

**Community Focus Statement A:** Preserve and enhance the unique environmental features of the Lake Arrowhead Communities and surrounding areas.

**Action Statement A.5:** Partner with environmental groups and associations to develop programs, activities, and educational materials that preserve and protect the natural environment.

**A5**

**Benchmark:** Partnership established between residents and additional environmental organizations and groups, to recruit volunteers to team and regularly meet to establish programs that address environmental topic areas. The topical areas would include but not be limited to outdoor learning opportunities to explore natural resources, fire ecology, and basic navigation and observation skills, etc.

**Champion:** Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

**Estimated Cost:** \$500–\$1,000



The Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks' education branch provides outreach programs for Tulare, Kings, and Fresno County school. For more information, visit:

<https://www.nps.gov/seki/learn/education/classrooms/education-programs.htm>

Establishing meaningful partnerships with environmental groups and associations can be an effective way to identify, prioritize, and protect natural resources in the environment. Organizations including the San Bernardino National Forest Association, the San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust, and the Southern California Mountains Foundation provide a diversity of projects such as trail work and maintenance, wilderness restoration, invasive species removal, and educating landowners and the general public about community based conservation planning. Additional organizations such as the Mountain Area Safety Taskforce (MAST) and the Arrowhead Communities Fire Safe Council can work with the Lake Arrowhead communities to help prevent catastrophic wildfires and promote public safety in the mountain areas.

Educational programs that are focused on protecting the natural environment and enhancing the communities' stewardship of natural resources could make a remarkable difference on the impact on the environment. These programs could provide tools and ideas to begin conservation practices outdoors. Types of educational activities often include:

- Offer outdoor learning opportunities to explore the nature resources in the community;
- Explore the local mountains and learn, through demonstrations and observation, how plants, humans, and animals adapt to the environment;

- Learn basic principles of fire ecology and basic skills to navigate and improve observation skills in the local mountains;
- Assist with Smokey the Bear messages, logistical support, and patrolling on bikes for wildfire prevention;
- Involve eco-literacy viewing in the community and understand the relationships and processes necessary to support a healthy environment; and
- Assist in collecting seeds, plant seedlings on the forest, or assisting in mulching, watering, or weeding sites.

Working with environmental groups and associations can help broaden the variety of environmental education and training opportunities offered to the Lake Arrowhead communities to build self-knowledge and understand the importance of natural species and environmental protection.

| Action  | Action Leader                            | Timeline             | Resources  |
|---|--|----------------------|--|
| 1. Contact residents and recruit volunteers to promoting programs and activities and to develop educational materials related to environmental preservation and protection.   | Champion with Arrowhead Lake Association | Months 1–2           | Glover-Stapleton Associates, Inc and NSF ISR, Environmental Management Systems: An Implementation Guide for Small and Medium-Sized Organizations, January 2001   |
| 2. Select a volunteer to serve as the program lead, ensuring that the selected person has the time, organization, and program management skills to commit to supporting environmental programs.   | Environmental Group Coalition            | Month 2              | Arrowhead Communities Fire Safe Council<br><a href="http://www.arrowheadfsc.net/">http://www.arrowheadfsc.net/</a>   |
| 3. Build a team of residents and volunteers who can identify and assess issues, opportunities, and existing processes.  | Environmental Group Coalition            | Months 2–3           | County of San Bernardino, Mountain Area Safety Taskforce   |
| 4. Establish communication between various environmental groups and associations for additional resources and continued management of programs and information.   | Environmental Group Coalition            | Months 3–5           | <a href="http://www.sbcounty.gov/calmast/about_mast.asp">http://www.sbcounty.gov/calmast/about_mast.asp</a>  |
| 5. Hold meetings with the team regularly to discuss steps that need to be taken, share information, and ensure procedures are practical and effective.  | Environmental Group Coalition            | Month 3, On-going    | San Bernardino Mountains Land Trust<br><a href="http://sbmlt.net/">http://sbmlt.net/</a>   |
| 6. Develop informational and educational pamphlets (for example, Frequently Asked Questions [FAQ] and Things You Should Know brochures) and establish programs that address environmental topic areas such as outdoor learning opportunities to explore natural resources, fire ecology and basic navigation and observation skills, etc. | Environmental Group Coalition            | Months 4–6, on-going | US Department of Agriculture Forest Service, San Bernardino National Forest<br><a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/sbnf/workingtogether/volunteering">http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/sbnf/workingtogether/volunteering</a><br><br>National Parks Service, Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks<br><a href="https://www.nps.gov/seki/learn/education/index.htm">https://www.nps.gov/seki/learn/education/index.htm</a><br><br>Southern California Mountains Foundation, Environmental Education<br><a href="http://mountainsfoundation.org/discovery-center/environmental-education">http://mountainsfoundation.org/discovery-center/environmental-education</a> |