



2025

Year-End
Summary

Connect | Steward | Support

OVERVIEW

We're excited to share what Central Coast State Parks Association accomplished in 2025 — a year filled with meaningful connection, growth, and support for the ten State Parks of San Luis Obispo County.

From funding new exhibits at the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History to hosting two sold-out movie nights and a beautifully successful Butterfly Ball, this year showcased the power of community in action in support of our parks. We also engaged visitors through inspiring MindWalks that encouraged deeper reflection and connection to the natural world. Through our Bus Bucks program, we helped bring more students into the parks, removing transportation barriers and opening the door to hands-on outdoor learning experiences.

We are proud to support and steward these special places — preserving, protecting, and enhancing access to the landscapes that define our coast. Thank you for being part of our story and our impact.



MUSEUM EXHIBITS & UPGRADES



In 2025, Central Coast State Parks Association supported several key upgrades to enhance visitor education and accessibility at our local State Parks.

At the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, the outdated topographic table was replaced with a modern, fully ADA-compliant exhibit designed and constructed by WhiteCloud, Inc. In collaboration with California State Parks, the new table was thoughtfully created to improve both physical and educational accessibility for visitors of all abilities. Its inclusive design allows guests using wheelchairs or with limited mobility to comfortably explore the region's topography, while interpretive elements introduce key concepts such as safe recreation practices, wildlife protection, and trail etiquette.

Installed in July 2025, the table now serves as a welcoming centerpiece at the museum entrance and an interactive

hub for outdoor education. CCSPA also funded an updated map of Montaña de Oro State Park, now displayed at the Spooner Ranch House, helping visitors navigate and appreciate the park's trails, habitats, and unique landscapes.

We supported the installation of a glass display case, providing a secure and attractive home for the museum's collection items. In addition, CCSPA purchased three collection kits that will be leased to teachers to enhance school groups preparation for their state park field trip.

Together, these enhancements create a more accessible, engaging, and educational experience for all visitors. They further support the museum's and parks' missions to connect the public with California's diverse ecosystems and cultural heritage..

Supporting grants from:



FILM SCREENINGS

In 2025, Central Coast State Parks Association successfully put on two sold-out screenings of “Out There: A National Parks Story” — first at the Fremont Theater in San Luis Obispo, and later at the Bay Theater in Morro Bay. These events brought together over 700 community members, creating a shared space to celebrate, reflect on, and be inspired by the beauty and significance of our public lands.



The film not only entertained, but also educated audiences about the incredible work being done by local environmental nonprofits and State Parks to protect California's natural spaces. By highlighting these efforts, the screenings sparked conversations about conservation, stewardship, and the role each of us can play in caring for the natural world.

Beyond the film itself, the events fostered a strong sense of community. People came together to experience the story, connect with like-minded individuals, and leave with renewed appreciation for the vital work happening in their own backyard. These screenings demonstrated how art and storytelling can inspire action, strengthen community bonds, and leave a lasting impact on how people see and interact with the places they love.



Supporting grants from:

Harold J. Miossi
CHARITABLE TRUST

Thomas Eltzroth

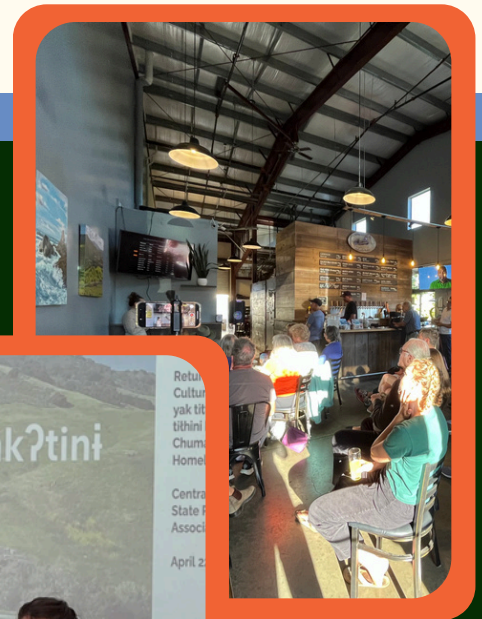
CCSPA LECTURE SERIES: MIND WALKS

In 2025, CCSPA's Mind Walks continued to create an accessible, community-centered space for learning about the Central Coast's natural and cultural heritage. This year's topics included equity in the outdoors, cultural and prescribed burns, ichthyology, and California weather patterns, supported by partnerships with Latino Outdoors, the YTT Northern Chumash Tribe, Oak & Otter Brewing Company, and the SLO Public Market.

With 215 attendees, the program strengthened both community engagement and CCSPA's visibility. Participant feedback highlighted how fun, welcoming, and meaningful these events are. Moving into 2026, Mind Walks will continue to be one of our most impactful ongoing programs.

Support From:

Thomas E. & Mary Kathryn Eltzroth Fund





BUS BUCKS

Expanding Access to Nature in 2025

Central Coast State Parks Association's Bus Bucks program continued to break down transportation barriers for students in underserved communities, ensuring more young people could experience the natural and cultural richness of California State Parks. This vital program provided transportation funding for 280 students from Title I schools within the San Luis Coastal Unified School District, many of whom were visiting a State Park for the very first time.

Thanks to the generous support of the Miossi Charitable Trust, students were able to participate in immersive field trips to Pismo State Beach Monarch Grove, the Morro Bay Museum of Natural History, and the Oceano Dunes Visitor Center through the Chumash Education Program.

These experiences paired hands-on exploration with guided interpretation, deepening students' understanding of local ecosystems, wildlife, and Indigenous history while strengthening their connection to the landscapes in their own backyard.

Beyond the numbers, the impact was deeply personal. For many students, stepping onto park trails, into museum exhibits, or among overwintering monarchs sparked curiosity, built confidence, and nurtured a lasting sense of environmental stewardship. CCSPA is deeply grateful to the Miossi Charitable Trust for making this access possible and for helping ensure that every child has the opportunity to learn, explore, and feel a sense of belonging in our State Parks.

Supporting grants from:



JUNIOR RANGER AND CAMPFIRE PROGRAMS

In 2025, Central Coast State Parks Association continued to invest in the next generation of park stewards through our support of Junior Ranger programs across the ten State Parks of San Luis Obispo County. By sponsoring these programs, CCSPA helps provide engaging, hands-on educational experiences for children of all ages, fostering curiosity, environmental awareness, and a sense of responsibility for California's natural and cultural treasures. The Junior Ranger program empowers young visitors to connect meaningfully with the parks and develop lifelong stewardship values.

CCSPA also supports the visitor experience by supplying firewood for all campsites across the county's State Parks. These efforts not only enhance the camping experience but also support the operational needs of the parks, enabling more people to safely connect with nature and build lasting memories in the landscapes we protect.



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION

Our dedicated volunteers are at the heart of everything we do. From educating visitors about our State Parks to staffing CCSPA nature stores, leading guided hikes, and increasing public awareness of marine wildlife and responsible viewing practices, our volunteers bring expertise, enthusiasm, and care to every interaction. Their efforts help ensure that visitors leave the parks inspired, informed, and connected to the natural and cultural treasures of the Central Coast.

Volunteers also play a critical role in hands-on stewardship. They maintain trails at Montaña de Oro State Park through our Coast Mounted Assistance program, assist campers and sell firewood at campsites, and lead "Adventures with Nature" hikes that introduce the public to the rich biodiversity of our region. Their contributions not only enhance the visitor experience but also strengthen the sustainability and accessibility of the parks. CCSPA is deeply grateful to our volunteers, whose time and dedication are essential to protecting, preserving, and celebrating our State Parks.



Pismo State Beach Monarch Grove Butterfly Trailer

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In 2025, Central Coast State Parks Association's internship program, funded by the Mary K. Eltzroth Fund, provided valuable professional experience for seven interns across events, social media, and podcast production. These opportunities allowed students and early-career professionals to build hands-on skills while supporting CCSPA's mission.

Through this program, interns contributed directly to community engagement, educational

programming, and digital storytelling, while developing practical skills in conservation outreach, communications, and event management. By investing in these emerging leaders, CCSPA is helping cultivate the next generation of advocates and professionals dedicated to the stewardship of California's public lands.

Support from:

Thomas E. & Mary Kathryn Eltzroth Fund

WORDS FROM CCSPA INTERN:

The program was exceptionally valuable, particularly in teaching me how to engage with visitors on a deeper, more meaningful level... The training provided a fresh, structured approach to communicating that knowledge effectively. It equipped me with new techniques to connect with and respond to our audience in ways that are both engaging and impactful. It was an insightful experience that I believe will enhance my contributions here, especially in visitor-facing interactions.

Thank you for giving me this opportunity and supporting my participation in this training! I had a wonderful time!"

- Intern reflecting on the Interpretive training CCSPA funded for State Parks and CCSPA Staff



Photos by Miranda Avila

BUTTERFLY BALL 2025

MOONLIT WINGS AND WILD THINGS

In 2025, our annual Butterfly Ball brought together the community to celebrate and support the Central Coast State Parks and the Western Monarch. Held at the beautiful Octagon Barn in San Luis Obispo, this year's event embraced the enchanting theme "Moonlit Wings and Wild Things," highlighting the often-overlooked nocturnal creatures of our region and emphasizing the importance of protecting our dark skies.

The evening was a joyful celebration of nature, conservation, and community. Attendees connected with fellow supporters, learned more about our local State Parks, and helped raise over \$40,000 to support critical education, restoration, and stewardship programs. By blending education with elegance, the Butterfly Ball not only strengthened community ties but also inspired a deeper appreciation for the landscapes and wildlife we work to protect every day.



Special Thanks to our Park Heroes:

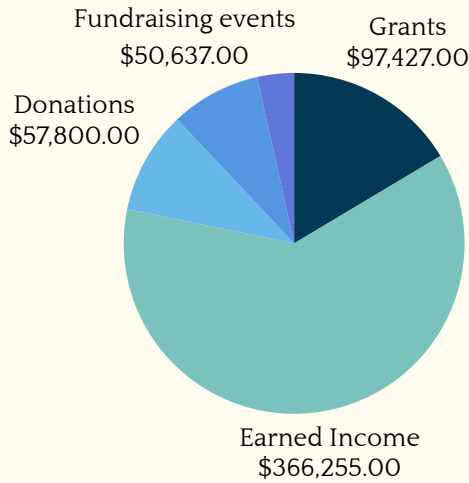
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THE
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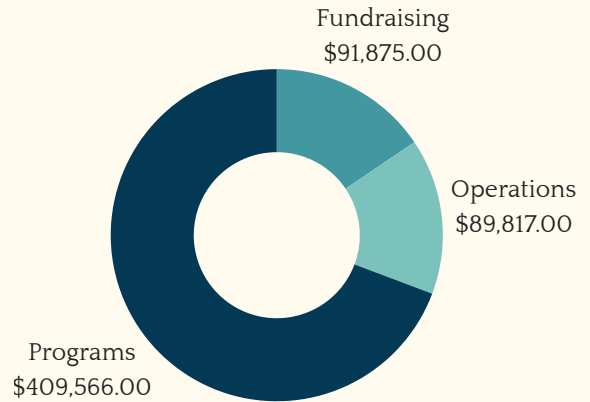
ADDING IT ALL UP

REVENUE



- ☀ **Earned Income (54%)**
 Revenue earned from retail sales and firewood program.
- ☀ **Grants (20%)**
 Government and non-government Grants
- ☀ **Donations (12%)**
 Private donations and other fiscal support
- ☀ **Fundraising events (10%)**
 Expenses related to fundraising events and initiatives
- ☀ **Other Revenue (4%)**
 Interest and grant overhead

EXPENSES



- ☀ **Programs & Projects (69%)**
 Spending directly related to the mission of CCSPA to support the educational and interpretive efforts of the Central Coast State Parks.
- ☀ **Operations (15%)**
 Expenses incurred to support CCSPA operations and occupancy
- ☀ **Fundraising (16%)**
 Expenses related to fundraising events and initiatives

PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY CCSPA

School Group Transportation
 Guided Interpretive Hikes
 Western Monarch Conservation

Conservation Outreach
 Continuing Education
 Cultural and Natural History

Morro Bay Museum of Natural History
 Mind Walk Lecture Series



Our Mission

The Central Coast State Parks Association (CCSPA), in partnership with California State Parks in San Luis Obispo County, supports interpretation, education and volunteer efforts while promoting public awareness and stewardship of our natural resources and cultural heritage.

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge the First Peoples of the Central Coast and California. The lands and waters of San Luis Obispo County include the unceded territories of the Chumash and Salinan Tribes. The diverse Chumash and Salinan Peoples have lived in this region for thousands of years. We honor Elders past, present, and emerging, and recognize the ongoing Indigenous-led work to steward ancestral lands and waters, and to preserve cultural heritage, languages, and traditions.

With gratitude, we thank you for your support in sustaining environmental education programs and experiences in our Central Coast State Parks. As a local nonprofit organization, we rely on our community to help make these programs possible.

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