Ironwood Tree Experience

Youth. Nature. Community.

Investment Report
2015-2016



Youth EcoMonitoring Corps, Spring 2016 - A partnership across generations

Accomplishments

We served 46% more youth than last year! That's 1,325 teens who chose to explore and discover their natural world.

23% of our program hours occurred abroad in Mexico and Costa Rica!

ITE gives teens what they ask for…more time in nature! Together, they experienced 16,079 program hours in nature. That's 18% more than last year!

Dear Friend,

Together, we make quite an impact!

Because you give generously of your trust, time, and dollars to Ironwood Tree Experience (ITE), and because you continue to choose to invest in us, we have become a keystone in the lives of the young people we serve. As a result, they are able to contribute greatly to the resiliency, health, and prosperity of their community and other communities around the globe. Thank you!

This past year, ITE youth traversed a lot of terrain from Sonoran Desert uplands and urban areas, to the Sea of Cortez, and cloud forest of Costa Rica. Through it all, they nurtured an interest in natural and cultural studies, a love for their community, and a commitment to environmental stewardship.

With your help, our organization has equally covered a lot of ground, from developing our staff to strengthening our finances. Our accomplishments have brought us closer to our vision to "make ITE a top choice for Tucson youth and a recognized model for environmental education across the nation." I am proud to report that in year two as an independent non-profit, we grew our revenue and programs by 30%, and more and more parents and schools are trusting ITE to bring smart, healthy and experiential education to their teenagers.

Each day, I am most hopeful that these are the young people who will lead the way to a sustainable future and I am honored to read testimonials from parents, donors, and partners who believe these youth are impressive, thoughtful, and inspiring. As you read our 2015-2016 Investment Report, I want you to feel hopeful too and proud of your commitment to our organization and your impact on our youth and future!

In partnership,

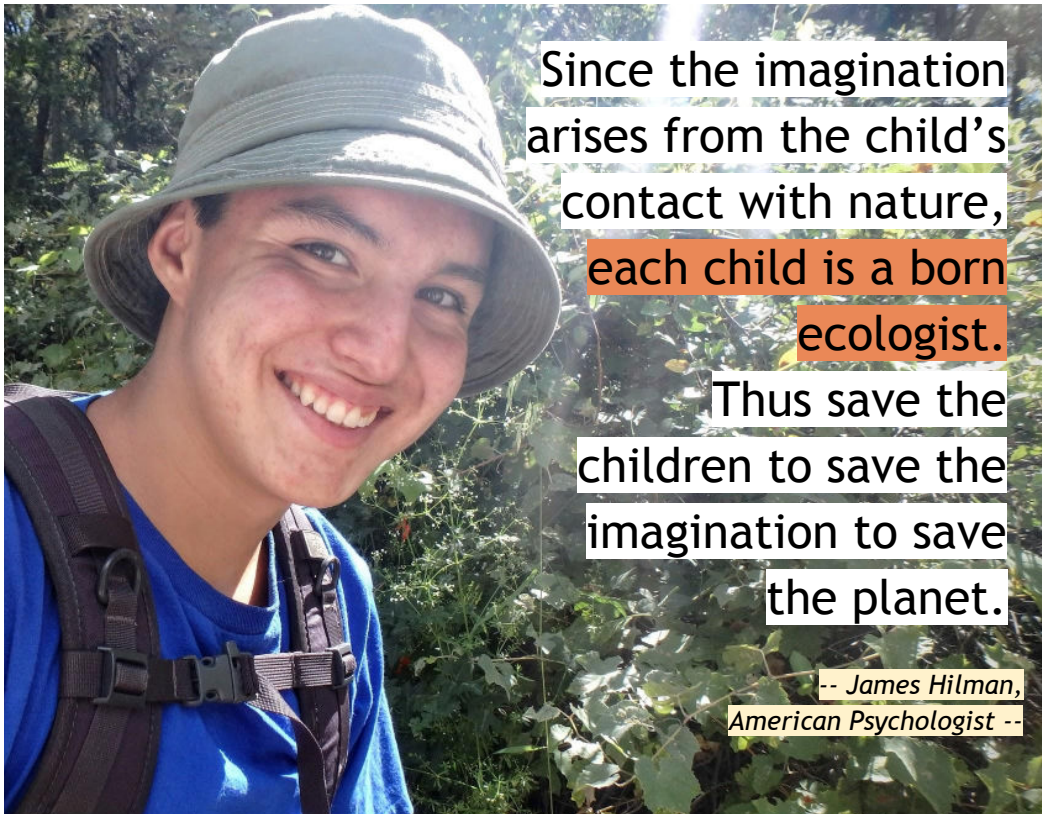
Suzanne Dhruv

Co-Founder, Executive Director



Our Partners & Programs

A River Runs Through Arizona
Cultural Wellness and Family Enrichment Center.
All About Birds
Arizona Game and Fish Department. Sonoran Joint Venture. Tucson Audubon Society.
EcoPrograms for Refugee Youth
CENTER. Food Conspiracy Co-op. Greater Good. Kids' International Neighborhood. Lutheran Social Services.
EcoPrograms for Youth
Be Good at Doing Good. Finley Family Foundation. HAMSTRA. National Outdoor Leadership School. Reproduction Inc. Skyline Country Club. Sooter's Automotive. The Emanuel and Anna Weinstein Foundation. Wallace Research Foundation. Wheat Design Group. You Got This Foundation.
Field Studies for Schools
Anza Trail School. Basis Tucson North. Civano Middle School. Flowing Wells High School. Pantano High School. Sahuarita High School. Salpointe Catholic High School. Satori Charter School. The Gregory School. Tucson High School.
Field Studies on the Range
Arizona 4H. Sahuarita School District. UA Pima County Extension. UA Santa Rita Experimental Range.
Get Outside with Your National Park Service
City High School. Western National Park Association.
Global Experience
EXO Coffee. Desert Toyota. Dustin and Kristen Yoder Memorial Foundation. Robert Scott Kehrer Memorial Fund. Monteverde Institute. Tap & Bottle.
ITE Youth Digi-stories
CommunityShare. Creative Narrations.
Southeast AZ Sustainable Recreation: Youth Engagement
Southwest Decision Resources. US Forest Service/Coronado National Forest, Sky Islands Children's Forest.
Youth Action Corps/Chuk-son Trail
Friends of Tucson's Birthplace/Mission Garden. Southwestern Foundation for Education and Historical Preservation.
Youth Ambassadors for the Next Century of National Park Service/Chuk-son Trail
Beyond Tucson. Friends of Saguaro National Park's Next Generation Rangers. Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail. NPS-Saguaro National Park. NPS-Urban Agenda. Outdoor Foundation/NPS Challenge Grant. Sonoran Desert Network & Desert Research Learning Center. Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation. Tumacácori National Historical Park.
Youth EcoMonitoring Corps
NPS-Saguaro National Park. Sonoran Desert Network & Desert Research Learning Center.
Youth Engaged Stewardship
Bureau of Land Management. Cienega Watershed Partnership. Empire High School's teacher - Chris In-Albon.
& 128 Donors. 1,325 Young People. ITE Board of Directors, Staff, and Volunteers.



At Ironwood Tree experience, we use seven core values in our daily operations. They are fundamental in our work and help guide us to achieve our mission:
to inspire young people to flourish by engaging with nature and becoming mindful stewards of the environment at home, in their community, and around the world.

One of those core values is: "*to foster lasting partnerships as part of a shared ecosystem of opportunities, resources, and experiences.*" Staying true to this shapes our ethos of getting along with others of diverse backgrounds, while working together to create or achieve something vibrant and meaningful for our community.

Through the spirit of cooperation and collaboration with a growing number of stakeholders like yourself (donors, parents, teachers, schools, businesses & agencies), youth are included as team players in community action. Through ITE's meaningful programs, they flourish by expanding their horizons, becoming familiar with new frontiers, and moving comfortably between boundaries.

With your partnership, since last year we **tripled** our number of community action projects and this equals an overwhelming number of shared opportunities, resources, and experiences for the whole community.



Program Highlights

EcoPrograms for Refugee Youth

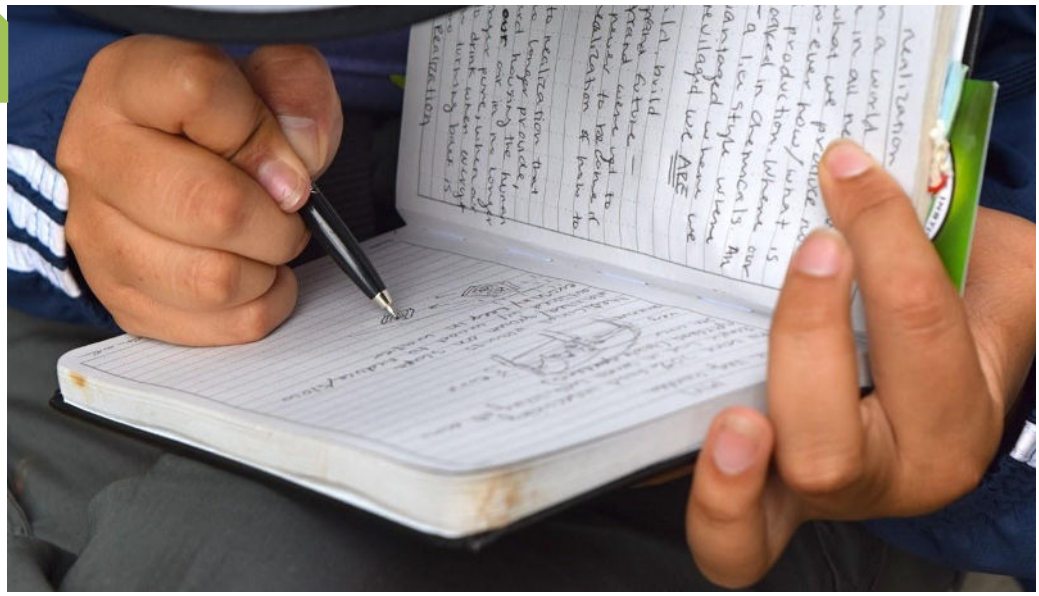


25 teens who are new to Tucson
83 hours spent exploring the natural world
6 adventures in the urban wild
6 adventures in the Southeastern AZ wildlands

5 African countries represented:
Kenya, Congo, Tanzania, Sudan, & Eritrea

3 Sky Islands discovered:
Tucson Mountains, Santa Catalina Mountains, & Santa Rita Mountains

Global Experience Costa Rica



"Traveling to a foreign country, especially one with such a rich culture, ecosystem, and passion for sustainability was absolutely incredible.
It gave me the chance to learn so much and expand my scope to include a vast new world. It exceeded every one of my expectations and provided me with opportunities to create personal growth and change."

-- Hannah, ITE Youth --

Youth EcoMonitoring Corps



"The kids made a difference this year… but the real long-term value for us is that they will have a much more on-the-ground understanding of conservation as they go forward into the world, and become strong advocates for protecting the earth around them."

-- Don & Lauren, ITE Partners National Park Service --

6 high school students & **15** NPS scientists deployed **53** wildlife cameras over **67** miles in the backcountry & **286** hours in the field, and collected data on **475** wildlife species!

You are bringing the gifts of nature to a demographic that has for too long been overlooked, and you are changing lives, by giving young people reasons to care.

-- Doug, ITE Loyal Donor since 2005. --

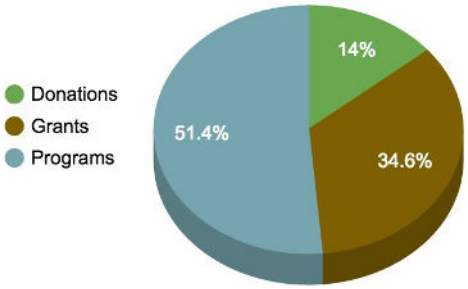
My kids have received so much from the staff and the programs at ITE. Thank you for continuing to provide programs that help teens develop leadership, become better educated about the world around them and learn life skills.

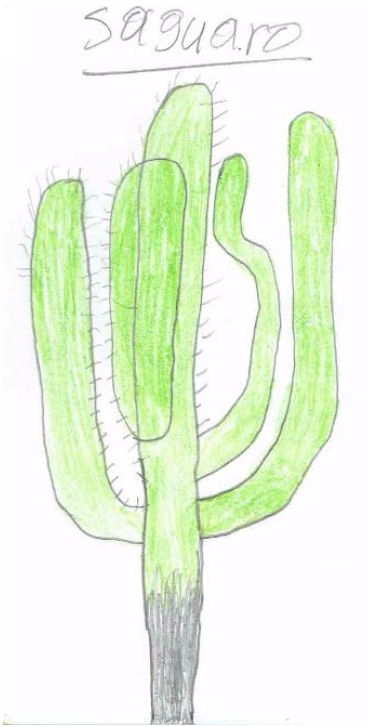
-- Gaye Lyn, ITE Donor and ITE Parent--

Financials 2015-2016

Revenue

Donations	$32,296	14%
Grants	$79,942	35%
Programs	$118,732	51%
Total Revenue	$230,970	





Expenses

Administration	$41,259	19%
Fundraising	$19,138	9%
Programs	$161,369	73%
Total Expenses	$221,765	

