



ANNUAL REPORT 2023

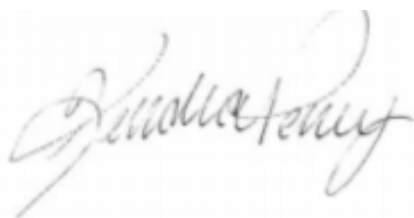


LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2023, like the year before it and the year to come, was full of unexpected surprises for all of us. From record breaking snowfalls in Utah in April to devastating heatwaves in the southwest to torrential rainfalls on the coasts, the weather is becoming increasingly unpredictable and challenging. At Stokes Nature Center, we not only witnessed these challenges with our natural world, but also with our programs. We saw our largest numbers of participants at our Nature Tales and Canyon Jams, as well as thousands more visits to the nature center than we could have anticipated. It is clear we must grow and rise to the occasion to ensure all people have access to and feel welcome in nature.

Growth and facing these challenges is daunting as we often wonder if our small actions create real change. We at SNC believe the answer is we must try. The beauty of an incredible fall in Cache Valley in 2023 reminded many of us of what is at stake as we work to be better stewards of our natural world.

As we begin 2024, we are so grateful for your support and participation. We are excited to share new opportunities, programs, and beginnings with you throughout this new year. Thank you for your support, your presence, and your belief in our work.



OUR MISSION

TO PROVIDE NATURE EDUCATION AND
PROMOTE OUTDOOR EXPLORATION OF
OUR NATURAL WORLD.

THIS HAS BEEN OUR MISSION FOR 27
YEARS AND WE ARE DEDICATED TO LIVING
IT OUT NO MATTER THE CHALLENGES.

OUR VISION

PEOPLE OF ALL AGES APPRECIATE AND
ARE STEWARDS OF OUR NATURAL WORLD.



OUR WORK

2023 saw an incredible increase in the number of young people engaging with our school programs and summer camps as well as continued growth in the total number of people overall and especially the number of hours we were able to engage with each individual. As our valley grows, so must our work so we can ensure our green and wild spaces remain a priority and accessible to all people. Thank you for joining us whether at an event or with your time or donations. We look forward to seeing even more growth in 2024!

TOTAL NUMBER OF PROGRAMS IN 2023: 243

TOTAL NUMBER OF PEOPLE SERVED: 15,876

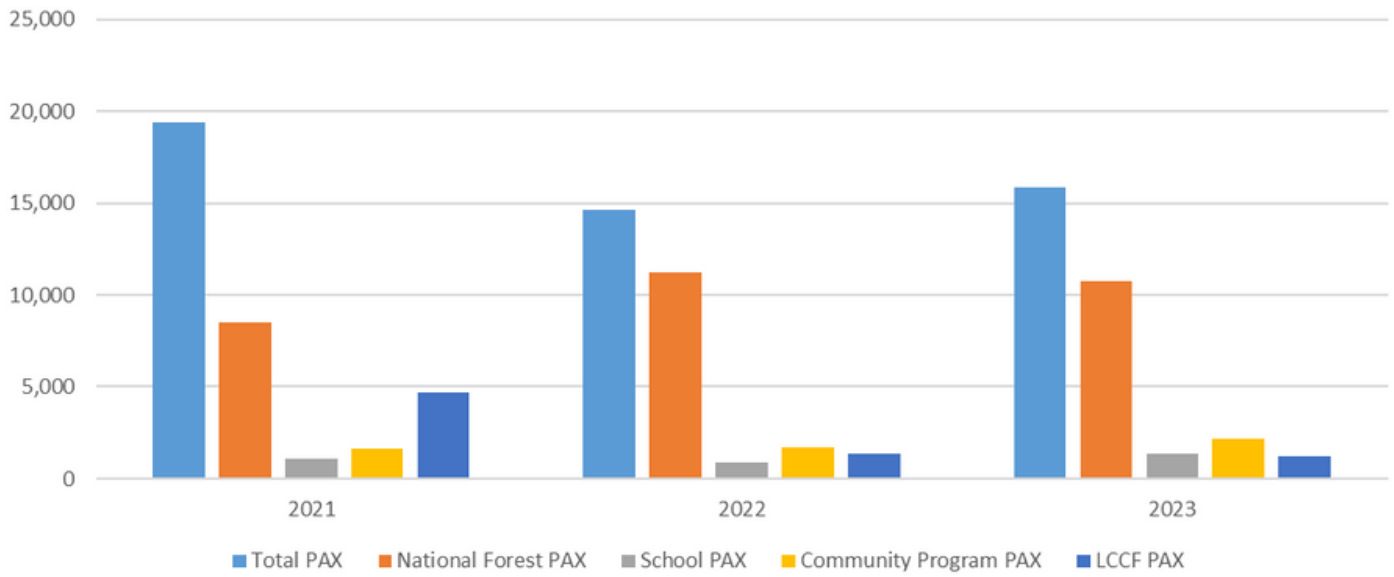
TOTAL NUMBER OF CONTACT HOURS: 16,993 (NOT INCLUDING VISITS AT THE NATURE CENTER)



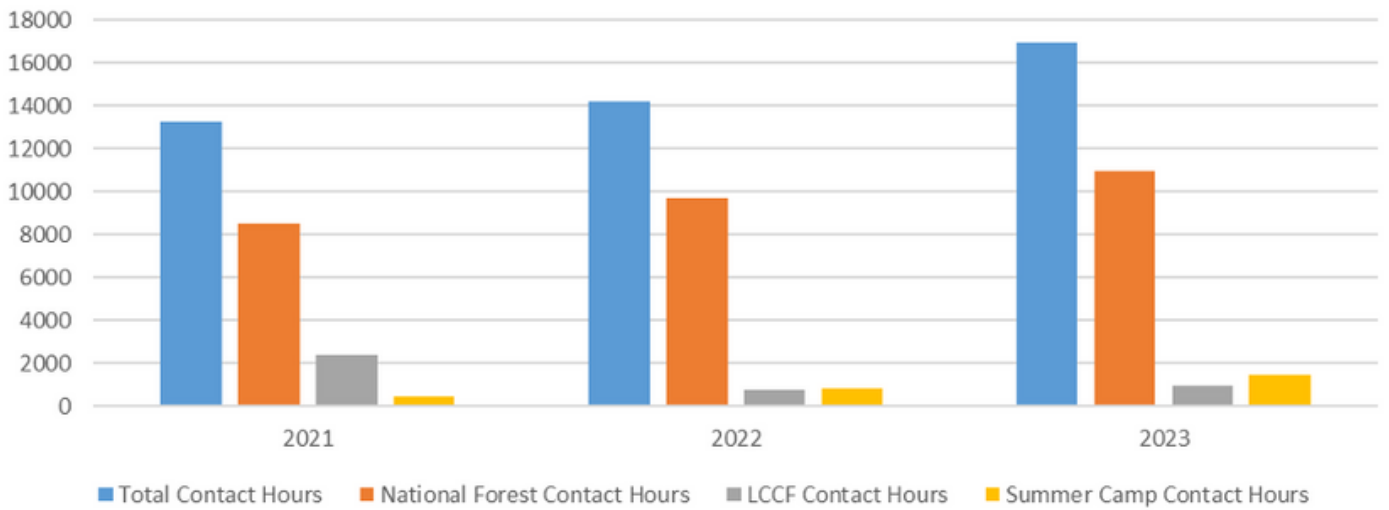
Participants (PAX)	2021	2022	2023
Total PAX	19,412	14,657	15876
National Forest PAX	8522	11,208	10741
School PAX	1053	903	1371
Community Program PAX	1615	1716	2190
LCCF PAX	4684	1337	1228
Summer Camp PAX	76	50	68
Contact Hours	2021	2022	2023
Total Contact Hours	13262	14230	16993
National Forest Contact Hours	8522	9728	10988
LCCF Contact Hours	2372	758	971
Summer Camp Contact Hours	434	826	1453



Participants (PAX) 2021-2023



Contact Hours 2021-2023





PROGRAMS

NATURE CENTER

The Nature Center continued in 2023 to be a hub for Cache Valley's community. We hosted new traveling exhibits such as the Utah Chinese Association's exhibit on Utah Chinese history, local art such as Andrea Chamberlain and Vicki Speck, and dozens of workshops throughout the year. Improvements and upgrades on the physical space also continued with Stokes Nature Center's Troop 2119's first Eagle Scout project which beautified the outdoor hummingbird viewing areas, as well as the addition of a Little STEM Library. Thank you to all of our visitors and volunteers who helped make this year such a success!

By the numbers

Visitors in 2023: 5,053

Visitors in 2022: 6,749

Visitors in 2021: 1,536

Visitors in 2020: 0 (unable to open during the pandemic)



FREE COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

LOGAN CANYON CHILDREN'S FOREST

In 2023, we held 65 free community programs reaching over 2,000 individuals. We increased the variety of our free programming in 2023 including traveling many of our programs around the valley to reach even more children and adults with engaging nature-based education. Our most popular ones remain our two Logan Canyon Children's Forest programs: Canyon Adventures and Nature Tales. However, we are constantly innovating and developing several other free community programs which are made possible by dedicated volunteers. This year, one of our newest free programs invited all ages to become Citizen Scientists as we studied, counted, and categorized our local pollinators to better craft how to support and protect these important creatures. This will be an ongoing project and all are invited to join our "Bug Crew!"

Nature Tales is a free weekly story time and nature craft geared toward ages 2-6 and is consistently one of our most popular free programs. 42 sessions were offered in 2023 including a special visit by some feathered friends from Long Wing, Inc. Altogether, Nature Tales reached 2,012 participants, more than ever before, and not just at the Nature Center. Nature Tales hit the road during December and January visiting local libraries around the valley.

Canyon Adventures is a free once-monthly program designed to teach participants about Logan Canyon and the natural world through hands-on activities with local experts. Canyon Adventures range from learning about car maintenance and its impact on our natural world to sustainability in music. Overall 101 participants engaged in 6 different Canyon Adventures.

Other Free Programs included our "Writers in the Woods" author series, "Humanities in the Wild," free Family Days at the Nature Center, partnering with the Utah Chinese Association for a Chinese Cultural Day at the Nature Center, and more. We also continued our partnership with Utah State University's Plant Soils and Climate Assistant Professor Youping Sun on his project dedicated to "Developing a Maple Syrup Industry for the Interior West through Extension and Research" which took free maple tapping programs around the state and the Intermountain West. SNC staff taught workshops throughout the Wasatch Front and even into New Mexico.

By the Numbers:

Free community programs offered: 65
Number of participants: 2,052



Nature Tales



Chinese Cultural Day Presentation on March 18, 2024

NATURE PRESCHOOL

Nature Preschool continues to be one of the highlights and most in-demand of our suite of programs. In 2023, we completed our tenth school year! In the fall, we awarded four partial tuition scholarships, all based on financial need and made possible by the generous support of our donors and community to our ongoing scholarship fund.

“Nature Preschool has helped my child most by being an awesome place to spend time in nature with other kids while learning and growing.”

While this program is already incredible, our teaching staff is constantly working to increase the quality of our program through continued education and professional development. In the summer of 2023, we hired a new preschool teacher and all staff were able to attend the Nature-Based Early Learning Virtual Conference, through Natural Start Alliance. We engaged 32 children in 4 sessions and saw a waiting list of over 100 families, a testament to the highly capable and engaging staff who lead this program.

“Building confidence, trying new things, meeting school expectations, socialization, being completely comfortable in nature.”



SUMMER CAMPS

2023 was another great year for summer camps! This year, along with offering our usual two weeks of camp and 3-day fly fishing camp in partnership with Cache Anglers, we began offering a Pre-K-Kindergarten summer camp for the first time! Our two weeks of camp served 68 youth, and provided them with a chance to explore their local environment and learn about nature throughout Logan Canyon and Cache Valley.

While we weren't able to hold all of the camps at the Nature Center this year, our campers had a great time exploring different locations throughout Logan Canyon, Green Canyon, and the National Forest!

By the numbers:

58 youth served over two weeks of regular camp, and a group of 10 fly fishers served over 3 days.

1,642 contact hours



SCHOOL PROGRAMS

In 2023, SNC began offering several new programs: homeschool days in fall (to be continued in winter and spring of 2024), custom homeschool programming by request, and a traveling Kindergarten program, offered throughout all seasons. Our students enjoyed getting out in nature and exploring fossils and the geologic history of Logan Canyon, learning about water quality and searching for aquatic macroinvertebrates, and much more. SNC participated in the Cache County School District STEM Nights and taught kids how to conduct water quality tests to find out the ideal environment for a brine shrimp. Natural Resources Field Days were held for the first time this year since 2019, and while several days were rained out, Stokes still provided free programming to 346 students and continued to provide free programming to all Cache Valley 4th Graders, getting them out into the National Forest!

School programs delivered in 2023:

January-May

Pop Dynamics and Snowshoeing (6th grade)
Winter Exploration & Tracks (K-6th)
Snowshoeing and Tracking (4th grade)
Fossil Exploration (4th grade)
NEW! Birding and Adaptations at Cutler Marsh (K-6th)

September-December

NEW! Plants and Adaptations (Natural Resources Field Days, 4th grade)
NEW! Plant Hike and Seed Survival (Homeschool, K-6th)
NEW! Traveling Program - Amazing Amphibians (Kindergarten)
River of Life (3rd grade)
Living Things - Plant Investigations (1st grade)
NEW! Plant Diversity and Maguire Primrose (K-6th)
Fossil Exploration (4th grade)
Cycling of Matter (5th grade)

By the numbers:

Jan-May: 25 school programs
Sept-Dec: 27 programs in the field
Total: 52 programs in the field

Students served in 2023: 1,371 (a 52% increase from last year!)



ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

Stokes Nature Center strives to reduce barriers to our natural world through a diverse array of programs both at the nature center and in the community to meet people where they are. These low cost opportunities offer many ways to get outside or to experience nature through a new lens so all ages can continue learning about nature. In 2023, SNC offered many returning favorites, but also created some brand-new opportunities. These included: Scientific Illustration and Natural Dyes workshops, Wreath-Making, Bee Hotels, Snowshoe Adventures, a Wilderness Survival Series, and our always sold out Firefly Walks.

Work continued on the newly re-imagined Jay's Well Park in partnership with Providence City. The mural by local artist Vicki Speck is now complete and we hope you will take some time to visit the park and enjoy the beautiful, native pollinator garden that is carefully tended by volunteers as well as the gorgeous artwork. Work will continue on the park in 2024 with the addition of interpretive signs and will become an exciting location for additional community programs.

By the numbers:

257 programs

2190 participants

About the Firefly Tours:

"Thank you for the excellent, very interesting and informative tour from our delightful guides! Your friendliness generated a fun and welcome atmosphere, while at the same time helping us be mindful of and respect the environment we were visiting."

"I loved every second of it. Thanks for offering it!"



Volunteer artist Vicki Speck and the completed mural at Jay's Well Park

CANYON JAMS

Canyon Jams was once again a hit in 2023 with more people than ever attending this fun and family-friendly series! Over 1400 people enjoyed the outdoors and great music at our lineup of 8 concerts. Thanks to the City of Providence for allowing us to enjoy Von Baer Park for these beautiful evenings of connection and entertainment. We look forward to another incredible season in 2024 with some brand-new bands and returning favorites.

By the numbers:

Total number of concerts: 8

Total number of participants: 1,405



Grizzly Goat performing on July 21, 2024

VOLUNTEERS

Much of 2023's (and every year's) success was thanks to our amazing volunteers. Volunteers allowed us to reach far more community members and lead multiple additional programs than we could have otherwise. 2023 volunteers did everything from hosting and keeping the Nature Center open, to leading programs like Nature Tales, and taking care of the Nature Center critters. Some highlights from our 2023 volunteers include the renovation of our hummingbird feeding area which was accomplished by a volunteer crew led by SNC's Scout Troop 2119, Kate Latvakoski, as her Eagle Scout project, making her our first (but not last) Eagle Scout! Our 2023 volunteer award was given to the Cache Anglers in thanks for their many years of organizing, leading, and inspiring young people through our fly-fishing summer camp. They have created a program that continues to motivate new stewards of our natural world and we are grateful!

By the numbers:

Number of individual volunteers: 46

Number of community volunteer groups: 7

Total number of volunteer hours given: 1,185

Value of volunteer time given in 2023: \$37,656





LEADERSHIP



JENNIFER BETTENCOURT

CHAIRPERSON

DIRECTOR OF PROGRAM SERVICES
SPACE DYNAMICS LABORATORY

ALAINA MONTGOMERY

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRPERSON

REAL ESTATE AGENT
CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE
PROFESSIONALS



BRITTANY FOSTER

SECRETARY

DIRECTOR, SECONDARY
TEACHING & LEARNING, CACHE
COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

BRITTNEY BINGHAM

TREASURER

ACCOUNTANT

SPACE DYNAMICS LABORATORY



EDDY BERRY, PHD

BOARD MEMBER

PROFESSOR & DIRECTOR
USU DEPT. OF SOCIOLOGY

YUN KIM POPULATION
RESEARCH LABORATORY

AMANDA DERITO

BOARD MEMBER

ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR
STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS,
USU





DARREN HANSEN, JD

BOARD MEMBER

CONTRACTS ADMINISTRATOR,
SPACE DYNAMICS LABORATORY

MIMI RECKER

BOARD MEMBER

PROFESSOR

USU COLLEGE OF EDUCATION



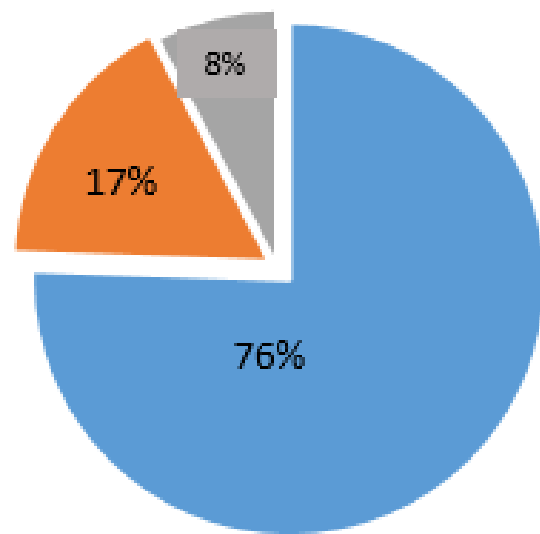
BECCA SEAMONS

BOARD MEMBER

HR EMPLOYEE RELATIONS
SPECIALIST UTAH STATE
UNIVERSITY



FY2023 Consolidated Expenses



■ Programming ■ General & Admin ■ Fundraising

2022 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

ALLEN AND ALICE STOKES NATURE CENTER
(A Nonprofit Corporation)
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEARS ENDED JUNE 30, 2023 AND 2022

	Without donor restrictions		With donor restrictions		Totals	
	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022
Support, revenue and reclassifications:						
Grants and contracts	\$ -	-	146,434	122,185	146,434	122,185
Donations	84,488	109,950	-	-	84,488	109,950
Fundraising	42,097	22,847	22,558	15,568	64,655	38,415
Program revenues	106,573	108,700	-	-	106,573	108,700
Memberships	5,030	6,775	-	-	5,030	6,775
Other income	83,616	4,768	-	-	83,616	4,768
Net realized/unrealized gain (loss) on investments	35,921	(16,594)	-	-	35,921	(16,594)
Net assets released from restrictions:						
Restriction criteria met	170,993	148,358	(170,993)	(148,358)	-	-
Total support, revenue and reclassifications	<u>528,718</u>	<u>384,804</u>	<u>(2,001)</u>	<u>(10,605)</u>	<u>526,717</u>	<u>374,199</u>
Expenses:						
Program services	366,062	254,704	-	-	366,062	254,704
General and administrative	80,763	49,901	-	-	80,763	49,901
Fundraising	37,423	25,894	-	-	37,423	25,894
Total expenses	<u>484,248</u>	<u>330,499</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>484,248</u>	<u>330,499</u>
Change in net assets	44,470	54,305	(2,001)	(10,605)	42,469	43,700
Net assets - beginning of year	<u>350,417</u>	<u>296,112</u>	<u>16,641</u>	<u>27,246</u>	<u>367,058</u>	<u>323,358</u>
Net assets - end of year	<u>\$ 394,887</u>	<u>350,417</u>	<u>14,640</u>	<u>16,641</u>	<u>409,527</u>	<u>367,058</u>

The Allen and Alice Stokes Nature Center is a nonprofit nature center established in 1997.

Our mission is to provide nature education and promote outdoor exploration of our natural world.

We envision a world where people of all ages appreciate and are stewards of our natural world.

Join us at
www.logannature.org

Stokes Nature Center is a 501(c)3. Federal Tax ID No: 31-1513495

