



2025-2026 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



MISSION STATEMENT:

Helping children understand and value our natural world.

VISION:

A generation of children who value the natural world and take an active role in its protection.

SACRAMENTO SPLASH BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

President: Nigel Moore

Vice President: Bryan Young

Treasurer: Eugene Lee

Secretary: Volker Otto

Chloe Grinberg

Obadiah Bartholomy

Allie Dumas

Mary Maret

David Hedin

Splash CEO:

Mackenzie Wieser

*Sacramento Splash
Is a 501c3
Public charity.*

WHO WE ARE

For over **26 years** Sacramento Splash (“Splash”) has delivered hands-on science education programs centered on the environment. Splash is guided by its mission, in hopes of providing ALL children access to experience nature. To date, we have connected roughly **240,000** students with nature.

Splash has always been dedicated to helping municipalities fulfill their Watershed and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Education and Outreach requirements, while ensuring children have access to opportunities to form connections with nature. Working for many jurisdictions across Sacramento and El Dorado Counties and the Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership (SSQP), Splash provides the Life in Our Watershed: Investigating Vernal Pools Program (“IVP”) to schools, the Youth



Environmental Leadership Camp (“YELC”) to individual children, and Project AWE (Agriculture, Water, Energy & Environment) to schools throughout the Sacramento County. Splash also provides in-class presentations of Splash in the Class (“SITC”) within Sacramento and El Dorado Counties and Trash Talk (“TT”) in Citrus Heights and Elk Grove.

This annual report summarizes work performed during Fiscal Year 2025-26 (01 July 2025 – 30 June 2026) by Splash.

Connect with us



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sacsplash.org



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Rancho Cordova, CA 95741
916-364-2437

2025-26 YEAR in REVIEW

As we close out our fiscal year, it's worth taking a moment to reflect on how far we've come. Every challenge we faced, every milestone we celebrated, and every life we touched was possible because of the dedication, passion, and teamwork of our staff and our supporters. We've proven time and again that we accomplish our best work when we collaborate and invest in ourselves to achieve our goals. Thank you for being a partner or funder that helped to make this past year a success.

This year we connected Splash to 19,380 students and 643 teachers. Through hard work and dedication to our mission, Splash was able to complete our 5th summer with our Youth Environmental Leadership Camp (YELC). The prior year's reunion brought 2025 campers back to share with us the volunteer projects they participated in, how much money they raised for other environmental organizations, and how. Project AWE field trips out at the Historic Nicolaus Dairy were absolutely maxed out at 125 classes, and we are already fully booked through December 2026. This program has been so sought-after that the fall openings booked solid within 48 hours.

Splash was able to secure a new grant through the CA Natural Resources Agency for our Project AWE program. However, our overall funding is consistently decreasing, making individual donors critical to our success. Thank you to each of you who has opened your wallet and your heart to Splash over the last year. Splash has grown its partnerships with many local organizations, who have been able to donate time, service, and talent to help us with YELC. Your donations and partnership have allowed Splash to continue to increase our impact. We also had one of our most successful Big Day of Giving campaigns ever, raising just over \$187,000, which helped us fill the nearly \$130,000 funding gap for Project AWE and cover our rent.

Splash has always been dedicated to helping children understand and value our natural world! We will continue to do so through the ongoing support of our donors and sponsors. We're grateful for the last year, but as we look ahead, we are forecasting a negative budget for 2026-2027 due to the loss of roughly \$95,000 between the County of Sacramento budget crunch and a decrease in funding from the City of Rancho Cordova. Both cuts will impact our legacy Investigating Vernal Pools program. We also now must find \$45,000 annually for rent at our Mather Science Education Center. We have complete faith that we will rise above these challenges as the community continues to stand with us. Thank you for being a part of our journey!

With Gratitude,



Mackenzie Wieser
CEO, Sacramento Splash



2025-26 by the numbers...

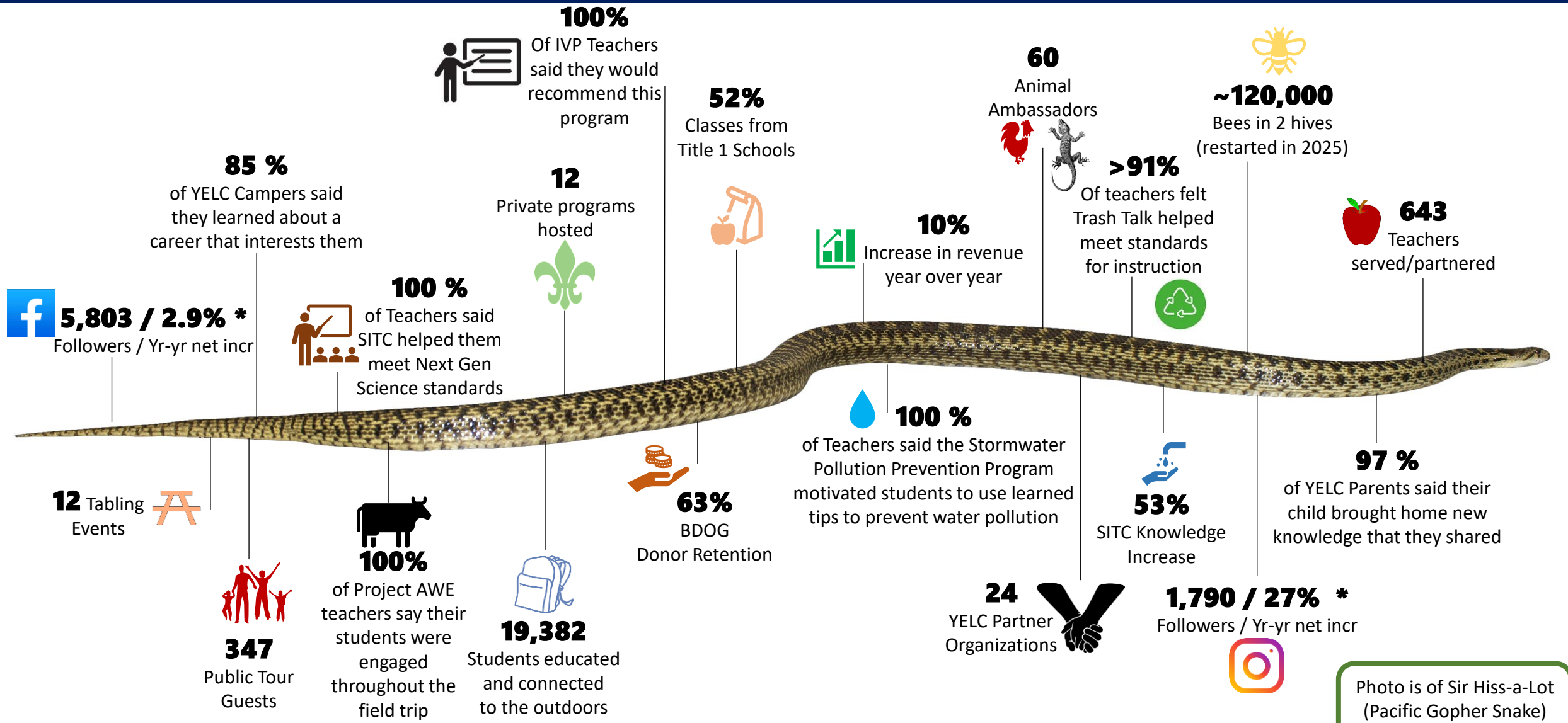


Photo is of Sir Hiss-a-Lot
(Pacific Gopher Snake)
from 2009. RIP! ♥

Life in Our Watershed: Investigating Vernal Pools (IVP)

FIND OUT
WHAT THIS
PROGRAM IS
ALL ABOUT
[HERE!](#)



88%

Knowledge gained by students (Post- vs Pre-Assessments)

98

Classes completed our IVP curriculum and came to Splash for a culminating fieldtrip at Mather Field

100%

Of teachers said our curriculum and field trips were educational, grade-level appropriate, and helped them meet standards

49%

Of classes came from Title 1 schools (6% decrease from last year)

What's new?

This year IVP connected approximately **3,200 students** (plus chaperones and families) with nature and science across **107 classes** from **34 schools**. This includes **35 new teachers** and **4 new schools**!

This year, the environment was impacted by an unusual weather pattern, with initial rains followed by early heat, then more rain...causing the vernal pools and grassland to move through its seasonal phases much more quickly than usual. Although macroinvertebrate populations declined early as the pools dried, flowers also bloomed early, but were then hammered by rain later in the season. Splash took advantage of the opportunities the changing landscape provided to guide students in exploring plant adaptations, habitat succession, and the interconnectedness of the vernal pool ecosystem.

Nine (9) classes participated in the IVP program through our **2nd year** of partnership with SVC, visiting the Kassis Vernal Pools. This is a fee-for-service offering.

This year we welcomed several differently able students who were able to fully participate in the field experience alongside their classmates. Their success was made possible through the flexibility, creativity, and compassion of our staff, who continually found ways to make the preserve accessible while delivering a fun and meaningful educational experience.

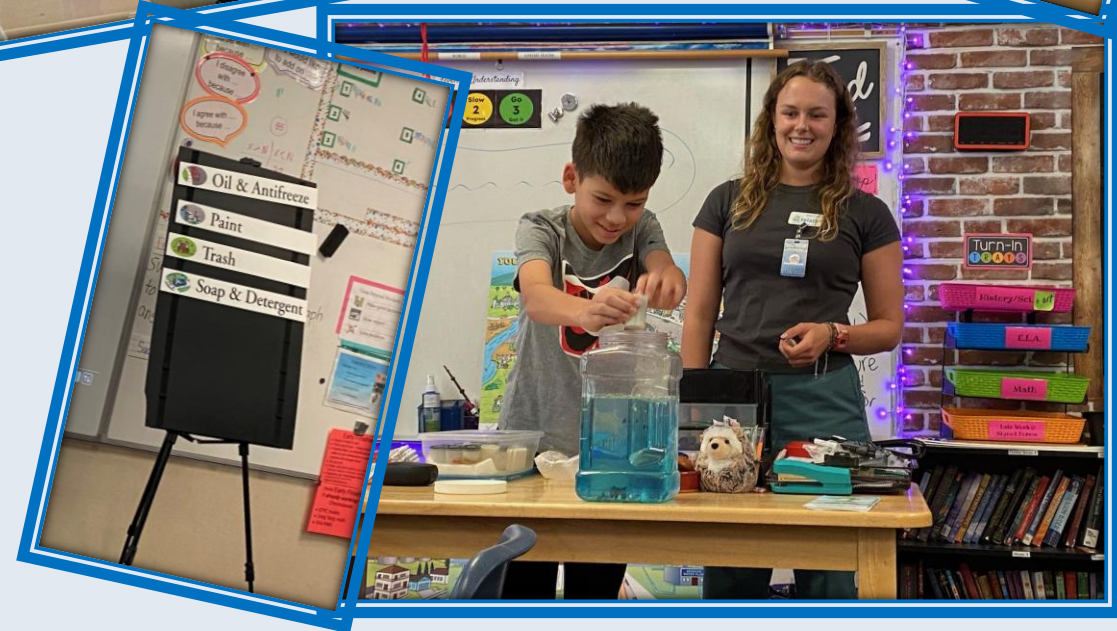
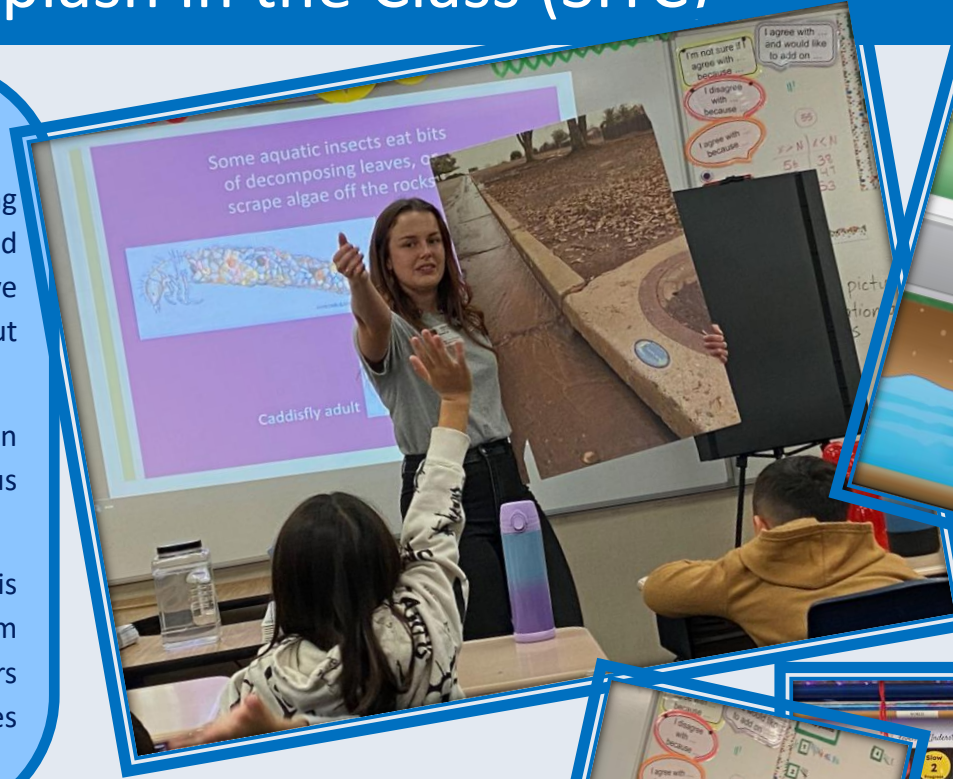
Splash in the Class (SITC)

What's new?

During the last school year, we presented to **232 classes**, connecting **7,179 students** to stormwater pollution prevention and watershed protection! Over the past roughly 17 years, SITC presentations have been delivered to over **114,000** grade 3-6 **students** throughout Sacramento and El Dorado Counties.

Two out of three of our '24-25 presenters left for new chapters in their careers, but we added one amazing new one to our fabulous Program Manager to make all the presentations happen!

We continued our extended dates for the SITC "season," making this program very nearly year-round and benefiting our cross-program staff with more year-round work and pay, as well as giving teachers a bigger window in which to select requested presentation dates (some of the schools we serve are on a year-round track).



232

SITC Presentations

100%

Teachers would recommend this program

7,179

Students connected to stormwater pollution prevention

55%

Of the classes came from Title 1 schools

FIND OUT WHAT
THIS PROGRAM
IS ALL ABOUT
[HERE!](#)

Youth Environmental Leadership Camp (YELC)



FIND OUT WHAT THIS
PROGRAM IS ALL ABOUT
[HERE!](#)

Youth Environmental Leadership Camp



What's not new?

YELC has been a hit throughout the Region! Not only do we keep hearing rave reviews from campers and parents, but we consistently have about twice the number of applicants as spaces available. Our partner organizations also continue to want to be involved – THANK YOU!

What's new?

Our 2025 campers **volunteered** for roughly **212 hours** of and **raised nearly \$4,000** for eco-centric non-profits (not Splash). This is about a **30% increase** in the volunteer time and **67% increase** in the fundraising compared to 2024 – and continued growth over the prior years.

Happy 5th Anniversary, YELC! For our 2026 camp, we received **126 applications** for 60 spots (before closing applications). We've now had **265 kids take part** in this immersive camp.

This year, we did a lot more outreach in the City of Rancho Cordova, helping us fill slots funded by the City. We also successfully improved the pre-/post-assessment and added prizes, yielding our best knowledge gain yet!

112

2026 applicants volunteered a total of at least this many hours

Partner Orgs help make this camp possible!

24

100%

Campers said they learned a lot from this program

Eco-centric career opportunities brought to light each week

~70

~115

Nature sightings each week (encouraging observation)

Parents would recommend this program

100%

To get a glimpse into the camp, please watch [this highlight-video](#) that showcases the memories we made.



FIND OUT WHAT THIS PROGRAM
IS ALL ABOUT [HERE!](#)



59%

Of the classes came from Title 1 schools

~16

Farm animals (aside from bees)

100%

Of teachers said the program supported their teaching of grade-level standards

65%

Knowledge gained by 2nd gr students (Post-vs Pre-Assessments)

[Watch this short video](#) to experience this field trip through the eyes of our students and teachers.

What's new?

In the past year, Splash welcomed **222 classes** from **51 schools**, with about **6,000 students**, for our educational and fun field trips. Early registration for fall opened in April for previous teachers and we were completely filled in **48 hours!** We are continuing to improve and scale our processes, with a new registration app launching for spring field trip registration, which will be opening in September.

The dairy is looking better and better each year. This year we've added shade to the raised garden bed area, two new shade structures over the lunch picnic tables, and a goat playground. Thanks to SMUD for funding these and to Sac Area Sewer District for helping us set them up! We would also be remiss if we didn't thank the amazing Bufferlands Team for their continued support and maintenance work at the Dairy to always keep it ready and looking good.

This year, we learned how difficult it is to maintain an observation beehive – the residents don't like it! So, we now have two external hives, both of which are humming along, with about 60,000 bees apiece.

This year, we won a grant with the California Natural Resources Agency helping to fund 300 classes over 3 years! SMUD also continues to provide sponsorship for Project AWE, through their Sustainable Communities program, furthering the impact we can have on students in the Sacramento region. The County of Sacramento TOT has funded transportation for many of our Title 1 classes and our partnership with the [Sacramento Area Sewer District](#) for this program remains strong. This fantastic program has shown continued success – now we are trying to build sustainable funding to ensure it continues and to help us reach even more local students.

Trash Talk (TT)

What's new?

In the second year of this program, in partnership with Republic Services, we presented to **82 classes** across Elk Grove and Citrus Heights, teaching **2,242 students** in the 2nd-6th grades about the 4 R's: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Rot! This engaging and interactive program empowers students to make simple changes at home and in school to promote sustainability and benefit both their environment and their communities.

Staffing was a challenge this year, since two out of four of our '24-25 presenters left for other roles, but we were able to pull in three existing staff members working on other programs to make all the presentations happen and, at the same time, get them more work hours and pay!



82

TT Presentations

100%

Teachers said TT motivated their students to use what they learned to help the envir. by reducing waste going to landfills.

2,242

Students connected to waste education

100%

Teachers would recommend this program

**FIND OUT MORE
ABOUT THIS
PROGRAM [HERE!](#)**



Splash Programs for Mixed Ages

Vernal Pool Public Tours* “Friend Raiser”

These guided tours are a wonderful opportunity for visitors to learn about and see the biodiversity of the vernal pools and how they differ each year. It is also a chance for families and friend groups to find joy together OUTSIDE IN NATURE. Splash offers four dates in Mather each spring. In March, we focus on “critters” and in April we focus on flowers native to our local vernal pools and surrounding grasslands.

347

Attendees who came to see the rich habitats in and around the vernal pools. (>1/2 of 2025, despite offering only morning tours this time and also having to cancel one date due to weather)

Private Programs*

Splash provides customized programming and tours at both the Mather Vernal Pools and at the Nicolaus Dairy, fulfilling specialized needs for scout troops, Nature Bowl teams, homeschool groups, garden clubs, and other groups. Splash makes the experience engaging and exploratory for each unique group of participants. We love working with so many different people of different ages to earn badges, prepare for competitions, fulfill core standards, or just have fun learning!

12

Widely varied groups had a customized experience with Splash.

Splash Presence at Events

Splash reaches thousands throughout the Sacramento area each year through participation in special events hosted by partner organizations. We provide a booth or table full of nature or stormwater pollution prevention education, often live critters, and more, as appropriate to the event.

12

Events had a Splash presence.

10,000

People attended these events



*Note: these programs are fee-for-service programs.

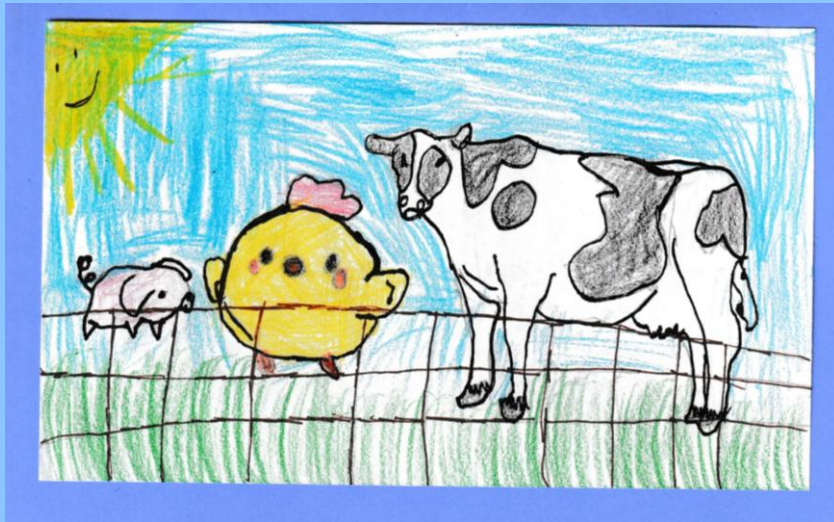


KEY ASSESSMENT & EVALUATION POINTS

Knowledge gain based on pre- and post-assessments (score increase)*:

- IVP - a remarkable **88%** (consistent with the past)!
- SITC - **53%** (20% more than last year!)
- Project AWE - 2nd-grade kids gained **65%**!
- Project AWE - 3rd - 5th grade performance gains were much lower, though still positive, so we'll take a deeper dive on these.
- YELC - **20%**, the best year, yet! This year's assessment changes made a positive difference, but we believe we were held back a bit by some wordiness, which we'll fix for 2027.
- Trash Talk - **25%** (only program's 2nd year) We're thinking about what we can do even better next year!

* We are challenged by inconsistent data, since not all teachers have their students complete the post-assessments. YELC, on the other hand, requires every participant to complete these on the last afternoon of camp.



Teacher or Parent & Student Evaluations allow us to ask how they feel about the program overall, what we did well or could improve, whether they would refer friends to the program, and more. Some of the key metrics are (all 4.x scores are out of 5):

Question	Teachers			
	IVP	SITC	AWE	TT
The Program lessons and activities provided were fun and engaging for my students.	4.9	4.9	4.8	4.8
The Program lessons and activities helped me meet certain standards for instruction.	4.7	4.9	100%	4.6
The Program empowered my students to share their knowledge with others.	4.9	4.9	not asked*	4.8
I would recommend this Program to other teachers.	100%	100%		100%

- YELC
 - Parents: How successful was this program overall? **4.9**
 - Parents: This program inspired my child to try to address one or more of the environmental issues they learned about. **4.6**
 - Parents: Would you recommend this program? **100%**
 - Participants: This program inspired me to act on environmental issues introduced to me. **4.3**
 - Participants: I learned a lot from this program. **4.7**

* We plan to align Project AWE's Teacher questions more with those used for IVP, SITC, and TT for next year.

Testimonials

IVP

“The Splash field trip was engaging for my students, not only in the outdoors when they arrived, but also in the classroom before our trip. My students are now advocates for keeping our water ways clean by keeping storm drains clean, picking up trash when they see it, and they are educating their families at home. They felt extremely fortunate to live so close to vernal pools and to experience such an important field trip.”
– Ms. Kingsbury, Peter J. Shields Elem.

“I have loved this field trip for 15 years! I look forward to my Spring curriculum every year, and a lot of it is because I get to teach the Splash Vernal Pool curriculum.” – Elementary Teacher, Phoebe Hearst Elem.

Project AWE

“Students were engaged all the time. I loved how there was no downtime for the students. Everything was on point, well organized, and the presenters were so enthusiastic.” – 4th gr teacher, John Reith Elem.

“We thank you for being so organized and keeping students engaged! The students come back and are so excited about their experiences. The best field trip ever!” – 2nd gr teacher, James McKee Elem.

TT

“Our presenter, Alexis, was amazing! She was energetic, knowledgeable, and had very positive attitude which contributed to a fun and engaging lesson for my students! Thank you!” – Jaime Vazquez, 5th gr teacher, Stone Lake Elem.

YELC

“This camp was a transformative experience for my children. It turned their general awareness of the environment into a genuine passion for leadership and action. They came home not just with more knowledge, but with the confidence that they can actually make a difference in the world. Thank you, Splash, for empowering the next generation of environmental leaders!” – Jiyoona, parent

“Thank you for letting me be in this camp. I had a lot of fun learning and exploring new things!” – Sanjana, camper

SITC

“Splash in the classroom is engaging, informative, and meets grade-level standards in such a fun way! The kids loved it and so did I. As long as it is available, I will have them come back every year!” – Tera Johnson, 4th gr teacher, Franklin Elem.

“Splash in the Class doesn’t just teach students about water-it inspires them to care. My 4th graders left the lesson motivated, empowered, and excited to be more mindful about how their everyday choices affect our water resources.” – Nikita Duval, 4th gr teacher, Two Rivers Elem.

“Do you want our next generation to have a more sustainable and healthy earth? The Splash Trash Talk presentation is the way to go to expose all students to the idea of reduce, reuse, recycle, and rot.” – Mollie Zuehlke, 2nd gr teacher, Lichen Elem.



STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

As of June 30, 2026

ASSETS

Current Assets

Bank Accounts	\$ 335,191.51
Accounts Receivable	\$ 236,330.11
Prepaid Expenses	\$ 435.78
Investments	\$ 213,283.47

Total Current Assets \$ 785,240.87

Fixed Assets \$ 42,560.14

TOTAL ASSETS \$ 827,801.01

LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 26,964.72
Accrued Expenses	\$ 7,945.82
Total Liabilities	\$ 34,910.54

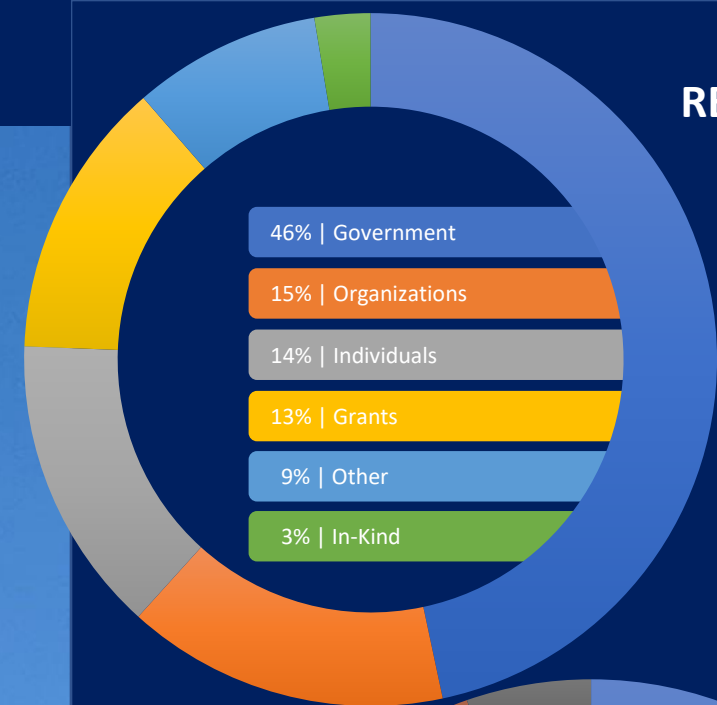
Equity

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 773,605.81
Donor Restricted	\$ 19,284.66
Total Equity	\$ 792,890.47

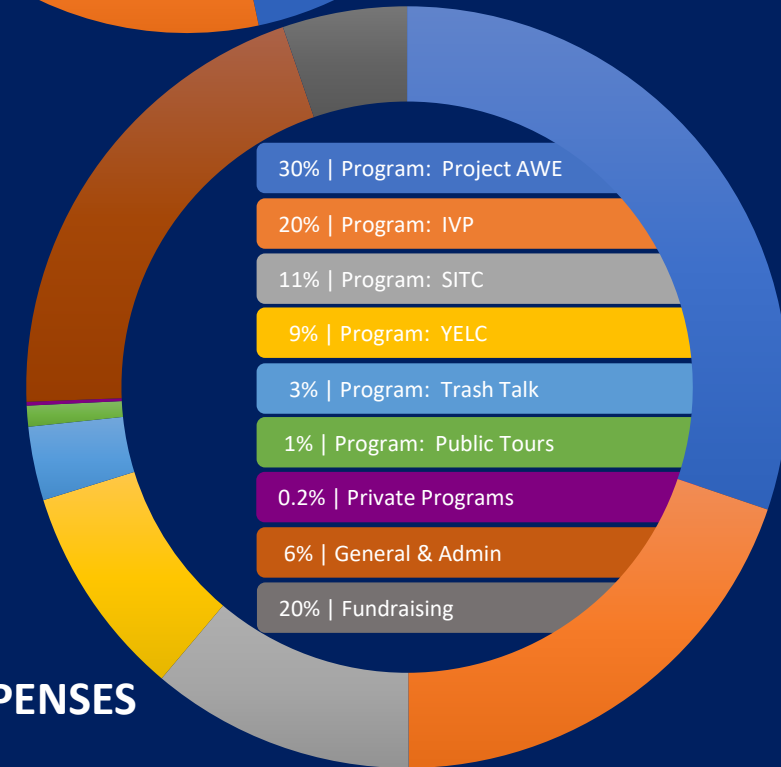
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY \$ 827,801.01



REVENUE



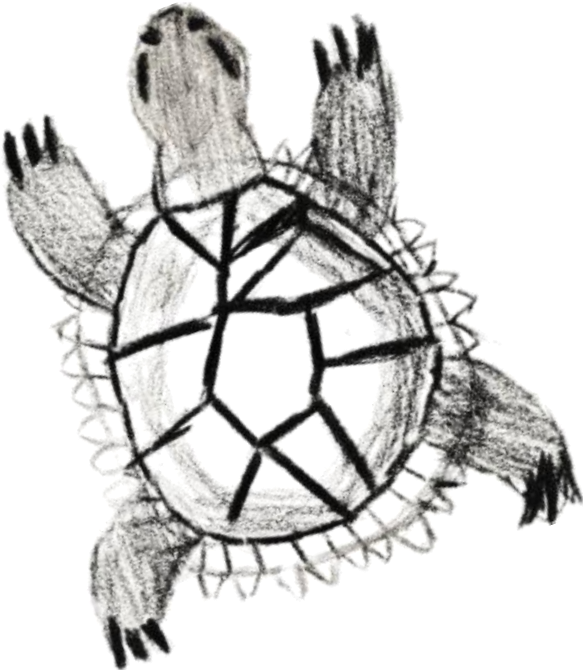
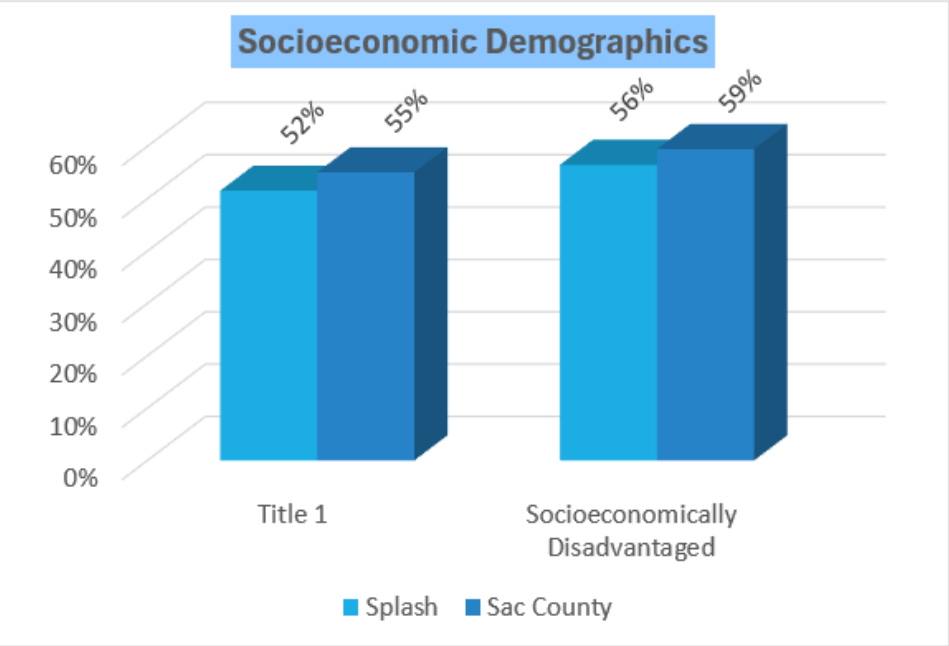
EXPENSES



POPULATION SERVED

By supporting Splash, the Sacramento region’s municipalities are reaching thousands of families through their children at local public schools. Many of these families represent hard-to-reach populations who would otherwise likely not receive such education and experiences. The table below shows how well the classes participating in Splash Programs closely mirror the ethnic and socio-economic diversity of Sacramento County public schools as a whole. This is one of the greatest advantages of working through local schools.

Ethnic Demographics									
	Afr. American	Amer. Indian	Asian	Filipino	Latino or Hispanic	Pacific Islander	White	Two or more races	No race reported
Splash	8.56%	0.27%	23.69%	3.49%	29.38%	1.46%	22.00%	9.63%	0.00%
Sac County	9.64%	0.38%	19.37%	2.61%	32.83%	1.37%	24.47%	8.82%	0.00%
Difference	-1.08%	-0.10%	4.32%	0.88%	-3.45%	0.09%	-2.47%	0.80%	0.00%



AWARDS and RECOGNITION

Who noticed what great things we're doing at Splash?



City of Elk Grove 2025 Nonprofit of the Year

In January 2026, Splash was named the 2025 Nonprofit of the Year by the Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce. The award also led to Mackenzie accepting 5 additional awards of recognition for this by US Congresswoman Doris Matsui, CA Assembly Member Stephanie Nguyen, City of Elk Grove Mayor Bobbie Singh Allen, Cosumnes CSD Board Members, and Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume. The award was given at a beautiful celebration with many Splash staff and board members in attendance.



Sac Business Journal: Women Who Mean Business

Mackenzie Wieser, CEO of Splash, was awarded as one of the Women Who Mean Business by the Sacramento Business Journal. Mackenzie accepted the award on June 26th, in front of a fully packed auditorium full of Sacramento's most influential business leaders. She is truly honored to have been selected and looks forward to remaining close with the other women who shared the stage with her this year.



We are always grateful to be recognized for our hard work and dedication to the region.

SPECIAL EVENTS BUILDING MOMENTUM TOGETHER

This past year, Splash strengthened relationships with donors, partners, sponsors, and community leaders by expanding philanthropic support, cultivating new partnerships, and increasing awareness of Splash's mission. Our fundraising events brought our community together while generating critical support for our programs.

Santa and Mrs. Claus Visit Critterville

Families once again gathered at the Splash Center to celebrate the holidays, take photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, visit our animal ambassadors, and enjoy holiday cheer. This beloved tradition continues to create joyful memories while supporting the care of our animals, a cornerstone of four of our programs. Special thanks to volunteer Santa and Mrs. Claus, Mike and Sherri Retzlaff, and the Splash staff who made this magical event possible.

AWE in Action

Our 2nd annual AWE in Action event at the historic Nicolaus Dairy gave guests a firsthand look at the environmental education experiences Splash provides to local students. Through hands-on activities, animal encounters, and exploration of Agriculture, Water, Energy, and the Environment, guests experienced the impact of Project AWE. The event raised nearly \$23,000 to help more children, especially those from Title I schools, experience the outdoors. We are grateful to our sponsors, auction donors, staff, auctioneer Sara Husby, and every guest whose generosity made this event such a success.

Backyard Bash for Splash

Our inaugural Backyard Bash at the Sheldon Inn brought supporters together for an evening of music, food, auctions, and community. With a live performance by Wealth of Nations and auctioneer Sacramento County Supervisor Pat Hume, the event raised more than \$16,000 to support Splash programs. Thank you to everyone who helped make the evening a success.

We hope to see you at a Splash event this year! Every ticket, guest, bid, and conversation helps grow the Splash family and connect more children with the natural world.



Making New Friends & Community Connections

Come Visit the Nicolaus Dairy, Splash Center, and Vernal Pools

This year, Sacramento Splash was grateful to build new relationships with community leaders, organizations, agencies, and partners who share our commitment to connecting children with the natural world. We are proud to recognize the new friends who learned more about our mission, visited our programs, shared their expertise, or explored new ways to support our work:

Hosted at the Splash Center & Mather Field

- Eskaton Buddy Day
- Chase Michelotti and the team at Cordova Recreation & Parks District
- Visit Rancho Cordova
- Sacramento Aquarium Club Members
- International Aquarium Conference Guests
- Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership, including staff from each participating city (shadowed an Investigating Vernal Pools fieldtrip)

Hosted at the Nicolaus Dairy in Elk Grove

- Congresswoman Doris Matsui
- Elk Grove Chamber of Commerce Nonprofit Mixer
- Dave Richardson, Woodard & Curran
- Ralph Virgil, Helix Environmental Planning
- Melisa Gaudreau, Page & Turnbull

Each new connection strengthens our community and helps expand the circle of people working alongside Sacramento Splash to ensure more children can experience meaningful, hands-on environmental education.

We love showcasing our programs to new friends and are always open to having visitors see what we love to do. If you are interested in booking a visit to Splash, please email gina@sacsplash.org.



Challenges Overcome



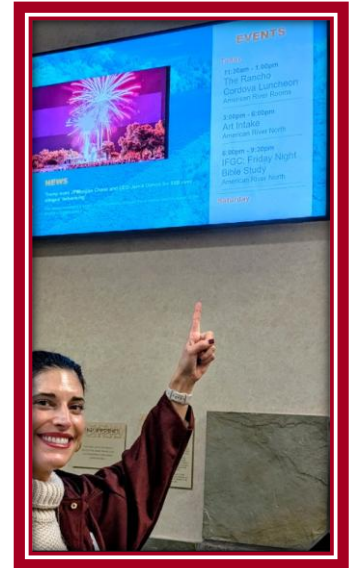
Splash had many challenges this past fiscal year. We not only overcame last year's huge budget deficit but also managed to raise enough funds to cover the new \$45,000 annual rent (increasing 3%/yr) to the County of Sacramento for our headquarters in Mather and a nearly \$18,000 unexpected plumbing bill. The roof of the Splash Science Education Center had been leaking for two years, with volunteer-made stop-gap measures preventing us from losing our animal permits and allowing us to keep operating our programs. The rent is meant to pay for the new roof. Shortly after signing the agreement with the County, there was a major sewer issue, which impacted our guests and staff. The repairs made to date were described as a "band-aid" to a much larger problem, which we'll continue to seek funding for. In addition to fundraising, Splash is looking to monetize our facility with new programming in the fall.

Bus driver shortages continued to make things a little unpredictable for field trip scheduling. We continue to work with each district's transportation office to ensure seamless field trips, however, some schools had their buses simply not show up to take the kids on their field trips this year. A new challenge is coming from some school districts that are choosing to move their teachers to different grade levels more frequently, causing us to have a higher number of new teachers and a decrease in teacher commitment to and completion of our Investigating Vernal Pools program. This leads to a poorer experience for students. New teachers have also been overwhelmed with many school and district requirements, causing them to find it difficult to attend the required New Teacher Training for this program, so this year we went to them!

Public Tours were challenging this year due to weather, with unexpected heat drying the pools early and causing us to cancel our last tour date, and lightning forcing us to push out one of the dates at the last minute. We also only ran morning tours this year, due to lower afternoon turn-out last year. This year's tours were all largely sold out, yet morning-only tours naturally cut our revenue for this program. We are considering alternating years – mornings only vs mornings and afternoons.



Last year's YELC had fewer participants living or going to school in the City of Rancho Cordova than the number for which they targeted their funding, so this year, we needed to fill the usual annual number AND make up as many as possible from last year. Through extensive outreach, we were able to make up all but two spots, which we're confident will be filled next year!



We always struggle with seasonal staffing, and this year was no exception. We have been working to find the balance between having staff who work multiple programs so that they have more paid hours and want to stay with Splash, and figuring out how to ensure we have enough staff available to work simultaneous programs. We are currently [hiring](#) Environmental Educators and hope that if you know anyone looking for something like this, you tell them about us.

At the Splash Center in Mather, we maintain a set of animal ambassadors that are either native to the Vernal Pools (or surrounding grasslands) or are representative of them...since it's harder to teach about this ecosystem when it can be rare to see the critters in the wild. Every animal we have in Critterville was either injured or kept as a pet and cannot be released into the wild or was donated. Our amazing critter keepers generally take care of ~40 critters, many of which require special permits.



This year we said "Goodbye" to:

- Thistle (domestic rabbit)
- Bingo (Alligator Lizard)
- Winton (Spadefoot Toad)

May they rest in peace.



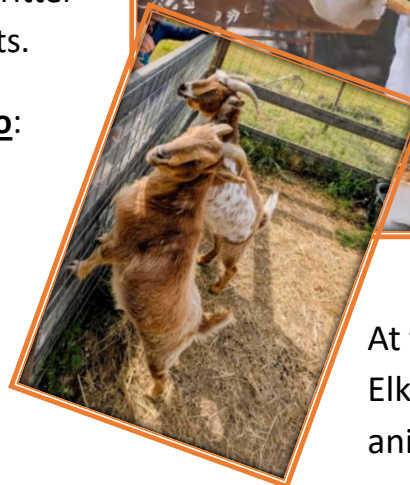
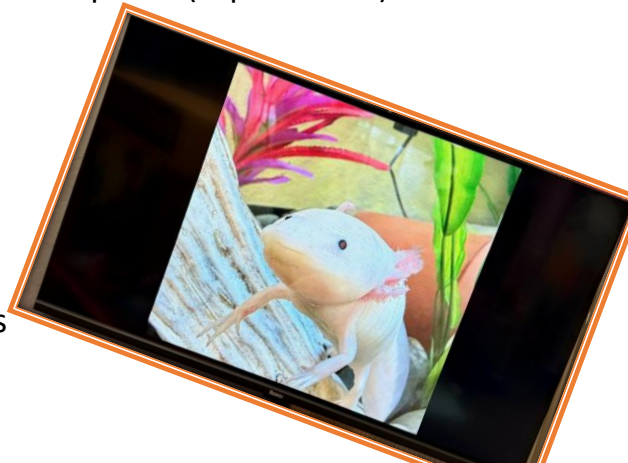
This year, we said "Hello" to:

- Sam I Am (Alligator Lizard)
- Lego (Western Fence Lizard)
- 6 Millipedes (captive bred)



Other critter news this year:

- A staff member donated an amazing 125 gallon tank for some of our Mexican Axolotls
- Splash partnered with the Sacramento Children's Museum to make a video recording of some of our Axolotls for display in their Mexico section.



At the Historic Nicolaus Dairy in Elk Grove, we maintain a set of animal ambassadors that are examples of typical animals found on a family-run farm of the era.

Our special animal friends at the dairy include:

- ~120,000 honeybees (up from ~10,000 last year)
- 50 native Mason bees
- BamBam, Oingo Boingo, & Poppy (Nigerian dwarf goats)
- ~13 chickens
- lots of neighboring cows and calves
- Nesting Kestrels
- Nesting Red-tailed Hawks
- Nesting Great Horned Owls



Volunteer & Eagle Scout Projects

Service Days (4) at the Splash Center & Mather Field – Thank you all!

October – 12 Weed Warriors from Sac Republic came out to help Splash and the County of Sacramento's Preserve Management team remove 30 large bags of stinkwort from the Illa M. Collin Conservation Preserve.

December – Roughly 10 boy scouts, 4 parents, and 6 additional volunteers joined 4 Splash staff members to help us eradicate a squirrel infestation, beautify the property, and install a volunteer-made custom-built bench for guests.

January – For the 2nd year in a row, a SMUD Cares Team of about 10 joined some Splash staff and a couple of additional volunteers, bringing their energy and human power to help us do some major landscape clean-up.

February – 9 platform sections were built for Vernal Pools at Mather & Kassis, thanks to 10 volunteers from the Kiwanis, Sac Valley Conservancy, and Splash for their construction and placement labor! Dipping platforms allow visitors/surveyors to come all the way to the edge of vernal pools, while limiting the damage to those edges, where the endemic plants and flowers grow in concentric rings.



Goat Playground at Nicolaus Dairy

Amazing Ahmed, an Eagle Scout from Elk Grove, completed his project at the Nicolaus Dairy, building a playground for our goats. This is an important addition to the enrichment activities for the goats, helping them burn off energy and be ready to interact with kids on field trips!

LOOKING FORWARD...

A new fiscal year is more than a new budget or a new set of goals—it's a fresh opportunity to dream bigger, serve more youth, and build on the foundation we've created over the past 26 years. The work ahead will bring new opportunities and new challenges.

In the coming year, Splash will focus on reaching new donors and friends willing to support all our programs. We are beyond grateful to all of our ongoing, committed funding partners. Yet again, we celebrated another amazing year, only to have one of our long-term partners leave us. This year the County of Sacramento is in a significant budget crisis and cut our program funding, as well as increasing our rent. We understand that these choices can be hard, but such actions leave us searching for ways to fill the gaps. This year, we are building new partnerships and working to diversify our funding so that we can weather these downturns a lot better in the future. Splash is also going to be leaning in to our fundraising events. We will host three fundraising events again this year: "Back Yard Bash for Splash" (September 11th at Board Member David Hedin's house), "Santa Visits Critterville" (December, at the Splash Center), and "AWE in Action" (March, at the Historic Nicolaus Dairy).

Splash's Program Managers are working towards communicating with teachers using a single voice for all our programs. We want to make it far easier for teachers to know about and sign up for ALL the programs we have to offer, so we have been working with Mosaic Data to build an application that will put this in one place and help us streamline our processes. We are looking forward to our continued partnership with Republic Services to deliver waste education presentations in 72 classrooms again this year and we are also excited to continue field trips to the Sacramento Valley Conservancy's "Kassis Vernal Pools" this coming spring, which will help us grow our vernal pool program.

We are also proud of being at the forefront of helping other organizations thrive, and we hope to do so through a large project that we will begin planning soon for the Historic Nicolaus Dairy. This will be a recycled water demonstration project to showcase that recycled water can be used in mitigation watershed restoration projects throughout the state. Splash is open to additional partnerships alongside our existing one with the [Sacramento Area Sewer District](#), to be able to bring this project to fruition. We are also working on building new programs at our Splash Science Education Center in Mather this fall and beyond. We truly believe in the "better together" motto when it comes to conservation and education.

As we begin this next chapter, let's carry forward our purpose, our optimism, and our commitment to making a lasting difference. Let's inspire our community together. Thank you for being a part of our journey toward ensuring our youth feel comfortable and inspired by being in nature.



*Your support helps children understand and value our natural world.
Please consider making a donation.*

