



COOPER CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL LEARNING FACILITIES UPGRADE - PHASE I

A CASE FOR SUPPORT



College of Education

TUCSON UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT



A Time Of Growth Here At Cooper

The Cooper Center for Environmental Learning has experienced tremendous growth during the past three years. Our field trip programs have expanded in number of students served, and we are adding new programs for preschool, high school, and university students to our repertoire.

The Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) between the University of Arizona (UArizona) College of Education and Tucson Unified School District (TUSD) that manages Cooper Center has been renewed through 2039 and it includes new provisions for capital fundraising for new facilities. This is a key step in our future growth.



Preschool Nature Day

2/29/2020

Record crowd at 3rd annual Preschool Nature Day. Over 165 people, more than 100 of them children.

We envision the Cooper Center's facilities as a sustainable model for our Southern Arizona community and for environmental learning centers around the world. These facilities will enhance our programs and provide learners of all ages with examples of systems that can lessen our negative impacts on the planet.

These facility improvements will include educational elements that help students and other visitors understand how they work, and our team will develop learning experiences that focus on these key ideas.

At the Cooper Center, our Mission is to increase ecological understandings and deepen feelings for the natural world, provide hands-on, research-based programs in science and earth education, create lifelong memories through our overnight and multi-night experiences, and inspire learners of all ages, from children to university students to adults, to live more lightly in our Sonoran Desert community and beyond.



Our Vision

That every student in Southern Arizona learns to care about the environment by experiencing science and the wonder of nature.

Why now?

We are at a key moment for growth and renewal at the Cooper Center. Our facilities are more than four decades old, and for our programs to continue to expand, they need an upgrade. This will allow us to serve new audiences and have a greater impact in our community.

The silver lining of this pandemic and the temporary closure of our facility is that we now have a window of opportunity in which we can complete construction of our new bathrooms and showers with little or no impact to our educational programs.

Additionally, we have seen a steady growth in philanthropic support for Cooper Center since 2015. We are reaching more Camp Cooper alumni and supporters while connecting more kids with the natural world than ever before. All of the pieces are in place for a successful capital campaign.

Why bathrooms?

Our programs get rave reviews from teachers, kids, and their families. Our facilities...not so much. We currently have 4 toilets, 2 urinals and zero showers to serve groups as large as 60 students and 20 adults for day and overnight field trips.

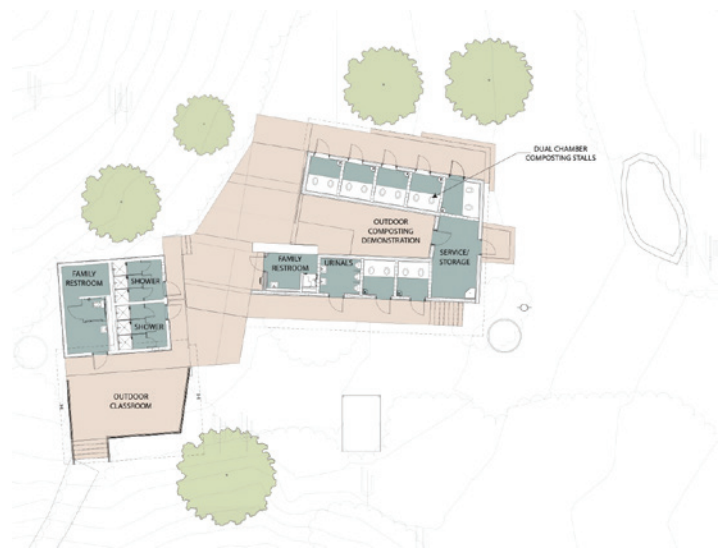
Adding fixtures will mean spending less time on bathroom breaks and more time exploring the wonders of our Sonoran Desert. We'll also add new sustainable systems to practice what we preach in living more lightly on our planet.

The addition of shower facilities will allow us to offer longer programs and become a more attractive venue for rentals when we're not teaching. Longer duration programs mean greater impact on our learners, and renting the camp will bring in new revenue to further our efforts.

Phase I: Showers & Bathrooms Building Design & Construction

Phase I will expand our existing bathroom facility and will add shower facilities for our overnight guests.

This will provide a more comfortable experience for overnight visitors, including our multi-night field trips with upper elementary, middle, and high school students and other facility uses with university students and adults.



Phase I: Fundraising Status

We have currently raised 60% of our goal. In addition, we have a generous donor who has pledged a \$100,000 challenge match to help us raise the remaining funds needed.





Master Plan Phases & Timeline

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| <div style="background-color: #92d050; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <p>Phase I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double Bathroom Capacity • Add Shower Facilities For Overnight Visitors • Improve Accessibility | <p>2020 - 2021</p> |
| <div style="background-color: #e91e63; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <p>Phase II</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renovate Sleeping Cabins • New Beds and Gathering Areas • Sustainable Heating and Cooling | <p>2021 - 2022</p> |
| <div style="background-color: #00bcd4; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <p>Phase III</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added Indoor Classroom Space • Centrally Located Office/Gift Shop | <p>2022 - 2023</p> |
| <div style="background-color: #ff9800; width: 20px; height: 20px; margin-bottom: 5px;"></div> <p>Phase IV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial Kitchen • Sustainable Food Service | <p>2023 - 2024</p> |

Our Master Plan transforms Camp Cooper's rustic accommodations, allowing us to serve more learners, generate revenue through facility rentals, and model sustainable ways of living.



THANK YOU



With your help, we will make our vision of a revitalized Camp Cooper a reality. Our programs will reach more learners and impact them more deeply. You can be a part of this exciting new project, helping thousands in our community to live more lightly in our Sonoran Desert home.

TO LEARN MORE, CONTACT

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LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Cooper Center for Environmental Learning, an outreach program of the University of Arizona, sits on the traditional homelands of the Tohono O'odham and Pascua Yaqui, who have stewarded this land from time immemorial. Aligning with Cooper Center's and the University's core value of a diverse and inclusive community, it is an institutional responsibility for us to recognize, represent, and acknowledge the ancestors, people, culture, and history our community resides on.