



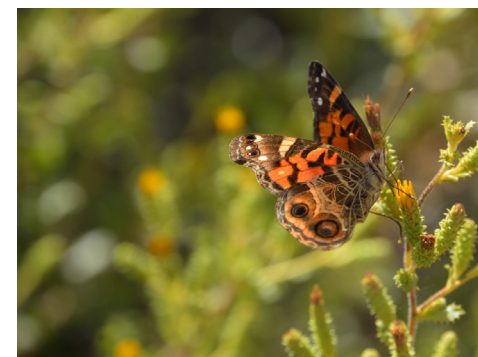
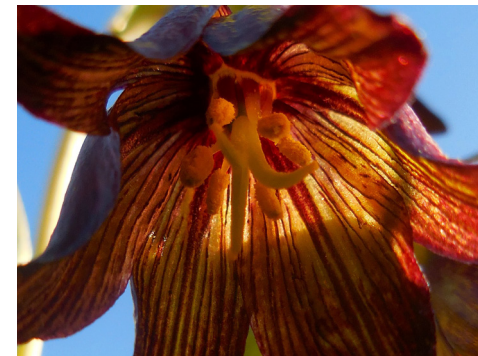
ABOUT SAMO FUND

Santa Monica Mountains Fund (SAMO Fund) is an environmental non-profit, established in 1988 to support education and the protection of resources in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. SAMO Fund was formed by concerned citizens to represent the interests of the public in the development of parklands and recreation opportunities within the mountains.

We work to protect and encourage appreciation and understanding of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

by supporting National Park Service (NPS) efforts in education, science, research, facility restoration, citizen engagement, environmental stewardship and philanthropy.

SAMO Fund is the official non-profit supporting the National Park Service. We work closely with NPS management to allocate funds, resources and our own staff time to support scientific research, trails and ecological maintenance, restoration projects and education for elementary through college students.



2023 Financials

86% of our total budget goes towards supporting programming

A total of \$1.8 million or 86% of our expenditures were in supporting park programs and projects with 14% used for operations and fundraising.

Income 2023

- Donations \$ 152,630
- Grants \$ 1,281,678
- Contracts \$ 746,025
- Sponsorships \$ 8,500
- Fundraisers \$ 5,337

Expenses 2023

- Park Programs \$ 1,832,170
- Fundraising \$ 164,185
- Operations \$ 132,383

Park Programming
86%

Fundraising 8%

Operations 6%



*The audited financial statements are available at samofund.org/financial



PROGRAMMING & PROJECTS

SAMO Fund Succeeds

SAMO Youth

SAMO Youth provides employment experience and mentorship for diverse students aged 18-30 interested in pursuing environmental careers. Established in 2000, with just 10 students, the program now has hundreds of alumni and serves new cohorts annually.

Native Plant Nursery

Over 50,000 native plants are grown here annually, curating a world-class herbarium for current and future scientific research. Native seed collection ensures conservation-quality seed samples of over 600 species of the plants native to the Santa Monica Mountains. Interns, entry-level workers and volunteers are educated on California native plant botany, horticultural practices, and habitat restoration techniques.

Project Nursery at the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing

SAMO Fund is one of several partners involved in establishing a native plant nursery aimed at cultivating suitable flora. These plants will be utilized for the Wallis Annenberg Wildlife Crossing, enhancing animal habitats and seamlessly integrating the crossing into the connected ecosystems, thereby supporting the biological microsystems crucial for sustaining life.

Monarchs and Milkweed

SAMO Fund's nursery offers complimentary milkweed and various indigenous plants to individuals interested in contributing, in exchange for a small commitment of volunteer hours. Annually, thousands of native narrowleaf milkweed seeds and plants are distributed to residents and community members who aim to support the migration of monarch butterflies.

Break the Poison Chain

A joint campaign with NPS to provide information on how to avoid using rat poison when dealing with pest problems on your property. Our campaign offers information on protecting your home from pests without using rat poison.

Oxnard Young Ecologists

The Oxnard Young Ecologists (OYE!)'s mission is to introduce high school-aged youth from Oxnard to careers in habitat restoration and ecology. Students participate in an 8-week course, earn a wage and are provided with meals and transportation. The program has expanded to serve Los Angeles area youth, as well.

Open Outdoors for Everyone

Open Outdoors for Everyone is jointly managed by SAMO Fund, providing an education program for 4th graders from Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. This complimentary program brings around 20,000 4th graders to the park for a day of adventure and learning with National Park Service and State Park Rangers.

Cultural Preservation

The area is home to over 10,000 years of human history, having been inhabited by the Chumash people and then ranched in the 19th century before urban development. SAMO Fund supports archeological research working with NPS on the cultural resources team, as well as cultural activities at the Satwiwa Native American Indian Culture Center.

Trail Maintenance

Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area offers over 500 miles of trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding, providing public access to hills, canyons and streams throughout the mountains. SAMO Fund works to help maintain, improve and restore routes throughout the mountains.

Nature Neighbor

Nature Neighbor provides advice and tools for protecting property, pets, and family, while reducing urban impact on wildlife and habitat. The Nature Neighbor Project aims to educate communities in understanding how to live close to wildlife, value natural habitats, and approach the challenges of co-existing with nature.

Restoring the Park

During the past two year, 100,000 native plants in 5 key areas affected by wildfires were planted in the Santa Monica Mountains. Rancho Sierra Vista is one of the areas, the other four are Paramount Ranch, Cheeseboro Canyon, Peter Strauss Ranch and Rocky Oaks.

Paramount Project

Paramount Ranch is a movie backlot and recreation site in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Originally used by Hollywood studios from the 1920s to the 1940s, it was purchased by NPS in 1980. It is recognized by the National Register of Historic Places. The Woolsey Fire of 2018 destroyed the ranch and SAMO Fund raised \$500,000 matched by federal funds to secure \$1 million for reconstruction.



86% of our budget goes towards supporting amazing programs like these



We consistently receive the highest rating on Charity Navigator



Year after year, SAMO Fund receives Platinum rating from GuideStar

