



Discovery
Southeast

PO Box 21867 · Juneau, AK 99802
DiscoverySoutheast.org
info@discoveryseasoutheast.org

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Juneau, AK
99801
Permit No. 91



2024



For 35 years, Discovery Southeast naturalists have connected Juneau kids to nature through education and exploration. We're honored and grateful to do this work on Lingít Aaní, on the lands of the Áak'w and T'aakú Kwáan. As 2024 draws to a close, we're excited to share how our programs are reaching more children and community members than ever before.

Gunalchéesh for being part of this journey.

Our core Nature Studies program is serving nearly every K-6 classroom in Juneau. 6th grade is now integrated into elementary schools, which means Nature Studies now includes 6th grade! We developed a new curriculum aligned with grade-level science standards and launched our inaugural 6th grade lesson this fall. Students enjoyed exploring forms of energy and learning how Juneau creates hydroelectric power. Like every Nature Studies lesson, our 6th grade offerings are hands-on, place-based, inquiry-driven, and experiential. We're thrilled to reach **300 additional students** and provide each child **seven years** of outstanding classroom programs.

Over 350 children aged 4-14 participated in Outdoor Explorers summer camps. For the first time, we offered camps for five different age groups and even hosted a family camp! Our nomination program, in partnership with school staff, connects new families to camp and helps ensure all Juneau children, especially those underserved, have the opportunity to participate without financial barrier. Camp not only offers outdoor fun, but also a supportive environment where kids connect, learn, and grow – most counselors have a background in education and each of us is dedicated to creating meaningful experiences for campers.

Our Haadaa Héeni preschool program is introducing Juneau's youngest children to the natural world. It's wonderful to see a new generation of kids getting comfortable and exploring outdoors, particularly at our own property off Back Loop Road!

Our enrichment offerings are growing. After school programming now includes "Outdoor Club" at Sayéik: Gastineau, complementing existing programs at Gruening Park and the middle school. We also continue to support school and community gardens throughout Juneau. This year's gardening season culminated with school harvest fairs — wonderful celebrations engaging hundreds of families!

We're engaging adult learners through community programming alongside local partners. Discovery Southeast and Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) teamed up for our annual Juneau Nature Seminar, providing professional development to educators, and for SHI's annual education conference, co-facilitating a workshop on mountain goats. Additionally, we continue sponsoring free Lingít language courses through Haa Tóoch Lichéesh, a Juneau-based coalition committed to advancing equity in Southeast Alaska.

Our store at the Mendenhall Glacier Visitor Center is thriving, in collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service and Tlingit & Haida. All proceeds directly support our work, subsidizing the ability to reach every classroom and offer pay-as-you-can programs. We proudly showcase local products and this season co-hosted pop-up markets featuring Alaska Native artists. We also launched a new store website: MendenhallGlacier.org! (Photo courtesy of Tlingit & Haida)



When children turn over a rock to unveil a hidden universe of intertidal creatures or build a leaf boat to navigate the gentle currents of a creek, they deepen their understanding of the world and their place within it. These outdoor experiences not only enhance mental and physical well-being but also cultivate resilience, creativity, and critical thinking. In nature, children learn how to engage their senses, regulate their emotions, and collaborate with their peers — skills that are increasingly vital in our fast-paced world. Discovery Southeast is proud to provide opportunities for kids to get their boots muddy and explore this incredible place we call home.

