



TETON SCIENCE SCHOOLS

2016 Annual Report



www.tetonscience.org
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JACKSON, WY 83001
307.733.1313

Building Momentum
Transforming Education
Changing Lives

THE IMPACT OF TETON SCIENCE SCHOOLS

14,875

Students served by TSS programs nationally

100,951

Student days of place-based education

4,000

Wyoming students served by TSS programs

1,250 of whom are eligible for the Federal Free & Reduced Lunch Program

49 States & Washington D.C.

Where participants attending TSS programs come from

\$1,566,689

Scholarships given across TSS programs

40%

Journeys School students who received need-based tuition assistance

This totals **24%** of overall tuition, double our NAIS peer group rate

100%

Percentage of TSS staff and Board giving

Over 1,000

Hours of service work provided by Journeys School students
to Jackson Hole nonprofits

5,323

Hours volunteered to Jackson Hole nonprofits by TSS AmeriCorps members

TETON SCIENCE SCHOOLS' BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee:

Chairman
Jim Broderick

Treasurer
Will MacNaughton

Secretary
Mickey Babcock

Board Members:

Dana Scott Andersson, Phil Coosaia, Gordon Finnegan, Jack Livingood, Marina Marrelli, Joohee Muromcew, Carl Palmer, H.S. Russell, Rob Wallace, David Work

Emeritus:

Shelby Davis, Addie Donnan, Louise Haberfeld, Ralph Haberfeld, Dick Jones, Jean Jorgensen, Clarke A. Nelson, Jack Nunn, Gil Ordway, Bob Smith, Margot Snowdon, David Stokes, Rich Sugden, Christy Walton

Ex-Officio:

Vickie Mates, Sylvia Parker

Founders

Ted & Joan Major



Chris Agnew
Executive Director

In education, Teton Science Schools (TSS) is truly unique. We blur the walls between classroom, community and nature, and then we energize educators to do the same. Over the last two decades, TSS has experienced significant growth and evolution. In the last year alone we provided life-changing learning for nearly 15,000 students. From a small field science school in Grand Teton National Park, we have broadened our impact using the power of place to educate pre-schoolers to retirees in a breadth of settings.

As we embark upon our 50th year we are focused on building a solid foundation. While the past four years have been characterized by transitions in leadership and vision, we are now building momentum to launch into our next 50 years. We refocused attention to financial

health, ensuring our mission supports future generations. We built a framework across the organization articulating our unifying approach to education, community leadership and our core values. For the first time ever, TSS reached 100% participation in annual giving across all Board members, all full-time staff, and all families of both of our independent schools. On solid footing, we are now half-way through strategic planning to establish our priorities for the next three years. We will craft a strategic plan for ONE TSS aligning the organization while recognizing the needs of each program area.

Join us as we build upon our wisdom of 50 years. TSS continues to model a transformative approach to education. Please read on for individual life-changing stories that happen on a daily basis.



BUILDING MOMENTUM

Twice a month, students can participate in Mindfulness Class, an enrichment course that teaches students to recognize how their bodies react to stimuli, such as anxiety or confrontation, and how to constructively mitigate these stresses at school and in life. 3rd-5th grade teacher, Anna Dwinnell, explains, "In Mindfulness this week, the students were taught about how our brain manages stress and fear. We learned that the amygdala – a small, almond shaped part of our brain – has the primary responsibility of controlling our emotions, in particular, our "flight or fight" responses to situations. Without the proper tools to manage stimuli that are perceived as stressful, the amygdala can be overworked, causing us to have emotional meltdowns, angry outbursts, or just a loss of control. By understanding that our first response to stress can be anger or hurt, we can think about ways to help our minds cope and approach the situation in a better way."

Mindfulness is just one more skill that will help Teton Valley Community School students successfully navigate their educational journey.

Mindfulness Courses Set Teton Valley Community School Apart

Enrichment course supports healthy minds. At Teton Valley Community School, student development extends far beyond the basics of math, science and language.

Understanding how the brain works helps students understand stress.

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

His respect of the Muries and their work shines through his stories.

"What's your favorite animal?" Docent Dan asks a group of school children gathered in Mardy's living room at The Murie Ranch. Dan McIlhenney, now completing his third summer as docent at The Murie Ranch, tells the kids that if they're observant as they travel through Grand Teton National Park, they may get to see their favorite. He then ties in examples of how Olaus and Adolph Murie used observation during their careers. Docent Dan shares the Muries' story with thousands of visitors, young and old, each summer. He greets each one, sharing the Murie's home and history with them, adjusting to their interests. Dan's energy swells as he tells the Muries' story. You can feel his respect and appreciation for what they accomplished and how they lived their lives. Docent Dan never got to meet Mardy Murie, but says he's drawn much insight from the people in Jackson who have shared personal anecdotes, allowing him to humanize the story. Mardy felt "the future is in the hands of the next generation coming up". Docent Dan feels much the same.



Docent Dan Continues to Share The Murie Legacy

Thousands of visitors and students visit The Murie Ranch every summer.

Murie Ranch docent contributes to program continuity.





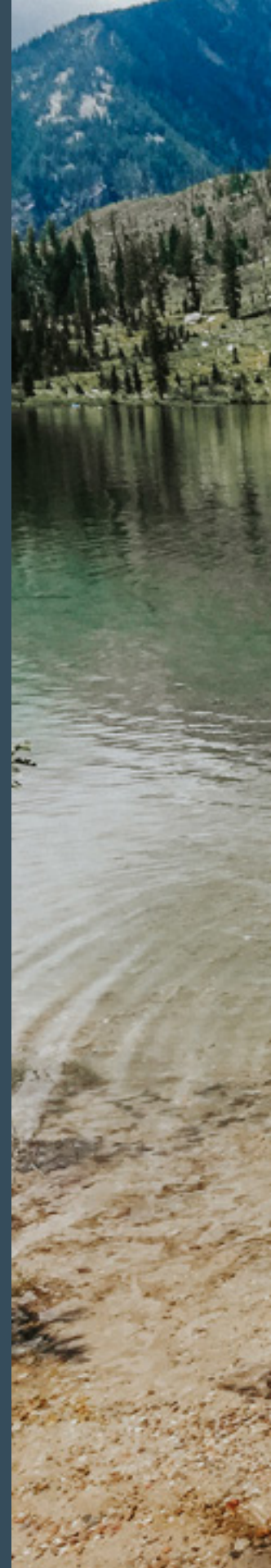
AmeriCorps Volunteers Give More Than 14,000 Hours to Jackson Hole Nonprofits

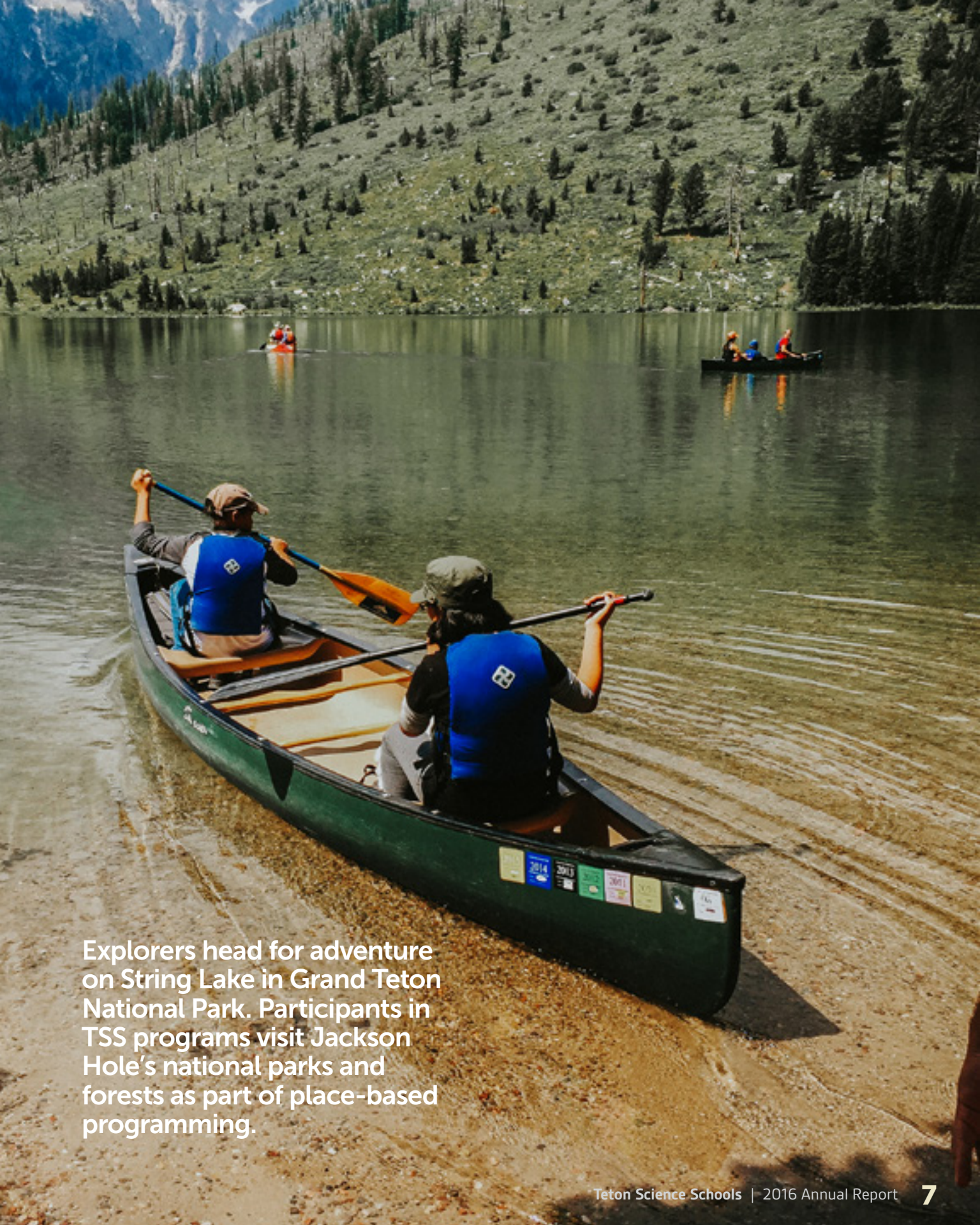
Instructors teach our students, then go out and improve the community.

In the crisp morning air, the Jackson Campus of Teton Science Schools (TSS) is buzzing with energy, movement and enthusiasm for the day's adventures. Participants are on a mission to experience the wonders of the natural environment guided by their knowledgeable instructors. What many people don't realize is that these instructors are on a mission of their own as AmeriCorps members.

Teton Science Schools started hosting AmeriCorps service members in the fall of 2009. The program is designed to transform its participants into place

-based educators who work to build the capacity of local nonprofits by utilizing scientific theory, concepts and processes. Since inception, the TSS AmeriCorps Program has grown to host roughly 44 service members each year. To date, 299 members have served over 118,000 hours at TSS, and more than 14,000 hours at partner organizations in Jackson Hole including: Teton County Search and Rescue, Children's Learning Center, Teton County Parks and Recreation, Hole Food Rescue, Summit High School, Doug Coombs Foundation and Teton Raptor Center.





Explorers head for adventure on String Lake in Grand Teton National Park. Participants in TSS programs visit Jackson Hole's national parks and forests as part of place-based programming.

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION

Paulo Ribeiro is a middle school health teacher in St. Louis who was inspired by a TSS Teacher Learning Center workshop to connect his lesson plan to the city around him. In doing so, he changed the lives of his students and community members in need.

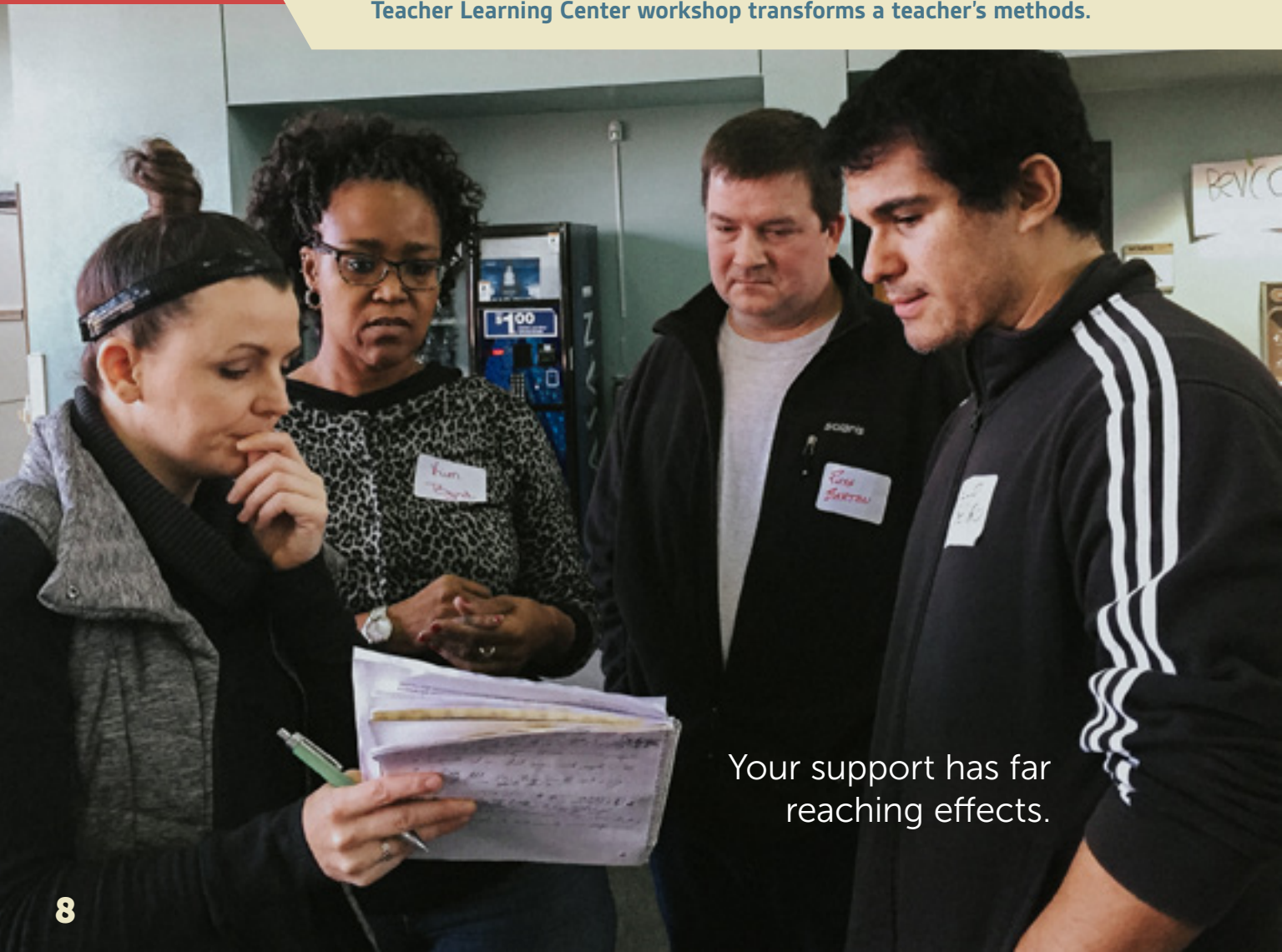
Place-based education was at the foundation of Teton Science Schools when Ted Major took his students out into the field for hands-on science learning in 1967. Today, the Teacher Learning Center continues to transform education by teaching the importance of leveraging the local community as a learning environment in workshops at schools and cities beyond Jackson Hole.

In St. Louis, Paulo invited a local food pantry to speak with his students about the need to provide more than nonperishable, packaged foods to their clients. The students researched the healthiest food choices, organized a fresh food drive, and then distributed 3,500 lbs. of collected food through the Circle of Concern Pantry. Of the students' efforts, Assistant Principal, Dr. Jill Loyet said, "This service learning project was meaningful to our students because they were able to act locally while understanding a need in our community."

Your support has far reaching effects by allowing us to help teachers in communities beyond Jackson.

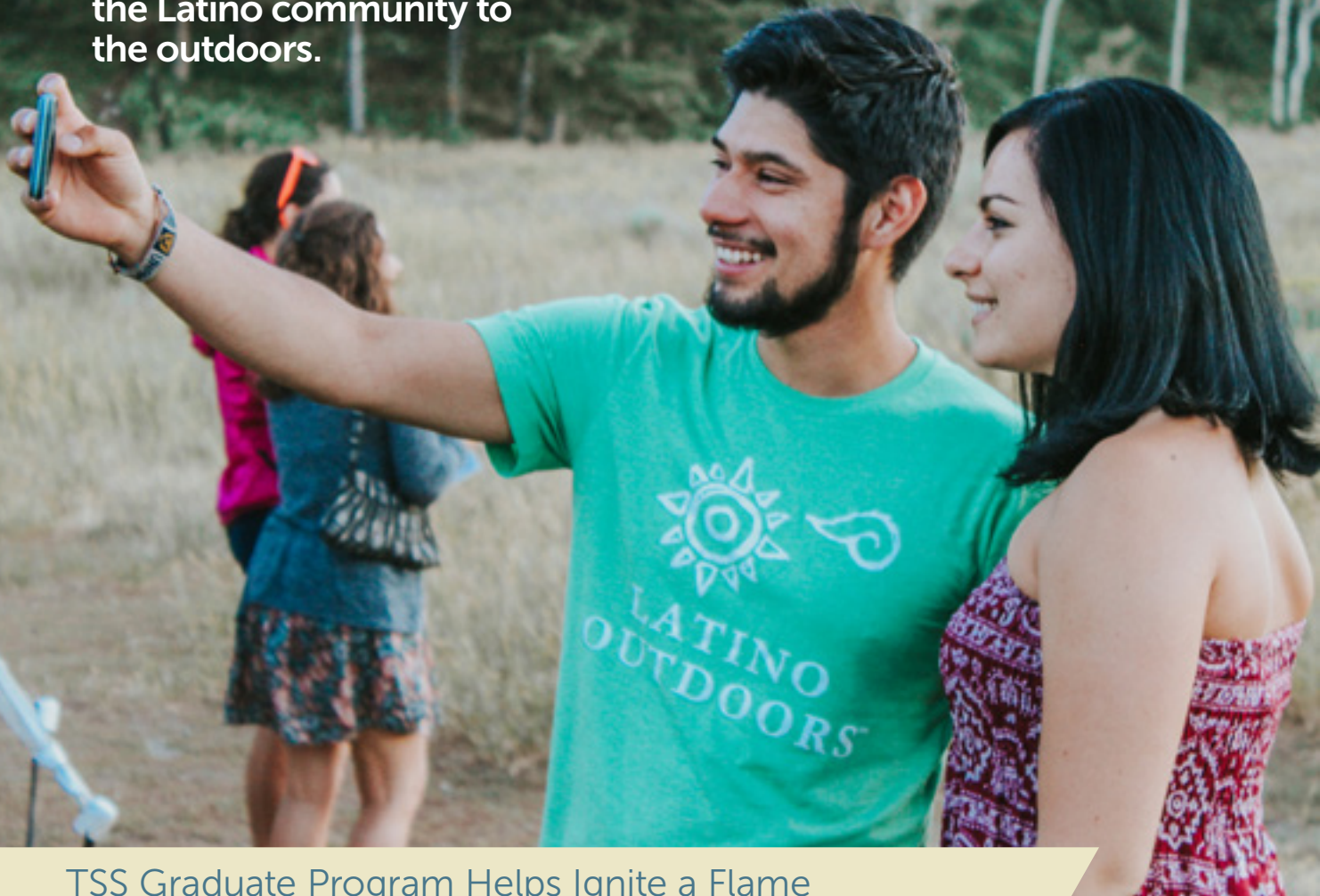
St. Louis Teacher Guides His Students to Change Lives

Teacher Learning Center workshop transforms a teacher's methods.



Your support has far reaching effects.

Alfonso strives to connect the Latino community to the outdoors.



TSS Graduate Program Helps Ignite a Flame

Graduate student named to Outdoor 30 under 30.

For graduate student, Alfonso Orozco, experiential education ignited his passion towards an aspiring career.

Attending the National Park Service Academy in the Tetons inspired Alfonso to pursue a path in outdoor education: "The exact moment I realized the power of the outdoors was as I laid outside in my sleeping bag. I saw the stars like I had never seen them before. It became obvious to me that I was happiest when I was outside."

From there, Alfonso worked in four national parks, knowing that his life would be dedicated to the

outdoors. He enrolled in the TSS Graduate Program and spent this past year at the Kelly Campus learning to share and spread his passion through place-based teaching models. The classroom and practical teaching experience he gained at TSS will help him complete his master's degree at the University of Wyoming and be the Latino Outdoors Coordinator for the State of Wyoming. Earlier this year, Outdoor 30 Under 30 recognized Alfonso as a young outdoor professional who is "challenging the status quo and driving the outdoor industry forward." We are proud to be an important step accelerating his trajectory.



Teton Science Schools

FIELD EDUCATION



Field Education
Programs

Wildlife Expeditions

The Murie Center

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS



Journeys School

Teton Valley
Community School

EDUCATOR DEVELOPMENT



Graduate Program

Teacher Learning
Center



CHANGING LIVES

A Week at the Kelly Campus Changed a Student's Life

**Your scholarship support sparks lifelong passion
& dedication to preserving the natural environment.**

The trip to the Kelly Campus was "one of the fastest, but most meaningful weeks I had ever had."



Jenny Baysa was an active member of the robotics club at Carson High School in Los Angeles; she was set on a career in engineering. When her teacher, Ms. Bird, offered her a spot on a field education trip to Wyoming, Jenny thought it would just be a fun adventure. But the trip to Teton Science Schools (TSS) changed Jenny's life. According to Jenny, the spontaneous trip to the Kelly Campus of TSS was "one of the fastest, but most meaningful weeks I had ever had. As cheesy as it sounds, the experience I

had with Teton Science Schools changed my life. I was incredibly stubborn, and stuck on the idea that I would be an engineer in college. However, when I took a Wildlife Biology class my first quarter at college, I was immediately reminded of TSS. I realized that no matter how hard I tried, I would always come back to this field of study because I loved it."

Jenny is currently a sophomore at UC Davis studying Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology.

CHANGING LIVES

"You are in remission". Joyful words that free a child from a sterile hospital room and lets their life begin again. That's when Children's Grand Adventure (CGA) steps in and brings them to Teton Science Schools. CGA is a Houston-based nonprofit organization whose mission is to help young cancer survivors experience the beauty of nature and continue with their survival celebration. For the past eight years Teton Science Schools has been their healing headquarters.

In July, 11 teen cancer survivors arrived at Teton Science Schools to participate in the Children's Grand Adventure program. This group of students covered a lot of ground in their nine days in Jackson Hole, with adventures in Yellowstone, Grand Teton National Park, downtown Jackson and the top of Rendezvous Peak. Their itinerary was impressive, but their new found passion for the natural world proved even more impressive. As one survivor wrote to future CGA participants:

"Welcome to the family. Not only will you have an amazing time with amazing people, you will also see what nature is truly about. Don't worry about not having your cell phone it'll just take your eyes off of the landscape. Don't worry about not knowing anyone — by the second day you'll be friends with everyone. The greatest thing to remember is to live every moment like it's your last. This opportunity is amazing so don't let it fall through your fingers."

—Ricky, CGA Summer '16

Your support of TSS helps keep our facilities and faculty ready for these kids and other deserving groups. Teton Science Schools looks forward to continuing the rich legacy with Children's Grand Adventure for years to come.

Cancer Survivors Take on the Parks

Week at Teton Science Schools helps Children's Grand Adventure students begin life again.



Journeys School Teachers Collaborate on Themes Across Classrooms and Subjects

Integrated learning projects strengthen students' understanding.

Amanda and Karen, Journeys School teachers, shared an office. During planning periods they discussed what the other was teaching. They saw an opportunity to multiply their efforts, and hatched the idea to collaborate on a shared topic. This integrated learning project approach proved successful.

Last year the program gained more traction as students explored the topic of Beasts and Monsters in their English, Science and History classes. They read the literary classics like "Beowulf" and discussed the philosophical concept of "monster".

"Learning these things holistically has a greater impact and retention for the students."



They studied the biological border between urban and wild places, called an Ecotone, where humans and animals collide.

They investigated both the historic and current human - mountain lion conflict. It culminated with a two-day field research trip to bring the study areas together for the students.

Of the project, Amanda says, "Learning these things holistically has a greater impact and retention for the students." Parents and students were receptive and supportive of the approach. Teachers are busy planning to increase the cross-subject interplay for next year's theme.

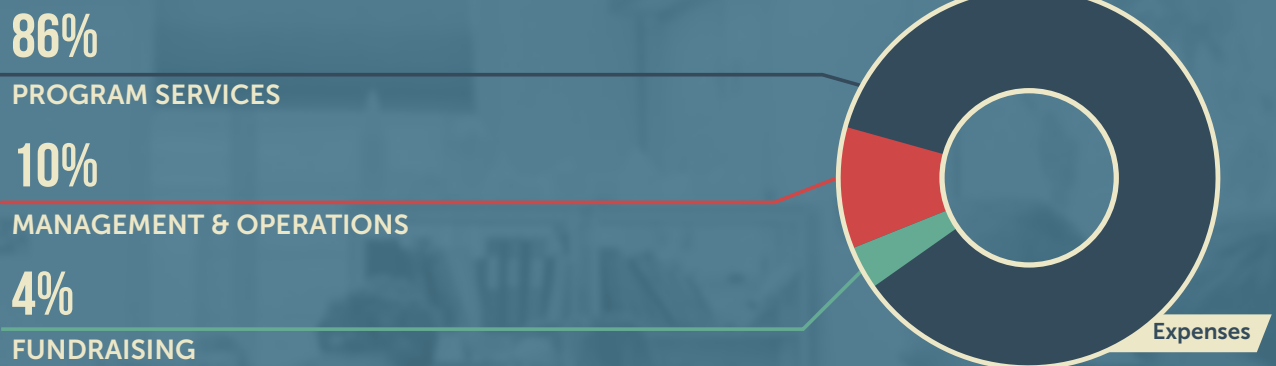
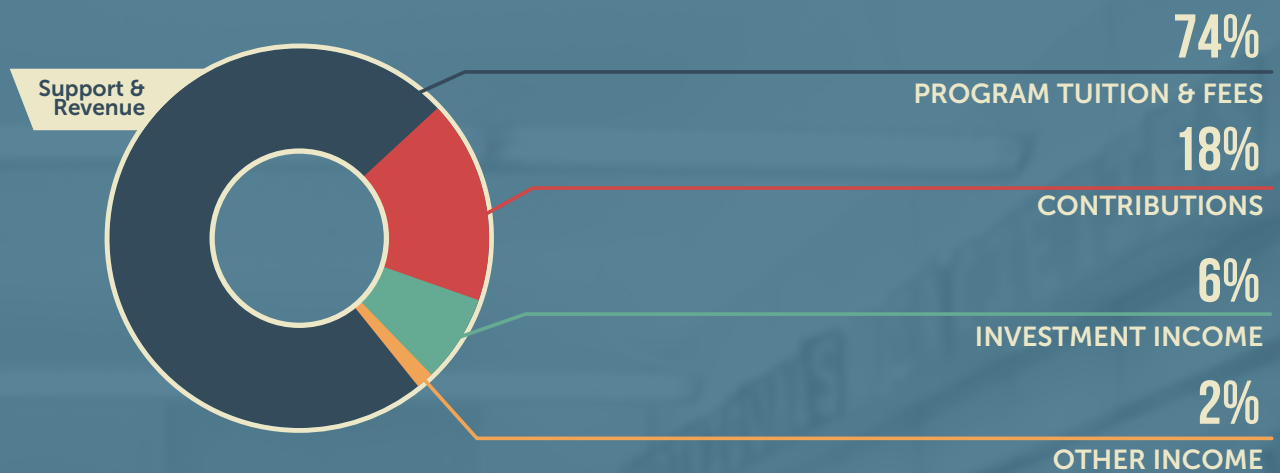
SUMMARY OF FINANCES AND ENROLLMENT

Statement of Financial Position (Unaudited)

ASSETS	Ending May 31, 2016	Ending May 31, 2015
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$132,197	\$105,548
Accounts Receivable	556,511	521,441
Inventory & Prepaid Expenses	284,716	179,476
Investments	17,781,818	18,907,805
Property & Equipment (net)	34,083,264	34,597,595
Total Assets	\$52,838,506	\$54,311,865
LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$401,607	\$263,206
Accrued Expenses	423,289	349,446
Course Deposits	1,208,719	1,276,730
Notes Payable	2,657,711	2,856,444
Total Liabilities	\$4,691,326	\$4,745,826
Net Assets	48,147,180	49,566,039
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$52,838,506	\$54,311,865

Teton Science Schools Enrollment 2015-2016

PROGRAM	STUDENTS	STUDENT DAYS	SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS
Field Education	7,720	37,176	\$131,627
Wildlife Expeditions	4,032	6,870	N/A
The Murie Center	295	363	N/A
Graduate Program	15	4,950	\$44,194
Teacher Learning Center			
Workshops & Outreach	2,209	5,472	\$360,000
Consulting	117	222	N/A
Journeys School			
School Year	178.5	31,238	\$963,130
Summer	102	545	N/A
Teton Valley Community School			
School Year	75.7	12,896	\$62,288
Summer	123	886	\$5,450
Education & Innovation	8	360	N/A
Total	14,875	100,951	\$1,566,689



Statement of Activity - Unrestricted Operating Fund (Unaudited)

SUPPORT & REVENUE	Ending May 31, 2016	Ending May 31, 2015
Program Tuition & Fees	\$10,374,326	\$9,978,028
Contributions	2,573,412	2,169,876
Investment Income	759,723	627,684
Other Income	321,512	306,663
Total Support & Revenue	\$14,028,973	\$13,082,251
EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$11,655,044	\$11,510,830
Management & Operations	1,419,557	1,378,076
Fundraising	483,714	403,046
Total Expenses	\$13,558,315	\$13,291,952
Capital Investments	\$444,609	\$196,351
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$26,049	-\$406,052



A budding scientist sketches Old Faithful. Observation is the first step towards inquiry into the world through a scientific lens.

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Teton Science Schools is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization operating year-round in Jackson Hole, Wyoming and Teton Valley, Idaho. Teton Science Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, creed or sexual orientation in any of its policies or programs.