



Cultivating the Future
of Environmental Education
Environmental Education
of New Mexico

ANNUAL REPORT

20
21



2021 was a banner year for the Environmental Education of New Mexico community.

This annual report highlights the key accomplishments across our organizational focus areas. It showcases how our network is moving New Mexico forward in supporting equitable and daily access to outdoor and environmental learning for all kids in the state.

In this report, you will see the impact of EENM's community-centered approach through which we are pursuing priorities and generating resources that are re-circulated to the network. We hope you are excited and proud of the momentum and accomplishments we have manifested together.

Photo: Tallie Segel

2021

EVERY KID, EVERY DAY, EVERY WAY

In January 2021, EENM released *Every Kid, Every Day, Every Way*. This shared vision and strategy, the first of its kind in the country, provides a framework for systemic change to support equitable daily access to the outdoors and environmental learning in New Mexico.

Every Kid: At each grade level (preK-12th grade), every New Mexican child will have access to the outdoors and environmental learning. Through redistribution of resources to ensure all kids have access to the outdoors and environmental learning, we can ensure a thriving future that includes outdoors for all.

Every Day: When we support kids in daily experiences outdoors through in-school and out-of-school opportunities in their communities and beyond, kids gain the knowledge, skills, and ongoing curiosity to innovate social and environmental problems.

Every Way: By supporting a variety of approaches without focusing on a specific way of connecting with the outdoors, we honor the many approaches for engaging in the outdoors and environmental learning including, but not limited to conservation, experiential, environmental, land-based, nature based, outdoor, and place-based education and learning. The following recommendations support connecting to the outdoors and environmental learning in ways that are local, meaningful, relevant, kid-centered, culturally responsive, and multidisciplinary and that support physical, emotional, social, and spiritual health and wellbeing.

LEADERSHIP TEAM

Staff

Eileen Everett - Executive Director

Stephanie Haan-Amato - Comm. & Dev. Director

Tallie Segel - Director of Strategy

Board of Directors

Kelly Steinberg - President

Asombro Institute for Science Education

Steve Glass - Vice President

Central New Mexico College/ Ciudad Soil and Water Conservation District

Vanessa Barela - Secretary

Sandia Mountain Natural History Center

Ryan Pemberton - Treasurer

Asombro Institute for Science Education

Marcia Barton - Member at Large

Globe Mission Earth

Allison Martin - Member at Large

Valencia County Soil and Water Conservation District

Colleen McRoberts - Member at Large

City of Albuquerque's Open Space Division

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

- EENM was invited to host three community meetings in February to gather community input for the development of an "Outdoor Education" section of the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan. New Mexico will become one of the only states in the country to reference outdoor education in their outdoor recreation plan.
- In late February, we saw the successful bi-partisan passage of Senate Memorial 1 in support of Outdoor Classrooms. This established New Mexico's first Outdoor Learning Week (launched at the end of September) and the Interagency Outdoor Classroom Task Force.
- EENM hosted and facilitated the 2021 meetings of the Interagency Outdoor Classroom Task Force and synthesized the outdoor learning suggestions from Task Force members into the Recommendations for Outdoor Learning Report for the LESC.

2021 HIGHLIGHT

In November, EENM helped present recommendations from the Interagency Outdoor Classroom Task Force to the NM Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC). This may be the first time outdoor and environmental learning has been heard by the LESC and was an important milestone for our community. These recommendations were in alignment with *Every Kid, Every Day, Every Way* and laid the groundwork for Senate Bill 32, Outdoor Learning Program Funding, in the 2022 Legislative Session.



Wild Friends civic education program students in Las Cruces advocated for outdoor classrooms with their Superintendent and district staff.

Photo: Stephanie Haan-Amato

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

- EENM co-hosted a listening session with the NM Out-of-School Time Network in May with the Lieutenant Governor and NM Public Education Department Leadership on further supporting outdoor classrooms and outdoor learning using federal stimulus funding.
- We organized New Mexico's first Outdoor Learning Week in September, hosting a variety of virtual events and opportunities for our community to showcase the incredible diversity of ways outdoor learning is conducted in the Land of Enchantment.
- EENM grew staff capacity with a new Communications and Development Director and Director of Strategy in 2021.

2021 HIGHLIGHT

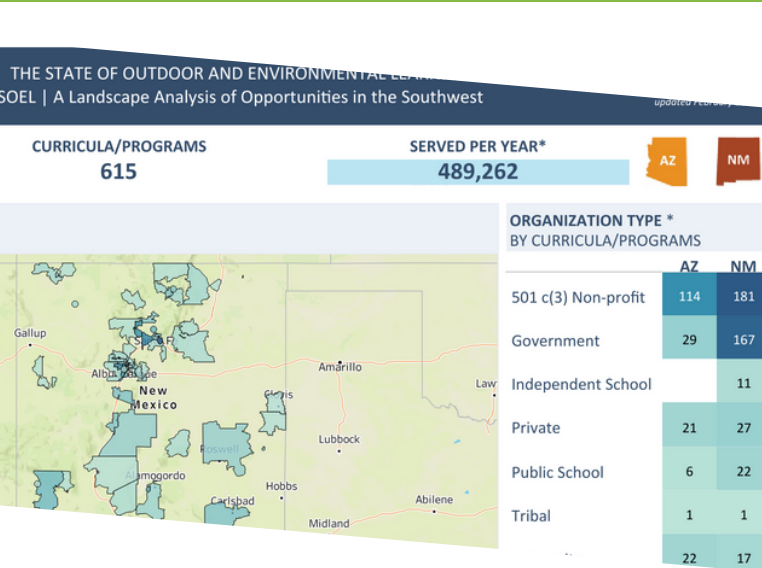
In July, 19 new Fellows began the EENM Fellowship Program to further support *Every Kid, Every Day, Every Way*. EENM Fellows move through a transformational leadership model and emergent process to grow their own leadership while exploring systems thinking.



EENM Fellowship Retreat, July 2021
Photo: Gabriela Marks

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

MESSAGING AND MARKETING



2021 HIGHLIGHT

In the summer, along with our valued partners at the USDA Forest Service-Southwestern Region and the Arizona Association for Environmental Education, the **State of Outdoor and Environmental Learning (SOEL): A Landscape Analysis of Opportunities in the Southwest** was released. Through this, New Mexico became one of the first in the country to have a tool like this representing over 400 programs across the state.

- In order to highlight the diversity of existing outdoor classrooms throughout the state, EENM released *New Mexico Outdoor Classrooms: A Collection of Case Studies*.
- EENM drafted, secured hundreds of signatures on, and delivered an outdoor learning sign-on letter to key decision makers to request that federal stimulus funds be directed towards outdoor learning and outdoor classrooms during COVID-19 and beyond.
- Outdoor and environmental learning was highlighted in more than 15 articles, radio shows, and television spots.
- We grew our social media communications by adding an Instagram account and expanding our posts, stories, and live events.
- We refreshed our website with updated graphics and information and added a new Jobs Board to provide a central location for available employment opportunities.
- We created and began distributing a new monthly e-newsletter, *EENM Connections*, which includes short, easy-to-read stories about the latest news from EENM and our member organizations.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2021 HIGHLIGHT

We released an updated *NM STEM Ready! Standards Quick Start Guide* which includes resources and support for elementary, middle, and high school teachers.

NM STEM Ready! Standards Quick Start Guide 2021

Getting started:

Find the standards for your grade level (K-5) or discipline (middle school and high school). The standards come in two different arrangements, topic or discipline, but they are the exact same performance expectations no matter which arrangement you choose.

Arranged by topic:

<https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/AllTopic.pdf>

Arranged by discipline:

<https://www.nextgenscience.org/sites/default/files/AllDCI.pdf>

If you teach 1st, 5th, MS, or HS, download the **six NM-specific standards**: <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/math-science/nm-stem-ready-science/nm-stem-ready-science-standards/>

What are the NM STEM Ready! Standards?

The Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) (<https://www.nextgenscience.org>) in full plus six NM-specific standards (<https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/NM-6-Specific-Standards-Framework.pdf>).

When are these standards being implemented?

Now! Standards began being implemented in the 2018-2019 school year. For assessment updates, please visit the Math and Science Bureau at <https://webnew.ped.state.nm.us/bureaus/math-science/>.

- In the EENM Fellowship Program, Fellows participate in professional development in leadership, messaging, advocacy, and other skills identified through the emergent processes of the program.
- In 2021, we hosted eight Monthly Community Gatherings that were free and open to all community members interested in supporting *Every Kid, Every Day, Every Way*.
- During Outdoor Learning Week, we offered resources for developing and enhancing outdoor classrooms for K-12 educators and administrators.
- We keep outdoorlearningnm.org up to date with relevant and timely information including how to connect teachers and administrators with local, community-based organizations supporting outdoor learning.



Cultivating the Future
of Environmental Education
in New Mexico

THE IMPACT OF OUR COMMUNITY

Our work would not be possible without the incredible EENM community. EENM member organizations, individual members, donors, and funders make a big difference for the educators and kids of New Mexico through their investment in the EENM community. Thank you to our valued community of supporters!

2021 Organizational Members

ABQ BioPark
Albuquerque Open Space Division
Audubon Southwest
Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program
Bosque School
CAVU / Climate Innovation Challenge
Cerise Consulting
Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions
Digital Arts and Technology Academy
Do Good LLC
endeavor New Mexico
Leopold Writing Program
Los Padillas Elementary
Mountain Kids!
NM MESA
Pajarito Environmental Education
Center
Sandia Mountain Natural History
Center
Santa Fe Botanical Garden
Santa Fe Watershed Association
Silver City Watershed Keepers
Talking Talons Youth Leadership
USDA Forest Service Southwestern
Region

2021 Individual Members & Donors

62 generous individual members and donors collectively contributed \$11,901 to EENM in 2021.

2021 Funders

LANL Foundation
Lineberry Foundation
McCune Foundation
Pisces Foundation
The Wilderness Society
USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region
Wallace Genetic Foundation

Photo: Tallie Segel

COMING UP IN 2022

POLICY AND ADVOCACY

SENATE BILL 32: TO
ESTABLISH AN
OUTDOOR
LEARNING
PROGRAM AT THE
NEW MEXICO
PUBLIC EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT
(AS PART OF
HOUSE BILL 2)

LEADERSHIP AND COLLABORATION

COLLABORATION
WITH CSC@HU TO
FORM OUTDOOR
LEARNING
COMMUNITIES OF
PRACTICE IN RURAL
NEW MEXICO;
YEAR 3 OF
EENM FELLOWSHIP

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NORTHERN NEW
MEXICO / RURAL
COMMUNITY
OUTDOOR
LEARNING
SYMPOSIUM

