



1970

1971

Yosemite Institute is formed with Don Rees

1977

The Headlands Institute is founded in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area

1984

Yosemite Institute changes its name to Yosemite National Institutes, reflecting its growth

1987

Olympic Park Institute opens in Olympic National Park in Washington state, the 1st location outside of California

1988

The first students attend an overnight program in Olympic National Park

1980

1990

1998

Diversity Initiative was launched as part of NatureBridge's long-term effort to deliver accessible, culturally relevant environmental education to all students, including the beginning of our scholarship program

2007

Millionth student served

2009

Yosemite National Institutes becomes NatureBridge

2000

2010

2013

Construction begins on NatureBridge's new campus in Yosemite

2012

NatureBridge's 1st East Coast campus opens in Prince William Forest Park in Virginia

2011

NatureBridge launches our Educator Development Program in Yosemite

2010

NatureBridge's first campus in Southern California opens in Channel Islands National Park and Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area

2019

20th Armstrong Scholars trip takes place in Yosemite & The Woolsey Fire in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area forces the suspension of NatureBridge programs in Southern California

2017

NatureBridge is awarded \$3.5 million from the S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation

2016

The National Park Service celebrates its Centennial and President Obama visits a group of NatureBridge 4th graders in Yosemite

2020

Distance Learning programs launched during the COVID-19 crisis to continue serving students and teachers

2020

NATUREBRIDGE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY TIMELINE

2021 marks the 50th anniversary of NatureBridge. Since Don Rees led his students on that inaugural week-long trip into Yosemite in 1971, we have provided transformative overnight, outdoor experiences in our national parks.

In the last half century, NatureBridge has opened campuses across the country and our best-in-class educators have made a profound impact on 1.5 million students. For many, their NatureBridge experience inspired them to become scientists, policymakers, park rangers, artists, teachers, community leaders and advocates for the natural world.

As we stand on the verge of our next 50 years, NatureBridge will continue to provide life-changing programs for all students, igniting self-discovery and inspiring wonder and scientific study of the natural world.

