

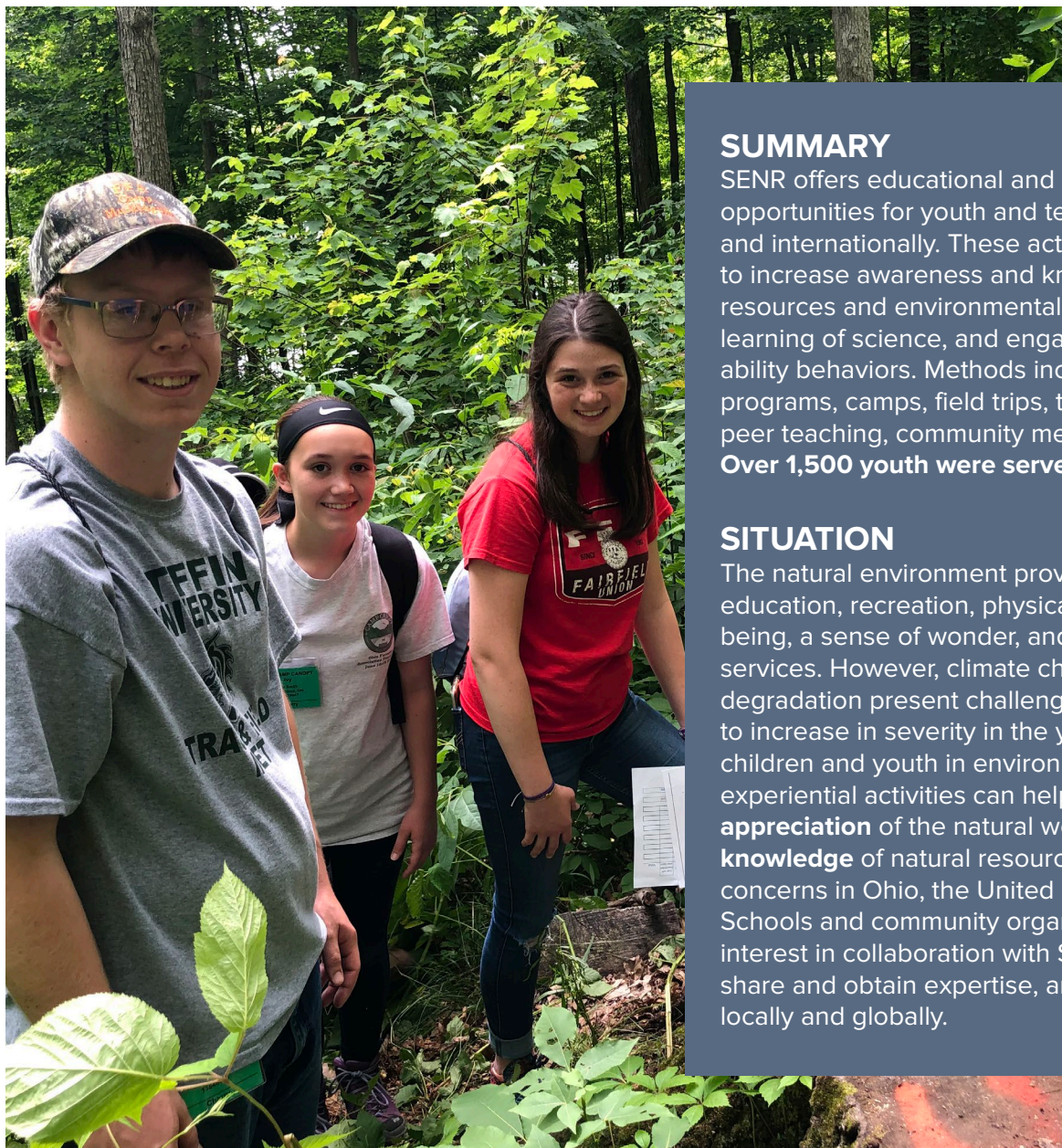


Youth Environmental Programs

Impact Statement 2019

INVESTIGATORS

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SUMMARY

SENR offers educational and experiential learning opportunities for youth and teachers across Ohio and internationally. These activities are designed to increase awareness and knowledge of natural resources and environmental issues, promote learning of science, and engage youth in sustainability behaviors. Methods include presentations, programs, camps, field trips, teacher workshops, peer teaching, community media, and consultation. **Over 1,500 youth were served in 2019.**

SITUATION

The natural environment provides opportunities for education, recreation, physical and emotional well-being, a sense of wonder, and valuable ecosystem services. However, climate change and environmental degradation present challenges that are expected to increase in severity in the years ahead. Engaging children and youth in environmental education and experiential activities can help to **foster lifelong appreciation** of the natural world and **increase knowledge** of natural resources and environmental concerns in Ohio, the United States, and the world. Schools and community organizations express interest in collaboration with SENR to reach youth, share and obtain expertise, and make connections locally and globally.



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF FOOD, AGRICULTURAL,
AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

70 youth involved in Youth Beat Radio

150 students on field trips at the Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park

>150 students engaged in discussions of water quality in Ohio and Uganda in our Water Across the World project

15 teachers to incorporate bird feeding and bluebird monitoring into their curriculum

21 educators develop lesson plans on “Attacking Aquatic Invader”

252 youth took part in eleven programs offered by our wildlife and forestry faculty

RESPONSE

In 2019, our faculty and staff **engaged** in a wide range of media outreach projects and **built collaborations** with schools and organizations to **reach diverse groups of Ohio youth**. SENR’s **Youth Beat Radio** program aired weekly on two Columbus community radio stations and involved 70 youth. Our aquatic science team hosted 150 students on field trips at the **Schiermeier Olentangy River Wetland Research Park**, including one led by SENR Senior Capstone students. At the state science fair we judged 16 science projects and offered programs to 200 students interested in aquatic sciences. Our **Water Across the World** project engaged >150 students’ in discussions of water quality in Ohio and Uganda. Our wildlife and forestry faculty offered 11 programs for 252 youth, including **Camp Canopy**, a summer camp for high school students. We worked with 21 educators to develop lesson plans on “Attacking Aquatic Invader” and with 15 teachers to incorporate bird feeding and bluebird nest box monitoring into their curriculum.



IMPACT

In 2019, over 1,500 youth learned about natural resources and environmental issues, participated in hands-on exploration, applied knowledge to real world situations, learned new skills, and engaged in sustainability efforts. SENR education activities serve youth from elementary through high school, from rural and urban areas, and those with special needs. **For some youth, the activities provided their first experiences with wetlands, wildlife, scientific methods, hands-on nature exploration, and interacting with faculty and Extension specialists.** The Water Across the World project created an opportunity for rural Ohio youth to engage in peer teaching, learning, and cultural exchange with youth in Uganda on water quality issues through video and online communications. Workshops and materials developed for teachers extended knowledge to additional students. We also provided learning opportunities for SENR undergraduate and graduate students who plan and lead Water Across the World and other education activities. **SENR youth education creates and strengthens collaborations with community partners** including the Urban Park Development LLC, Columbus and Hilliard City schools, and local organizations. Youth Beat Radio, which is produced by SENR alumni, SENR students, and high school students, broadcast information on environmental issues to community audiences. Consultation activity benefited schools and organizations in planning programs, sharing resources, and evaluation.

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