Ironwood Tree Experience

Youth. Nature. Community.

INVESTMENT REPORT
2021 - 2022



Sabino Canyon Recreation Area,
Santa Catalina Mountains,
Coronado National Forest

OUR MISSION

Ironwood Tree Experience **makes it possible** for young people to engage with the natural world and be stewards of the environment.

OUR AUDIENCE

Over 1,000 ITE youth and alumni experienced joy, friendship, and a personal connection to nature with ITE staff, partners, & supporters in 2021-2022.

OUR FUTURE

Because of you, our future flourishes. **Thank you for helping youth** gain awareness, appreciation, and a positive attitude for a better tomorrow.

YOUTH VOICES


Youth monitor the Rio Grande Bosque in Albuquerque, NM

"ITE creates unforgettable and fun experiences with wonderful staff who are passionate about their jobs and really care about the youth and have hope in us and in their community."

from -- Jesus Mendoza-Villela


Youth craft personal stories of the Santa Cruz River

Tell us about your home...

"The Santa Cruz River and the Sonoran Desert have been the home and migrating path for the Yaqui, Tohono O'odham, and Hohokam people since time immemorial. We have drought-resistant plants like the Saguaro and water-gulping plants like the Desert Cottonwood.

-- DOT PALLENES


Youth guide their family members in Birdwatching 101!

"My dad and I came to a birding community event [All About Birds @ Sweetwater Wetlands Park w/ Sonoran Joint Venture]. My personal favorite bird is the Osprey".

-- OSCAR DELGADO

Oscar's dad responded with amazement to be in a new place within Tucson that felt like an escape from the city.

YOUTH SPOTLIGHT

Julia's journey with ITE began with the *Youth Ambassadors for Southwest Cultures* internship in 2020. Though her in-the-field experiences were unexpectedly cut short due to COVID-19, she said the internship made her fall in love with Tucson.

Julia remained involved with ITE virtually and progressed through other ITE programs, such as the *Desert Youth Heritage Project*, *Wilderness Warriors*, and *Youth Action Community* - eventually meeting in person with her ITE friends.

For Julia, being part of these programs made Tucson feel like home, gave her a group of friends that she continues to stay in contact with, and provided her the opportunity to go camping and explore nature. She said **they also helped improve her communication skills - public speaking, sharing her voice and opinions, and considering multiple points of view**.

After meeting a foreign exchange student through *Wilderness Warriors* and learning from Angel Breault, a former ITE Program Manager who shared his experiences abroad, Julia was inspired to travel. **She gained the confidence to spread her wings**.

Currently, Julia is completing her final year of high school in France. So far, she says **the experience has been humbling**. **She equated her struggles in adjusting to a new culture and language to the struggles of adjusting to cold temperatures while camping and long, tiring hikes with ITE**. Both started off with great difficulty, but in the end, she proved to herself that "...**just because it's hard doesn't mean I can't do it**."

In the near future, Julia's goals are to graduate and go to college. She would like to study Political Science, Philosophy, and International Relations. Later, she wants to go to Law School and get involved in immigration law.

Developing skills and growing an appreciation for her home in Tucson taught Julia how to appreciate a new place. **From a Southwest Cultures Youth Ambassador to a world traveler, Julia has become ambitious and learned to share her story and her voice.**

See the full story at ironwoodtreeexperience.org!



BECAUSE OF YOU


Youth create seedballs for National Public Lands Day

Nearly **200 dedicated donors** including YOU made a generous gift to ITE this past fiscal year.

ITE **won** a **$2,500 award** for **placing 1st** for a small nonprofit with the most donors who gave in the Arizona Gives Day 2022 campaign.

5 foundations and **businesses** contributed a total of **$29,600** to advance ITE's youth programs.

6 federal and national groups representing **public lands** (forests, parks, historic trails) made youth engagement in conservation education and advocacy a significant part of their work, investing **$295,000 in ITE youth** programming.

15 teachers from 3 middle schools and 5 high schools brought the **outdoors to their classrooms** by participating in ITE's **Field Studies For Schools** program and **Teachers Gone Wild About Birds** professional development workshop.

In one year with ITE, over **1,000 youth participants** enhanced their **sense of place** through personal experiences with camouflaged canyon tree frogs, water flowing through the desert, foraging deer, striding water bugs, and so much more!

After being away on their own adventures, **24 young alumni** returned to nature to **experience** joy, community, and friendship with ITE.

Mushroom gathering, sorting and shelving **natural history** books, sharing thoughts on **worthiness**, guiding indigenous youth in **tribal lifeways**, asking and **thanking** friends & family for donating, and making it **possible** for students to **explore** and **learn** outdoors are all the ways our **guests**, **teachers**, and **volunteers** helped make ITE a **top choice** for youth in southern AZ.


Wilderness Warriors go backpacking in the Santa Catalina Mountains, CNF USFS

OUR FUTURE FLOURISHES

After a very long separation, ITE youth, staff, donors, and partners gathered for **107 days of good ole' fashion fun outdoors** through these partnership programs in 2021-2022!

All About Birds, *Creativity on the Fly*, and *Teachers Gone Wild About Birds* with **Sonoran Joint Venture** and **USFWS**

Connecting Youth Outdoors and *Field Studies for Schools* with **Coronado National Forest, USFS,** and **Civano, Desert View, Khalsa Montessori, Nosotros Academy, Pueblo, Sahuarita, Satori,** and **Sunnyside**

Desert Youth Heritage Project and *Youth Ambassadors for Southwest Cultures* with the **Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail, NPS**



ITE Staff & youth leaders in 2021-2022
Kristen, Eric, Rebecca, Angel, Mimi, Julia, Deborah, & Isaac
(not in photo - Suzy)



ITE Board Members in 2021-2022 at Mission Garden
Elva, Axhel, Suzy, Paul, Corina, and Chuck
(not in photo - Josh, IngriQue, & Eric)

Eco-truths for Indigenous Youth, *Envisioning Urban To Wild*, *In Real Life* Mobile Live Streaming (*ITE LIVE!*), and *Wilderness Warriors* with **Indigenous Strategies**, **The Wilderness Society**, and the **Dustin & Kristen Yoder Memorial Foundation**

Engaging Native Boys in Education, Tribal Lifeways, and Land Stewardship with **Indigenous Strategies, UA Education Department,** and **Agnese N. Haury Fund**

Youth Action Community and ITE Alumni in partnership with **The Stonewall Fund at the Community Foundation of Southern AZ** and the **National Recreation Foundation**

Youth for Blue Skies:
Mobilizing youth for air quality and student-led climate action with the **Pima Department of Environmental Quality** and **Citizens' Climate Lobby**

OUR DONORS

DEDICATED DONORS
WHO GIVE YEAR AFTER YEAR

Joy Adams, Christopher Baldyga, LoriAnne Barnett-Warren, Paul Bellows, Kathy Ben, Dean Bennett, Erica Bennett, Anaruth Bernard, William Birchard III, Gitanjali Bodner, Betsy Bolding, Angel Breault, Judith Breault, Charlene Buck, Julie Burguiere, Shea Burns, Cheryl Cahill, Vanessa Chamberlain, Carolyn Chilcote, Monica Christensen, Tina Christianson, Carly Croman, Kim Crooks, Kevin Dahl, Elva De La Torre, Akshay Dhruv, Eric and Suzanne Dhruv, Mark and Krista Dhruv, Rona Dhruv, Elise Dillingham, Jennifer Duberstein, Georgia Ehlers, Kim Eisele, Elyse Engel, Timothy Evans, Annette and Paul Felix, Dinkar Gangwal, Mary Jo Ghory, Harpreet Girn, Emily Goff, Madeleine Golde and Norman Oslik, Alegria Gray, Floyd and Yajaira Gray, James Greenberg, Kate and James Harrison, Charles Herbert, Daniel Hernandez, Deb and Jim Hilbert, Rebecca and Saul Huerta, Doug Hulmes, Charles and Mary Hutchinson, Ruth Kaplan, Kenneth Kingsley, Michelle Kostuk, Robin Kropp and Russell Scott, Gregory and Bonnie Kuykendall, Matthew Lopez, Brian and Tina Love, William Lytle, Chrissy Maes, Neil Markowitz, Steven Marlatt, Linda Martino, John McCarrell, Jane McCollum, Shela McFarlin, Adam Milnor, Edward and Annette Miranda, Mark and Shannon Miranda, Lyn Morton, Axhel Muñoz, Khyanna Muñoz, Lizdelia Muñoz, Kostya and Jeannie Nakazny, Lesley Newman, Corina Ontiveros, Deborah Oslik, Sandra Paris, Manuel and Percilla Patino, Vincent Pawlowski, Eva Peterson, Katharine Peterson, Roger Pfeuffer, Stacey & Joseph Plassmann, Lena Porell, Amanda Rader, Subhash Raval, Ann Reinhart, Jennifer Reinhart, Annie Rempe, Rosie Reyes, Diana Rhoades, Tahnee Robertson, Robert and Angelica Rockov, Ross Rulney, David Santucci, Mark Santucci, Christina Savel, Deb Schachter, Joshua Schachter, Karin Schorr, Nancy Schroeder, Jan Schwartz, Lloyd Sharp, Lisa and Catlow Shipek, Gretta Siegel, Scott and Kelly Smith, Lupe Sotelo, Carol Soth, Lisa Stark, Netzin Steklis, Andrew Stocker, Joseph Tabor and Holly McCarter, Dom McGrath and Lisa Dollinger, David Taylor and Lana Holstein, Amita Trivedi, Cynthia Wallace, Robert Walters, Quinn Weltzin, Amelia Whalen, Scott Wilbor, Joseph Winfield, Jamie Wolgast, Leisy Wyman, Gordon Yarrington, Ross Zimmerman


Santos scores big while mushrooming!

MONTHLY DONORS
WHO PROVIDE SUSTAINING SUPPORT

Andrew Cronyn, Gavin Lehr, Gene Einfrank, Helen Dearmore, Kieran Buckley, Lorraine Edminster, Maura and Steve Buckley, Merrik Bush, Michael Hilbert, Sandra Brody, Joan Calcagno, Shannon Miranda

FIRST TIME DONORS
WHO JOINED THE ITE COMMUNITY

Anna Brody, Emily Clark, Eduardo Cortés, Isaac Cortés, Laura Castro Cortés, Michelle DiPietrapaul, Imena Ezell, Lynn Gase, Miranda Hampton, Jorge Hernandez, Karla Hernandez, Diego Huerta, Tracy Karol, John Lai, Trevor Ledbetter, Sehdia Mansaray, Phoebe Meixner, David Mercadante, Sherry Orange, Rosa Pérez, Rebecca Pérez, Marie-Claire Peron, Pete Phillips, Lee Porter, Anne Ready, Christine Robie, Michael & Keri Russo, Bennett Sawyer, David Sawyer, Hannah Sawyer, Katherine Sawyer, Kristen Sawyer, Cathryn Schiesser, Natalie Shepp, Meghan Valentine, Ryan Williams

PLUS MANY OTHERS WHO HAVE SHOWN THEIR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEARS -- *THANK YOU!*


Cactus longhorn beetle and Mimi see eye to eye!

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE

Total = $363,343.00

Grants = $294,022

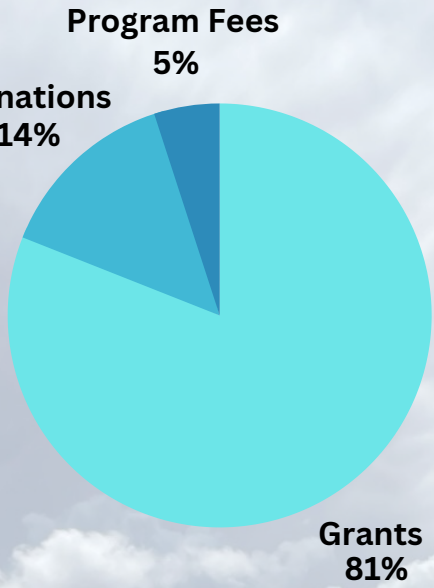
81%

Donations = $50,804

14%

Program Service Fees = $18,517

5%



EXPENSES

Total = $380,725.00

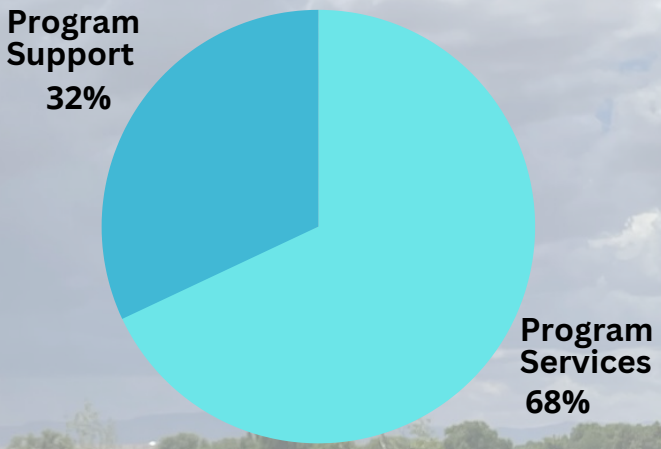
Program Services = $257,187

68%

Program Support = $123,538

(Administrative & Fundraising)

32%



"It has been wonderful to see the evolution of ITE over the years and the incredible team they have assembled and know that through our donations we have played a small part in its success."
~***Robin Kropp and Russ Scott***, *dedicated donors*

"In an increasingly chaotic society that constantly drives us to pay attention to the trivial, the natural world that we depend on for our very survival has become less of a priority. ITE's experiential approach, introducing young people to nature and it's inextricable link to culture, is a deeply meaningful antidote."
~***Gene Einfrank***, *dedicated donor*

"I was impressed with the program and wanted to make it possible for more students to participate."
~***Cheryl Cahill***, *dedicated donor*

Ironwood Tree Experience

At the Historic Y
738 N 5th Ave, #101
Tucson, AZ 85705

WAYS TO GIVE

You can support our mission and programs by
donating online at ironwoodtreeexperience.org/donate

You can donate a car, truck, van, motorcycle, boat, or RV to support ITE!
CARS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that accepts vehicles to help make donations to charitable organizations. Learn more at careasy.org

If you shop through **Amazon**, you could be donating a portion of your purchase to ITE!
When you shop at **smile.amazon.com**, Amazon donates 0.5% of your eligible purchases - at no cost to you.

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Birding at Agua Caliente Park