

Report to RepCom of Pacific Yearly Meeting

Amy Cooke, Interim Director

March 3, 2017

The mission of Sierra Friends Center is to steward diverse learning communities and educational programs that weave together spirituality, peace, sustainability and social action. Our programs reflect our vision of peace and justice through learning and service for people of all ages—
children, youth, adults and families.

Amy Cooke, Director, Sierra Friends Center

Sierra Friends Center is operated by the College Park Friends Educational Association (CPFEA), which is an educational 501(c)3 held under the care of College Park Quarterly Meeting, within this Yearly Meeting.

The CPFEA held one primary program under its care from 1963-2001- John Woolman School, a 4-year boarding high school. That program was suspended in Fall 2001, and an accredited semester program for high school juniors, seniors and gap year students was launched in the Spring of 2004, the Woolman Semester School. That program has now been suspended by the CPFEA board and a working group made of of prior Heads of School and board clerks is analyzing the successes and challenges of that program.

Camp Woolman was launched in the summer of 2004, and is a vibrant and fiscally healthy experience for children and teens, with one week and two week sessions through the summer.

In addition to camp, we are hosting groups for workshops and retreats.

Our board is considering how to fulfill its mission of stewarding diverse learning communities and educational programs that weave together spirituality, peace, sustainability and social action. The board has set benchmarks and goals, including written business plans for all income streams, to insure long term sustainability.

The board recently minuted approval for the piloting of the Woolman Outdoor School in collaboration with the Sierra Streams Institute, a local environmental non-profit. We will pilot that program this spring with the North Oakland Community Charter School, which will bring 80 6, 7 and

8th graders to our 230 acre site in May. We expect to continue the piloting and development of this program through 2017-2018.

Sierra Streams is also interested in housing their offices, classrooms and labs on our site, in the MAdrone Hall. We are working on a renovation plan for this building (originally built in 1963 as the dorm). We are also looking at a grant proposal for the ecological restoration for the land with Sierra Streams and the local Nisenan tribe, bringing together scientific and indigenous ecological practices.

We are also researching a prospective program, tentatively titled the Woolman School for Nonviolence, in which we would hold 5-7 day programs for youth and youth allies..

Finally we are addressing 50 years of deferred maintenance on our site, held precious to many.

If you led to contributing to these efforts, through donations, board service or volunteering, please contact us via the website.