



## 2018 STATISTICS

3

Environmental Science classes from Mission High School and Galileo Academy of Science and Technology

83

Students completed over 40 hours of field study

15

Distinct small group environmental science projects presented

150

People attended the Environmental Science Symposium

28

Trips to Golden Gate National Parks and other open spaces

80%

Youth in the program participated in optional WISE after-hours activities

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

**Now in its 18th year**, Project WISE engages students from Advanced Placement Environmental Science classes at two San Francisco public high schools: Mission High School and the Galileo Academy of Science and Technology. In this year-long, place-based, student-centered program, participants learn environmental science concepts and utilize scientific practice to better understand their parks and communities.

Much of the learning during Project WISE occurs outside, as classroom concepts are applied to sites in national parks and San

Francisco neighborhoods. For instance, water quality lessons are reinforced by an intensive study of Lobos Creek in the Presidio. The Crissy Field Marsh is used as a case study of wetlands, and air quality is investigated through comparison of pollution levels across the city.

During the spring semester, Project WISE students conduct their own scientific explorations and present their findings at an annual symposium to peers, park officials, school district administrators, and members of the community.



**In the 2017-18 school year**, Project WISE further developed its relationship with Mission High School and now partners with the school year-round, replicating the Galileo High School program.

This enhanced partnership with Mission grew from Project WISE staff realizing they could reach more students and different

communities. Demographically, Mission and Galileo are quite different. By working with these schools, Project WISE staff expanded their reach within San Francisco, improving their teaching as they developed, changed, and enhanced curriculum to best meet the needs of individual students.

The teachers from Mission and Galileo are key components of the program's success. Their willingness and desire to provide different learning opportunities for students serves as a foundation for the program. They have pushed Project WISE to develop programming that brings these two schools together.



## PARTICIPANT STORY | HIGHLIGHTS

**The Point Reyes Science Adventure** is an intensive science education and leadership development program. Each summer, 13 youth spend a week in Point Reyes National Seashore and experience what it's like to be part of a field research team. During the day, participants conduct scientific research on natural resources with professional scientists. Afternoons and evenings are spent with other youth participants exploring Point Reyes, building community, and developing leadership skills. Youth in the program are from different Bay Area schools.



Point Reyes Science Adventure reaches out to young people and gives them the opportunity to experience jobs in the environmental field firsthand. It connects youth with similar interests but totally different backgrounds, creating a diverse community that works incredibly well together.

-2018 student participant

I give a million thanks to the staff for making this experience such an enjoyable and memorable one, and for giving me the opportunity to be a part of a community I'll never forget.

-2018 Point Reyes Adventure participant

This experience pushed me out of my comfort zone to a point where I am more confident in stepping up as a leader in any situation.

-2018 Point Reyes Adventure participant



## TRENDS | LEARNING | FUTURE PLANS

**Project WISE** has long strived to make science education engaging and impactful by helping participants gain academic and professional skills and knowledge. Project WISE offers youth programming that is relevant and provides leadership opportunities.

Overnight trips have become essential to the program. Youth are assigned to roles that help develop leadership skills like cooking meals, leading hikes, and planning evening activities. Incorporating youth voice into these trips provides insight into the variety of passions, cultures, and identities they value.

The annual spring break trip to Yosemite has seen dinner menus with tacos dorados,

pho, and fried rice, and evening activities such as Boba pop-ups, Chinese karaoke, and cumbia dance parties. Project WISE staff believe youth don't need to change who they are to be part of the program, and by being themselves, they'll feel more valued and willing to be active participants.



## KEY PARTNERS

