

Community Group Programs



2017 STATISTICS

3,287

Children served

1,962

Adults served

16,084

Contact hours

28

San Francisco Public Library
branches served

830

Youth engaged from
11 YMCA branches

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Community Programs and Outreach

team offers single-visit, multi-visit, and customized programs to groups in national parks and communities. Programs serve people of all ages and needs, supporting those who experience transportation barriers, economic challenges, or special needs—or who simply are unfamiliar with their national parks.

A common entry point for new audiences is personal connection with staff and educators. By establishing an authentic dialogue and developing relationships in the

participants' community, staff build rapport and create meaningful connections.

In the park, staff showcase the cultural or natural history and the recreational opportunities that the Golden Gate National Parks offer. The team works with a wide variety of groups, including youth who are newly arrived to this country, people with high health risks, and LGBTQ families.

The Crissy Field Center lends its expertise to youth-serving organizations like the YMCA. The Y Rangers summer program is in Year Three of a 10-year national partnership between the Y of the USA and the Department of the Interior. The Center trained YMCA staff, illustrating activities relevant to 830 youth in the program. Center educators delivered programs like a weekly campfire—a resounding highlight for hundreds of youth who roasted s'mores outside, many for the first time.

Golden Gate National Recreation Area and the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy continued their partnership with the San Francisco Library Summer Stride program, encouraging people of all ages and abilities to read and learn during the summer. In all, 11 free shuttles transported families from neighborhood branch libraries to their national parks, while 28 library locations hosted ranger-led storytelling sessions and some branches established trailheads offering maps, reading suggestions, and resources to enrich the visitation experience.



PARTICIPANT STORY | HIGHLIGHTS

Customized opportunities are offered to organizations and cater to group needs or experiential levels. Center staff worked with Youth-Plan, Learn, Act Now (Y-PLAN), a UC-Berkeley program empowering young people to tackle real-world problems in communities through project-based, civic-learning experiences. About 100 high school students from Japan visited Crissy Field to understand how the Center serves communities through youth leadership programs.

Mobilization for Adolescent Growth In our Community (Mo'MAGIC) is a program of the Office of the Public Defender administered by Collective Impact.

Over 70 youth visited Muir Woods National Monument through a collaboration between Mo'MAGIC and the Center, expanding on this partnership and diving deeper into the community by increasing services for summer experiences.

Interested in providing high school youth with outdoor experiences, Summer Success and Leadership Academy (SSLA) collaborated with the Center for a custom exploration of the Marin Headlands. SSLA is committed to equipping and empowering youth of Stockton, CA, to be leaders and active agents of change in their community.

Students traveled over two hours each way via bus to recreate and learn in the natural environment, a first-time experience for many of them. They toured Point Bonita Lighthouse, visited baby seals at the Marine Mammal Sanctuary, and happily splashed in the

If I grew up near a place like the Marin Headlands, I would definitely be a hiker!

—Imanyi Johnson, Summer Success and Leadership Academy participant



TRENDS | LEARNING | FUTURE PLANS



Now in its second year, National Park Connections is a program for newly arrived immigrant students. National Park Service rangers collaborate with the San Francisco Unified School District and focus on secondary education newcomer groups. For most participants, this ranger-led program is their first experience in the national parks.

Through field trips and follow-ups, educators showcase outdoor job opportunities through the Parks Conservancy and offer job training and professional development. Inside the parks, students learn about partnerships and vocational pathways like volunteering, internships, and scaled employment. Graduating high schoolers at local institutions can be Academic Interns, gaining real-world experience while working. Rangers follow up and help with applications to encourage participants on their career journey.



KEY PARTNERS



YMCA- Play, Learn, Serve, Work Initiative



San Francisco Public Library



- Over 15 community-based organizations