



PEEC
Pocono Environmental
Education Center

2023 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"

PEEC Board of Trustees

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Did you visit PEEC in 2023?

I hope so! There have been plenty of opportunities for you to make the journey to our corner of the Poconos over the past 12 months. This year, we sponsored more than 100 public programs and three community dinners. There were weekend-long Badge Festivals for scouts, camps for kids and high school students, and volunteer opportunities for those interested in gardening or trail work.

If you are looking for more inspiration to visit our campus, how about exploring all our recent changes? We have added new log cabins, purchased new canoes, and, of course, kept our clearly marked trails well-maintained so that you can explore them with ease, guided by our newly translated bilingual trail guides. You can download those from our website, which has also been given a fresh new look.

As you hike through the campus and enjoy our ponds and streams, I hope you also think about how this area fits into the larger ecosystem. As part of PEEC's mission to advance environmental education and sustainable living, we have a specific interest in our local region and issues surrounding the Delaware River watershed. Our educational programming includes curriculum such as "What's in Your Watershed?" and classes in Stream Ecology, Stream Study of the Scenic Gorge, and Watershed Study. Students who visit PEEC are introduced to the aquatic aspects of ecosystems, and some even get to collect macro-invertebrates, using these animals as bio-indicators to gauge stream health.

In a similar sense, our PEEC ecosystem relies on both a diverse and dynamic staff, and supportive members and visitors like you who want to learn more about the environment. I hope each of you continue to support our educational efforts and hope that you can schedule some time to visit in the upcoming months. Your presence at PEEC is the true indicator of our success!

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



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

PEEC People



Kelly Daly, Incoming Executive Director, and Jeff Rosalsky, Retiring Executive Director

PEEC Management Team

Executive Director	Kelly Daly
Director of Business Management.....	Kirsten Larick
Director of Development	Amanda Subjin
Facilities & Physical Plant Manager	Ted Wetzel
Head of Maintenance.....	Marc Wetzel
Director of Education	Stephanie Sherman
Director of Operations.....	Derek Scott
Director of Group and Grant Coordination.....	George Johnson
Public Program Manager / Volunteer Coordinator.....	Kate Hausman
Asst. Summer Camp Director / Special Events Coordinator	Susie Chamberlain
Program Planner	Sara Neral
Financial Director of Grants	Mariann Oswald
Dining Hall Manager	Judith Lanza
Public Relations / Marketing	Janine Morley

Instructors & Interns

Aakanksha Ahuja, Sydney Brown, Sasha Cheer, Cassandra Colefield, Maria Drake, Caoimhe Fanthorpe, Selin Kowal, Mornay Lacy, Zoie Parshall, Sinead Roche, Amber Russo, Nichole Seul, Natalie Sykes

Fundraising & Financial Report



Generous donations and matching gifts from 32 donors generated over \$55,000 in support for PEEC's mission in 2023.



During PEEC's 4th year participating in NEPA Gives, 41 donors helped PEEC raise over \$3,000.



Sponsorships from 15 local businesses helped to raise over \$10,000 toward PEEC's 6th annual Tough as Trails 5K event.

	2022	2023
Revenue, Gains, and Other Support		
Instructional Fees	821,368	1,003,193
Grants	620,808	449,945
Grants - COVID		
Contributions	242,815	166,679
Fundraising	15,128	20,215
Investment Income	6,030	19,131
Net Unrealized (loss) Gain on Investments	-10,954	
Gift Shop	25,404	21,938
Other Income	—	—
Total Revenue, Gains, and Other Support	1,720,599	1,681,101
Expenses		
Instructional / Program Services	1,393,392	1,458,315
Management and General	141,036	248,331
Development and Fundraising	6,119	96,583
Total expenses	1,540,547	1,803,229
(Decrease) Increase in Net Assets from Operations	180,052	-122,128
Net Assets, Beginning of Year as Previously Reported	1,487,744	1,667,796
Net assets, End of Year	1,667,796	1,545,229
Depreciation	33,624	53,165
Other Adjustments to Reconcile Changes in Net Assets	-59,602	11,394
Net Cash Provided by (Used in) Operating Activities	1,641,818	1,610,227
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities / Payments for Property & Equipment	-401,631	-67,322
Net Cash Flows from Financing Activities	-14,849	-12,073
Net Increase in Cash and Cash Equivalents	-262,406	-137,513
Cash and Cash Equivalent: Beginning of Year	1,405,993	1,143,587
Cash & Cash Equivalent: End of Year	1,143,587	1,006,074
Supplemental Disclosures:		
Cash Paid During Year for Interest	4,279	5,358

Take a PEEC!

Watchers on the Water

Four different organizations brought 60 youth to spend 3 days/2 nights paddling and camping along the Delaware River. In addition to learning about river ecosystems and the value of protecting our natural resources, participants also gain valuable leadership and outdoor recreation skills. Lead support was provided by the **William Penn Foundation**.



WATER! Program

Thanks to lead support from the **William Penn Foundation**, 281 students from across 9 different schools participated in a 3-day/2-night stay at PEEC. Their time was spent learning about the region's watersheds, flora, fauna, and native habitats while gaining an appreciation of our natural resources.

Summer Science

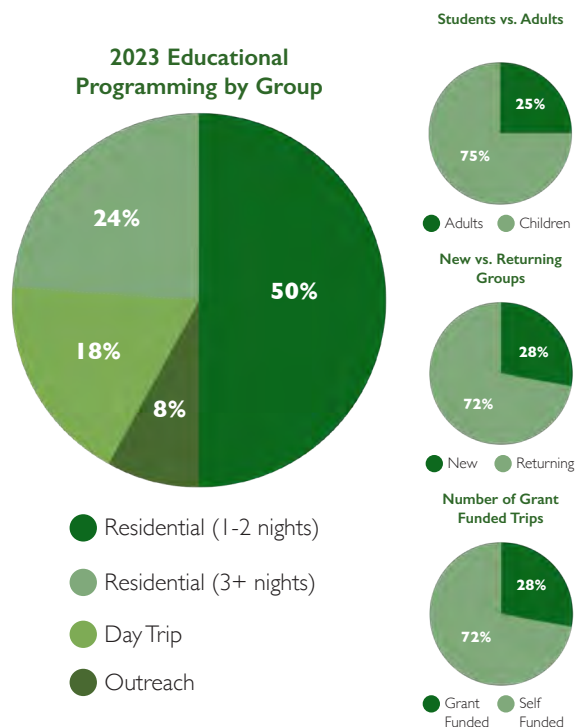
Funding from the **Victoria Foundation** and the **PSEG Foundation** supported a 1-week visit to PEEC for 75 youth from Newark, NJ. The students participated in immersive outdoor recreation opportunities while also experiencing some classic camp activities such as tie-dyeing, canoeing, crafts, and campfires complete with S'mores!

Grant-Funded Field Trips and Outreach

The **National Parks Foundation** provided funding to allow for outreach programs, day trips, and overnight stays for 973 students through the Open Outdoors for Kids program. Thanks to donations from area businesses participating in the **EITC Program** (Educational Improvement Tax Credit), **First Energy**, the **American Water Charitable Foundation**, and the **PSEG Foundation**, PEEC provided another 970 students with in-classroom outreach and educational field trips in 2023.

AWE Centers

PEEC participates as one of the 23 Environmental Education Centers of the **Alliance for Watershed Education** which has the goal of increasing access to outdoor recreation opportunities and education throughout the Delaware River watershed.



Education & Operations Updates

Operation:

Log Cabins: In 2023, PEEC's new log cabins were popular overnight accommodations. The 3 cabins hosted approximately 350 people, increasing the number of people that can stay on PEEC's campus overnight. PEEC continues to fundraise for several additional log cabins over the next few years.

Water Recreation: With funding from **Get Outdoors PA** and **PA Fish and Boat Commission**, PEEC purchased several new canoes and overhauled its fishing gear, thus contributing to improvements to public programs and school field trips.

Bilingual Trail Guides: Thanks to grants from the **Greater Pike Community Foundation** and the **Alliance for Watershed Education**, PEEC's general trail map and several prominent interpretative trail guides have been translated into Spanish. Trail guides are available in print for use on PEEC's trails or can be downloaded. The remaining trail guides will be translated in 2024.

Website Redesign: Thanks to a grant from the **Alliance for Watershed Education**, PEEC launched a newly designed, mobile friendly website in the spring of 2024.

Camp:

In 2023, PEEC's Summer Day Camp saw a huge increase and had over 500 campers! Through a partnership with the NASA Globe Goes to Camp program, summer camp at PEEC included the opportunity for campers to become Citizen Scientists through outdoor, inquiry-based learning investigations where students explore STEAM-based subjects inspired by nature.



SCI-Q Project: With support from **TC Energy**, PEEC hosted 17 students interested in exploring hands-on science opportunities for a week long residential stay. Students visited East Stroudsburg University for a tour of their labs, spent a day on the Delaware River collecting macro invertebrates, and even built a functioning boat out of cardboard.

Easter Seals Camp Growing Green: PEEC's 14-year partnership with **Easter Seals of Eastern Pennsylvania** continued with 6 weeks of overnight camp for special needs campers from age 10 to adult.

Public Programs, Workshops, and Events:

108 Public Programs: Over 2,000 people attended PEEC's public programs in 2023. These programs included hands-on science activities, guided interpretive hikes, weekend workshops, amphibian searches, and more! New programs added in 2023 included cooking classes, a hiking and backpacking workshop weekend, and new birding programs. Thanks to lead support from the **William Penn Foundation**, 36 of these public programs were offered at low or no cost to participants through PEEC's Bridge the Gap program.

3 Community Dinners: PEEC's three annual community dinners continued in 2023. Over 260 visitors joined us for the delicious meals at the Vegan Board Game Dinner, Farm to Table, and Wild Game Dinner.

900 Visitors to the EcoZone Discovery Room: The EcoZone was open to the public on 21 dates over the course of 2023, and over 900 visitors enjoyed the interactive, hands-on displays.



73 Scouts attended weekend-long Badge Festivals.

410 Volunteers committed over 583 hours of support for PEEC events, mailings, gardening, trail work, and more! PEEC's volunteers help expand program offerings, keep our trails well-maintained and clearly marked, and keep the PEEC campus clean and inviting for all visitors.



2023 PEEC SUPPORTERS

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Anonymous Donations
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Mickey and Barbara Black
Peter and Sally Bohlin

Barbara and Tom Brummer
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Samuel Gouldthrope
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Gelman-Lichtenstein Family Fund	In Recognition of Norm Spindel
Judith, Oren, BB, Micah, Maya Friedman	In Honor of Marc Gold
Lynn Robinson	In Memory of Larry Stack
Nancy Bird	In Memory of Derry Bird
Nancy Eshow	In Honor of Norm Spindel
Robb and Nancy Fox	In Honor of Marc Gold's Special Birthday
Ruth Schachter	In Honor of Marc Gold's 75th Birthday
Sally and Jerry Ganzfried	In Honor of Marc Gold's 75th Birthday
Stanley Silverman	In Honor of Marc Gold's 75th Birthday

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Thank You for Your Continued Support



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- School Groups
- Public Program
- Retreats & Workshops



30,000

VISITORS
EACH YEAR



50+ YEARS ENVIRONMENTAL & SUSTAINABILITY EDUCATION

20

ENVIRONMENTAL
Educators on
Staff



PEEC

Pocono Environmental
Education Center

30 CLASSES Including

- Water Quality
- Wildlife Ecology
- Geology



1 OF A KIND



EcoZone
DISCOVERY ROOM

310 BEDS FOR Overnight Trips



6 FREE & AMAZING HIKING TRAILS

BILINGUAL TRAIL
GUIDES AVAILABLE



*PEEC is close to home,
where learning comes naturally!*

PEEC is located off of Route 209 inside the Delaware Water
Gap National Recreation Area in Dingmans Ferry, PA.

538 Emery Road • Dingmans Ferry, Pennsylvania 18328

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