

# Environmental Learning Experiences for Undergrads - Progress Report

##### Email

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##### Project Manager Name

Mariah Kuehl

##### Requested Metrics

# of people in the core project team:
1 director UA staff- Colin Waite, 1 program coordinator UA staff- Mariah Kuehl
# of hours spent on project:
Maria (since January) participated in 6 Earthkeepers programs totaling 75 student contact hours with 4th/5th grade students, single day trips total 135 student contact hours for ages PreK-6th grade, participated in 1 Cooper event- Night Hike for a total of 3 hours seeing 45 students and 60 adults, interacted with Parks in Focus for a total of 5 hours and Compost Cats for a total of 3 hours. This semester Maria has a total of about 215 hours working on this Cooper project.
Samantha (since February 17th- her start date) participated in 2 Earthkeepers programs for a total of 24 student contact hours with 4th/5th grade students, single day trips total about 200 student contact hours for ages PreK-8th grade, participated in 3 community events- National Love of Reading Day-1 hour virtual event that reached over 1500 students in over 80 classrooms, Festival of Books tabling- 4 hours of community engagement of all ages, Spring Earth Day Festival at Robins Elementary - 3 hours of student engagement ages PreK- 8th grade with 75 students, Compost Cats engagement 6 hours, Students for Sustainability- 4 hours, Parks in Focus- 2 hours. Samantha has a total of about 235 hours working on this Cooper project this semester.
# of partnerships on the project and UA:
4- Compost Cats (Kenzie Jackson), Students for Sustainability (Ethan Lin), Parks in Focus (Ernesto Somoza), Earth Grant Internship (jessica Estrada)

##### Project Accomplishments

In this spring semester CSF came out and observed the interns in action and featured them in their social media post, which Cooper also made available. We also featured Samantha in our Love of Literacy day event that was shared throughout the TUSD network. We are currently working on an end of the year post for our interns.
This Semester Maria has moved on to assisting and leading parts of the Cooper programs. She helped with our Earthkeeper orientation as well as the intros to several activities in that program. She also helped lead parts of our single day programs for ages PreK-8th grade. She led students on sections of the hike and delivered desert information that was appropriate for that age group. Maria has also interacted with our community partners more this semester. She feels comfortable helping out Compost Cats and Parks in Focus with their environmental education activities. She has also been working on the 5th grade program surveys. For the past month she has been distributing these surveys to the 5th grade students who come out to Cooper. The surveys include questions like what the students think about the desert and what knowledge they hold, the survey is then retaken at the end of the trip to see if that data changed. Maria has been compiling this data to present to Cooper staff next week.
This was Samantha's first semester with us so she did more observing than leading, but she still assisted and learned the programs. She has a good sense of the Cooper programs and has picked up the type of desert knowledge we are delivering to the students. She has also learned ways to engage youth outside and has participated in 3 community events this semester that helped spread the love of the desert and environmental education to the community. She played a javelina in our virtual reading of the Three Little Javelinas and was able to reach over 80 schools within the TUSD district and beyond. Her help with Festival of Books was also very valuable.

##### Next Steps

The week of May 12th Maria will present the survey data she has been collecting on the 5th grade program.
The week of May 12th Samantha will help with our last field trips which include classroom visits, Earthkeepers key ceremonies and a library reading.
The week of May 19th Samantha will stay on and we will close out camp by cleaning, recapping the year and going over strategies that worked and didn't work within our environmental programs.
Samantha has the capacity to stay on into June and help us with our summer camps and PDs.

##### Challenges Faced

This semester the only challenges we faced were scheduling issues and one intern calling out last minute. We understand that sometimes our program schedule doesn't align with their school schedule, so we tried to make adjustments with at home work and different tasks when that happened. We also understand when someone gets sick and has to call out last minute. We had some difficulty with one intern calling out a bunch toward the end of the semester with different reasons. If they know they cannot come into work with something that has been previously scheduled we just asked that they let us know as soon as possible because we rely on them when they are on the schedule. We are currently working through this communication challenge.

##### Project Support

We feel supported. We appreciate CSF taking the time to come out and see the interns in action. It helps show the overall picture of what we are doing at Cooper and the impact it is making in the community- especially within title 1 schools and the university. We appreciate the reminders for the progress reports and timelines.

##### Photo Link

##### Media/Links

@coopercenteraz
for posts on the interns

Three Little Javelinas reading featuring Samantha as one of the javelinas
YouTube link: https://nam11.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3Dle5I9ZynsZY&data=05%7C02%7CSBLY-CSF-ServiceAccount%40arizona.edu%7Cdeca883420824212cb8e08dd8f3b1bc7%7C5ee35505eb8e4929937d645df5013288%7C1%7C0%7C638824206232618707%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=iIlZ1hXAT6VwFGCqC1PK4UTMEocAV7fRxD%2FgpXA8mDg%3D&reserved=0
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