



Dear Friends,

Getting outside during the school day boosts students' learning, health and connects them to nature and hands-on science. Education Outside has become a nationally-recognized leader in the school gardens movement during the past decade by getting students outside and connecting them to the natural world. We are proud to have been able to provide life-changing garden science education to tens of thousands of elementary schoolchildren, support the creation of outdoor living classrooms in San Francisco Unified School District, and train over 150 talented and passionate AmeriCorps instructors.

While it has been a privilege to lead this hands-on environmental science movement in our public schools, we wanted to share the news that for the 2019-20 school year, Education Outside will transition our program by July 1st to four carefully-selected nonprofit organizations ([FoodCorps](#), [Strategic Energy Innovations \(SEI\)](#), [Community Grows](#) and [BAYAC/BACR](#)) who will continue to serve the schools. In planning for this transition, we have taken time to ensure that Education Outside's impact can grow in a new way, as a program that will live inside these nonprofit organizations with the potential to reach significantly more students who can benefit every day throughout the school year. These are strong partners who will each have access to Education Outside's curriculum and other resources to support ongoing programming. In conjunction with this change, we have made the difficult decision to close Education Outside at the end of 2019.

We hope you'll continue to support our common ambition of inspiring young students to embrace science and our natural world by championing this work. If you work with schools or students, you can freely access the wealth of resources we've created and made available via the link below. If you're looking to directly support one of our new partner organizations, please reach out to them. And, if you would like to continue to support schools in San Francisco and/or San Mateo County and provide access to garden-based science education, we've established and are providing seed money for two funds aimed at supporting low-income schools through a grant program:

- Spark*SF/Education Outside Fund – contact Colm Hegarty (hegartyc@sfusd.edu) at Spark*SF, for more information, or
- San Mateo Education Outside Fund – contact Andra Yeghoian (ayeghoian@smcoe.org) at the San Mateo County Office of Environmental Education.

We also hope you will help us spread the word about the resources we are publishing, for free, online. These resources represent our approach, best practices, and lessons learned over eight years of training and deploying AmeriCorps members as garden educators in public schools. Please visit this page in July 2019 for an updated link to a full suite of materials including our K-5 curriculum, training overviews, best practices, and much more.

Lastly, our College Hill Learning Garden located at 336 Elsie St, San Francisco, will continue to provide field trips and workshop opportunities to schools and community groups who visit throughout the school year and summer. We are grateful that the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, the owner of the garden, has agreed to continue this important connection to a natural urban environment in our community. For information about this garden contact the SFPUC at collegehill@sfwater.org.

Working together to promote outdoor classrooms, we can help all students get outside and foster their sense of curiosity for the natural world. Our board and staff all thank you for the partnership, support and the enthusiasm that has allowed Education Outside to touch thousands of young people's lives over these past ten years.

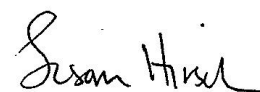
With Best Wishes,



Joshua Rymer
Board of Directors



Randi Fisher
Board of Directors



Susan Hirsch
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