Instructional	1,603,083	837,366
Management and General	147,867	93,330
Development and Fundraising	8,712	2,856
Total expenses	1,759,622	933,552
(Decrease) Increase in Net Assets from Operations	(187,849)	100,896
Net Assets, Beginning of Year as Previously Reported	1,000,030	812,181
Net asset, ending	812,181	913,077
Depreciation	45,383	35,397
Other Adjustments to Reconcile Changes in Net Assets	19,716	20,562
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	(168,133)	159,855
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities / Payments for Property & Equipment	(80,998)	(46,529)
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	9,666	132,248
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	(239,465)	245,574
Cash and Cash Equivalent: Beginning of Year	759,080	519,615
Cash & Cash Equivalent: End of Year	519,615	765,189
Supplemental Disclosures:		
Cash Paid During Year for Interest	1,098	1,203



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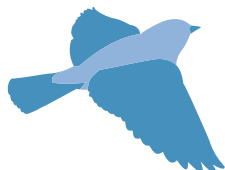


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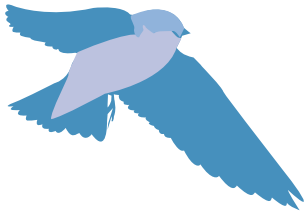


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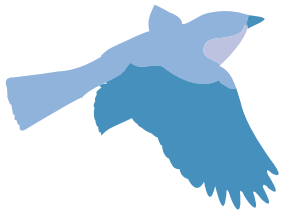


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* EITC - Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program

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Karen Aho	In Honor of the Generations of Environmental Educators who have called PEEC Home	Marcia Kaplan-Mann	In Memory of Michael G. Mann
Jim Amigh	In Memory of Dr. Marie Kuhnen	Rose Klein	In Memory of David & Linda Lavine
Jim Amigh	In Memory of My Wife, Lee Amigh	Sandra Levine	In Memory of J. Ed Schmidheiser
Geof Benson	In Honor of Steph Sherman	Mariann Oswald	In Loving Memory of Robert F. Pierce
Mickey & Barbara Black	In Honor of Jeff & All of our Friends at PEEC	Jack & Carol Padalino	In Memory of Dr. Marie Kuhnen
Jennifer Brewer	In Honor of Kathleen Lyon & Darrell Berger	David Powers	In Memory of J. Edward Schmidheiser - an enthusiastic outdoors person & frequent attendee of PEEC events
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PEEC

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Where Learning comes Naturally