



## ANNUAL REPORT 2017

**“Nature-empowering our community!”**



### OC Hiking Mission Statement

Since 2006, the Orange County Hiking Club (Hike Everywhere), a charitable 501c3 nonprofit exists to promote physical, mental and emotional wellness through connection with nature. In addition to nature hikes and events, Hike Everywhere nurtures stewardship that protects trails for future generations and provides education, encouragement and nature-empowerment for people of all ages, families and at-risk youth through mentorship and leadership development in the outdoors.



## Message from our OC Hiking Club President

Dear OC Hiker,

Thank you for another great year! It is hard to believe that our little nonprofit the Orange County Hiking Club (OCHC) turned 12 years old in 2018!

**It's because of your dedication and support that our membership grew** to over 15,000 members in 2017. With growth and success come challenges.

**Our Kids-in-Need-of-Nature program is thriving, but needs your financial support** to keep it going. In 2017 this program got over 500 underserved youth outdoors and offers positive and educational outdoor experiences to Orange County's at-risk youth. We are getting children out on the trail with wonderful role models and mentors.

Additionally, we are improving our exemplary trail system through an expanded *Trail Guardians* program. **Trail Guardians helps us keep more trails in good condition** and protects and preserves our wildlands and trails.

I am very proud of all that OCHC has accomplished on a shoestring budget. Remember, **all donations to OCHC are tax deductible** to the fullest extent of the law.

We look forward to 2018 as a year of financial growth to catch up with our physical growth. As you take a closer look at full range of our activities and the benefits they provide to our community, **please help us find new ways to achieve our potential.**

Thank you again for your loyal and generous support.

*Suki Reed*

Suki Reed  
President  
OC Hiking Club/Hike Everywhere  
[www.oc-hiking.com](http://www.oc-hiking.com)  
[office@oc-hiking.com](mailto:office@oc-hiking.com)





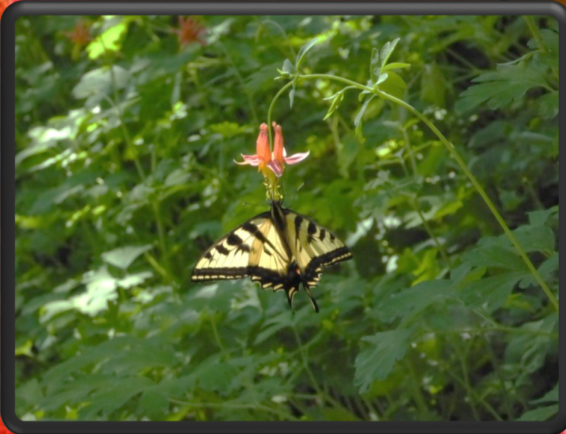
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**"Your donation connects our  
community with nature!"**

Through your help the OC Hiking Club nature-empowers thousands of families, adults, children and underserved youth each year.

Your donation is ensuring the permanence and longevity of the OC Hiking Club.

- Nature-empowering all ages
- Kids in Need of Nature
- Trail Guardian Certification & Stewardship
- Wilderness Awareness & Volunteerism



## **A Look at 2017**

### **NATURE EMPOWERING ALL AGES**

The OC Hiking Club reached over 15,000 members in 2017. The Club held approximately 1,000 hikes and outdoor events last year. We are blessed with serving members of all ages and all walks of life. And through your support we will continue serving our community for years to come. Some of the hikes took place in Orange County's remarkable park system, including, but not limited to:

- San Joaquin Marsh
- Casper's Wilderness Park
- Hiltscher Park
- Shady Canyon
- Laguna Coast Wilderness Park
- Turtle Rock
- Central Park Huntington Beach
- Upper Newport Bay

### **KIDS IN NEED OF NATURE**

*Kids in Need of Nature* events take underserved and at-risk youth out on the trail. These positive educational outdoor excursions require careful planning and preparation. These hikes are led by our most experienced volunteer Hike Organizers. The agencies whose youth we serve extend a heartfelt thank you to our dedicated volunteers. These agencies include:

- CASA
- RAISE Foundation
- GOALS
- GRIP (Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership)
- SOY (Save our Youth) and more.



## TRAIL GUARDIANS

Since 2011 OCHC has been cleaning local trails through our *Trail Guardians* program. Seven years later and the program is still going strong. We are continuing to protect and preserve our wildlands and trails by training additional volunteer Guardians. During training our *Trail Guardians* gain a better understanding of park operations and how they can assist park staff in monitoring trail conditions and identifying problems. In addition to removing trash, *Trail Guardians* help with other trail duties such as; moving small hazards off trails and reporting issues to park staff.

The 2017 Trail Guardians enthusiastically cleaned over 400 trail miles. Our goal is to develop a cadre of hiking enthusiasts who are trained to be better stewards of our public lands and trails. What an achievement!



## THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

The heart and backbone of OCHC are the *Volunteer Hike Organizers*, our dedicated volunteers who organize hikes, offer their special expertise to help other hikers and work within the community to keep expanding outdoor opportunities. It takes many hours to organize a hike—it doesn't matter if it's local or out of town. It can take days or weeks of planning as:

- Trails must be evaluated,
- Permits obtained,
- Equipment inventories, and
- Supply requirements determined.

Hikes of varying levels are offered—from beginners though advanced—to meet the needs of all levels.

## VOLUNTEER HOURS

Well over 10,000 hours were volunteered in 2017. The non-profit resource organization Independent Sector estimates the value of that time at \$24.14 per hour. That's equates to more than \$241,400 of donated time. Thank you to our loyal volunteers!

## A Glance at 2017

Our speedy growth has our support staff nearly bursting at the seams. Our success has grown beyond the budget and we hope to find more effective ways of funding nature-empowerment for our community in 2018. Your financial support is greatly appreciated. We hope to continue offering all of our outdoor programs including:

- Additional outdoor adventures to at-risk youth,
- Both local and out of town hikes for trail enthusiasts, and
- Rise to the fundraising challenge to meet our expanding needs!





## 2017 Board of Directors

### **Suki Reed, President**

Suki is an advocate for nature, outdoor education, and the need to keep America's underserved children active in the great outdoors. Hiking is a passion for Suki, who has hiked since the age of two when her father carried her in his backpack on wilderness outings. As a native Californian she enjoys all outdoor sports and especially hiking and has climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Africa.

### **Neil Fricke, Vice President**

Neil is a retired Licensed Customs Broker. He is a native Californian raised in LA County. Since 2006 Neil has donated a generous \$15,000 in support of our outdoor nature programs. (A special thank you goes to Neil for his loyalty and support in developing a lasting legacy of nature-empowerment.). He enjoys hiking and outdoor photography and is credited with the photos for this year's annual report. Neil has been hiking since high school and his favorite hike is Sturtevant Falls.

### **Mike Carter**

Mike was raised in a family of outdoorsmen and has been hiking all his life. He hikes throughout California, Nevada, Arizona and Texas. His favorite hiking area is along the banks of the Colorado River below Blythe.

## 2017 Financial Statement

### STATEMENT OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2017

Category	Program Services	Management & General Expenses	Fundraising	Total
Consulting & Professional Fees	\$18,606.00	\$2,791.00	\$1,861.00	\$23,258.00
Fundraising	---	---	\$2,672.00	\$2,672.00
Office Expenses & Supplies	\$487.00	\$65.00	\$97.00	\$650.00
Operational Expenses	\$1,741.00	\$232.00	\$348.00	\$2,322.00
Website/Internet	\$287.00	\$38.00	\$57.00	\$382.00
TOTAL	\$21,122.00	\$3,126.00	\$5,036.00	\$29,284.00

**Double your donation! Does your employer give matching gifts? Find out here:**

<https://doublethedonation.com/oc-hiking-club>



A generous thank you for nature photos by Neil Fricke and others.