

## Nature Navigators - Progress Report

### Email

eleanormcdonough@arizona.edu

### Project Manager Name

Eleanor McDonough

### Requested Metrics

78 Students were able to participate in education, price-reduced trips

31 Level 1 Instructor certificates were awarded

2 Level 2 Instructor certificates awarded

113 hours of student-employee-run workshops

5 Successful trips

Successfully integrated LNT Curricula into our Women's Initiative in Leadership Outdoors program and our Outdoor Adventures Learning and Living Community.

Participant Testimonials from trip evaluations:

What encouraged you to sign up for the trip?

Some environmental jobs prefer applicants with LNT experience

The cost and availability of the trip of it and being easily accessible to new backpackers.

I really wanted my LNT certification and this seemed fun as well!

Why this rating? (All gave rating of 4 and 5)

The friendly, intelligent and welcoming guides made the trip, from their insight to the outdoors or their personal experiences to help everyone feel comfortable and confident in the outdoors.

It was so fun! The guides were fabulous - so knowledgeable and fun. They let us have independence while still teaching and guiding us. And it was only \$10 and the gear was provided! So grateful to have this opportunity as a student!

Our trip leaders were amazing and overall the trip was fun

I'm so exhausted but I learned so much and had a ton of fun

I loved everyone on this trip and the LNT lessons were super fun and interesting and I learned something

Favorite part of the experience?

Hiking x2

Learning more about LNT

The community aspect of it

All of it!

The beautiful place we backpacked!  
Setting up camp and learning things about LNT.  
Camping on the field and hanging out with friends and creating LNT Lessons

What will you take away from the experience?

All the aspects of LNT but also the knowledge of where to go for community building in the outdoors.

Learned a lot about respecting wilderness and how to backpack

How to better respect the environment and things like that to lessen your impact

How to leave your environment as you found it and engaging with the wilderness in a respectful manner.

## **Project Accomplishments**

All of the student and community facing aspects of this project have been accomplished.

January 29-February 2, 2024- Eleanor and Mark, two professional staff attended a Leave No Trace Level 2 Instructor course at Saguaro National Park with the National Outdoor Leadership School.

On February 10-11, 2024, Eleanor and Mark ran a staff training that was two days and one night. We certified 13 people as LNT level 1 instructors

March 16-17, 2024, Eleanor and two student leaders ran a Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor backpacking course. We certified 8 people.

March 24, 2024, Three student leaders ran a Leave No Trace awareness workshop as a day hike on Mt. Lemmon. 8 student participants were impacted.

October 13, 2024, Three student leaders ran a Leave No Trace awareness workshop as a day paddle board yoga at Lake Patagonia. We reached maximum enrollment and 14 student participants were impacted.

November 16-17, 2024, Mark and two student leaders ran a Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor climbing course. We reached maximum enrollment, and we certified 7 people.

November 30-December 1, 2024, A front country Leave No Trace Level 1 Instructor course was canceled due to low enrollment.

Over the 2024 calendar year, we were also able to implement Leave No Trace curricula into the Outdoor Adventures Living and Learning Community (OALLC) and the Women's Initiative for Leadership in the Outdoors (WILO).

## **Next Steps**

This project is near completion. The remaining tasks include awarding the Outdoor Adventures Living and Learning Community their course completion certificates. A celebration is happening on December 10, 2024.

Other remaining tasks include transferring funds from our sub-account to cover student wages and outstanding gas receipts. This should be concluded by Friday, December 13, 2024.

## Challenges Faced

Two prominent roadblocks were faced. The first is poor planning of the front country LNT Level 1 instructor course. This was accidentally planned for the long Thanksgiving holiday weekend. We believe this was the main contributor to low enrollment.

Another obstacle we faced was follow-through for students who enrolled in the trips. Many students signed up but did not attend the trip and did not reply to any attempt to reach out. This issue is believed to stem from the \$10 commitment fee. While one of the purposes of this grant was to create financially accessible trips for students, I believe that increasing the commitment fee will decrease the lack of follow-through with students.

## Project Support

CSF was an amazing support to us during this process. We do not need any more assistance.

## Photo Link

[https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Fdrive%2Ffolders%2F1OGHmCOJIL5xI566rEiXWQ4KmslO8yerc%3Fusp%3Dsharing&data=05%7C02%7CSBLY-CSF-](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Fdrive%2Ffolders%2F1OGHmCOJIL5xI566rEiXWQ4KmslO8yerc%3Fusp%3Dsharing&data=05%7C02%7CSBLY-CSF-ServiceAccount%40arizona.edu%7C8cec1dc17e6a4772d3e108dd1961ae7d%7C5ee35505eb8e4929937d645df5013288%7C1%7C0%7C638694629543365322%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUslYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=IENnwyUAgWgN2Mj20LE2iaTqjoc0FqJ6045txwDa6ml%3D&reserved=0)

[https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Fdrive%2Ffolders%2F1pdZlre\\_WZugPlyg1N6fsfbu8dDt-N6wz%3Fusp%3Ddrive\\_link&data=05%7C02%7CSBLY-CSF-](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Fdrive%2Ffolders%2F1pdZlre_WZugPlyg1N6fsfbu8dDt-N6wz%3Fusp%3Ddrive_link&data=05%7C02%7CSBLY-CSF-ServiceAccount%40arizona.edu%7C8cec1dc17e6a4772d3e108dd1961ae7d%7C5ee35505eb8e4929937d645df5013288%7C1%7C0%7C638694629543384518%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUslYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=t0dciiCYWXXax6c8XDUN7eja4njzX5dXVEKvbR3MQb8%3D&reserved=0)

[https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Fdrive%2Ffolders%2F11xcF9ftLdl-3Xof3CSx48Ehz\\_H6DdSCe%3Fusp%3Dsharing&data=05%7C02%7CSBLY-CSF-](https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdrive.google.com%2Fdrive%2Ffolders%2F11xcF9ftLdl-3Xof3CSx48Ehz_H6DdSCe%3Fusp%3Dsharing&data=05%7C02%7CSBLY-CSF-ServiceAccount%40arizona.edu%7C8cec1dc17e6a4772d3e108dd1961ae7d%7C5ee35505eb8e4929937d645df5013288%7C1%7C0%7C638694629543396377%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUslYiOilwLjAuMDAwMCIslAiOiJXaW4zMilslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUljoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=WowWnlz3rRjhBTAQTLGEqkDi%2BOxHjmxQE0cdKdEINw%3D&reserved=0)

<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fphotos.app.goo.gl%2FnwbB>

<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fphotos.app.goo.gl%2FnwbB>

<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fphotos.app.goo.gl%2FnwbB>

<https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fphotos.app.goo.gl%2FnwbB>

PPgAMRe2W39w9&data=05%7C02%7CSBLY-CSF-  
ServiceAccount%40arizona.edu%7C8cec1dc17e6a4772d3e108dd1961ae7d%7C5ee35505eb8e49299  
37d645df5013288%7C1%7C0%7C638694629543407919%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0e  
U1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOilwLjAuMDAwMClslAiOiJXaW4zMlslkFOljoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7  
C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=eJJ4CWIMwTNiNUwDKvY7yKh6IKalddy%2FUOeyfn6DRU%3D&reserved=0

## **Media/Links**