A Look Back at Our Year at SFI

We hope you'll join us in celebrating everything SFI has accomplished in 2021. This past year has brought a steady return to pre-COVID activity levels at SFI, and in some cases an expansion of our programs and opportunities! We are so grateful.

SFI's 2021 Year in Review

- 263 Youth Program participants served
- 2,978 YEP Science Hours
- 164 Adventure Learning participants served
- Average "increased connection to the Klamath-Siskiyou bioregion" after a field course
- 4.5/5

Scholarship funds awarded for youth programs: $6,280
Donations raised (so far!) this year: $34,963

After a year of limited youth program attendance due to COVID-19, SFI has booked for 2022:

- 20 SnowSchools
- 6 Outdoor Schools

58 volunteers donated a total of 478 hours of their time - hosting classes, chaperoning youth programs, and improving SFI facilities.
Going deeper, below are some broader goals SFI has met in 2021:

- We brought exciting new experiences and unique learning opportunities to kids throughout Oregon: 12 students camped overnight for the first time ever; 10 students had their first rafting experience on the Rogue River, and 60 students debriefed their experience with the Archie Creek Outdoor School in Glide.

- We have successfully launched our Volunteer Host program for field courses - giving students a way to attend classes free of charge and give back to SFI at the same time, a win-win!

- We have secured grant funding and started the planning process to implement DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) improvements to our youth curriculum, staff training, and site. These developments will create a culturally relevant and responsive curriculum that supports multi-disciplinary learning and nurtures self-efficacy. With a new 3-year plan, we’ll create greater/broader accessibility to our site and programs.

- SFI has returned the water rights for our property to an instream water right. This means that instead of being diverted to household uses or irrigation, SFI’s allotted portion of streamflow will be left “in stream,” protecting the health of our area’s rivers and their inhabitants.

SFI’s team of staff and board are excited about 2022 and hope you will continue to support SFI with a tax-deductible donation and/or an offer to volunteer. Keeping our organization healthy is a team effort, and we appreciate your contributions so much. Thank you for being with us this year and the next!

Help Us Pick Future Courses at SFI

Is there a field course you’ve wished SFI would offer, or a subject you’ve always wanted to learn more about? Let us know in this short, two-question survey! (If you’ve already taken the survey, there’s no need to do so twice.) Your interests are at the heart of our course selection; thank you for sharing them with us.

Upcoming Classes

**Intro to Native Bees: Ecology, Conservation, & ID**

**January 31st & February 7th**
**6:30-8:30 PM (online)**

Native bees are amazingly diverse, not just in how they look, but also in how they forage, nest, pollinate and so much more. Through sharing personal experiences with bees in the field, ample photos and videos, and scientific research, instructor Brian Dykstra will guide students to recognize and understand bee diversity, and then to apply this understanding to larger concepts. Topics will include how to identify common native bee groups, bee ecology and floral relationships, endangered bees, invasive bees, global warming, conservation, and policies/protections related to native bees.
Birding Del Norte:
On the Coast

February 12th-13th
8 AM-5 PM (Sat) & 8 AM-2 PM (Sun)

This small California county has a surprising diversity of habitats and as a result at least 425 bird species have been recorded there (this compares to only 282 in neighboring Josephine County). We will spend the weekend visiting its best coastal (and a few inland) birding locations. Well over 100 species are expected, including a high diversity of seabirds, waterfowl, and gulls as well as some shorebirds. Special effort will be made to find any rarities that have been reported. Information will be provided on the identification and biology of the birds we see and hear.

Sketching Spring Blooms & Foliage

Mondays in March
6-8 PM (online, 4-week series)

Keeping a sketchbook and a nature journal is a great way to ground oneself in a busy world. Sketching and observing outdoors develops a keen sense of detail and a profound connection with nature, from which great joy arises! In this 4-week course we will explore ways to start or deepen your sketchbook and journaling practice. We will experiment with simple media, learning pencil, colored pencil and pen techniques. We will play with approachable and easy methods of sketching and drawing, and finally we will consider various compositions and designs for your sketchbooks or nature journal.

Found In The Field