

Seeds of Stewardship – Southern Arizona

So far in 2019, the Seeds of Stewardship program in Southern Arizona has already surpassed all expectations and continues to progress past set goals. Here are some highlights:



- 13 school partnerships
- 60 expeditions
- 900 outdoor experiences
- 13 service projects
- 4 new youth program partnerships
- SOS is now a full credit program with Edge High School and Project More High School
- 3 new community partnerships

This year Seeds of Stewardship is now worth a full credit with two schools within Tucson Unified School District. Seeds of Stewardship is beginning to be recognized as a valuable academic and cultural asset to schools and students, allowing us to develop deeper relationships with schools and communities throughout Arizona.

We have a 100% return rate from schools and partners, all seeking the leadership and opportunities SOS provides in education, stewardship, and community. This year we have 3 new community partners: Phoenix Zoo Center for Nature Conservation, Saguaro National Park, and Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Center. Each one is dedicated to long term partnerships which help to engage and educate students about Arizona's wild landscapes.

In September, Treven Hooker represented Seeds of Stewardship at the American Association of Environmental Educators conference in September. To keep it simple, our program was hailed as a solution to key problems when attempts are made to infuse environmental education into schools (especially when using outdoor education methods). Prescott Community College, Cooper Center and Changemaker High School were some of the programs who sought our program out for partnership, leadership, and cooperation.

Geronimo Sanchez is the new City High School Senior Intern. He is learning how to be an outdoor educator, an outdoor youth leader, and a steward of the Arizona Trail. This is SOS's third intern, maintaining our strong connection with City High School.

Seeds of Stewardship – Northern Arizona



After five years of amazing service and program development, Sabrina Carlson left the ATA to pursue a different career path. The position was advertised this summer and we received 16 applications from qualified candidates. After five in-person interviews, we are fortunate to have selected Julie Polovitch as the new Seeds of Stewardship Coordinator! She left her position as Outreach Coordinator for Wild Arizona (formerly Arizona Wilderness Coalition) to work for the ATA. Here's her bio:

Julie's passion for ecology, recreation, public lands conservation, and social justice permeate her work as an outdoor educator. Before joining the ATA team in 2019, Julie taught, designed curriculum, and conducted outreach for a diverse set of programs across 6 states—though no place has ever tugged at her heartstrings quite like Arizona. She aims to share her love for the Colorado Plateau with youth in order to foster stronger connections with Arizona's landscapes, nurture healthy communities, and empower stewardship. Since thru-hiking the Arizona Trail in 2015, Julie has continuously sought out backpacking, rock climbing, and canyoneering adventures in Arizona's wildest places.

With support from Kim Cleary, our AmeriCorps VISTA, the Seeds of Stewardship and Gear Girls program in Northern AZ have maintained momentum throughout the leadership transition. Kim is able to support Julie and the ATA until December when her internship ends and she will be returning to Montana to take the next step in her career.

Look for Julie's outing reports on the ATA website, as well as photographs and outing highlights on Instagram @aztsos.