



O'NEILL SEA ODYSSEY

(831) 475-1561

www.oneillseaodyssey.org



O'Neill Sea Odyssey

2025 - 2026 PROGRESS REPORT



Mission Statement

The O'Neill Sea Odyssey provides free and transformative ocean-going educational experiences to students from diverse backgrounds, igniting their scientific curiosity and empowering them to take action to protect our oceans and watersheds.

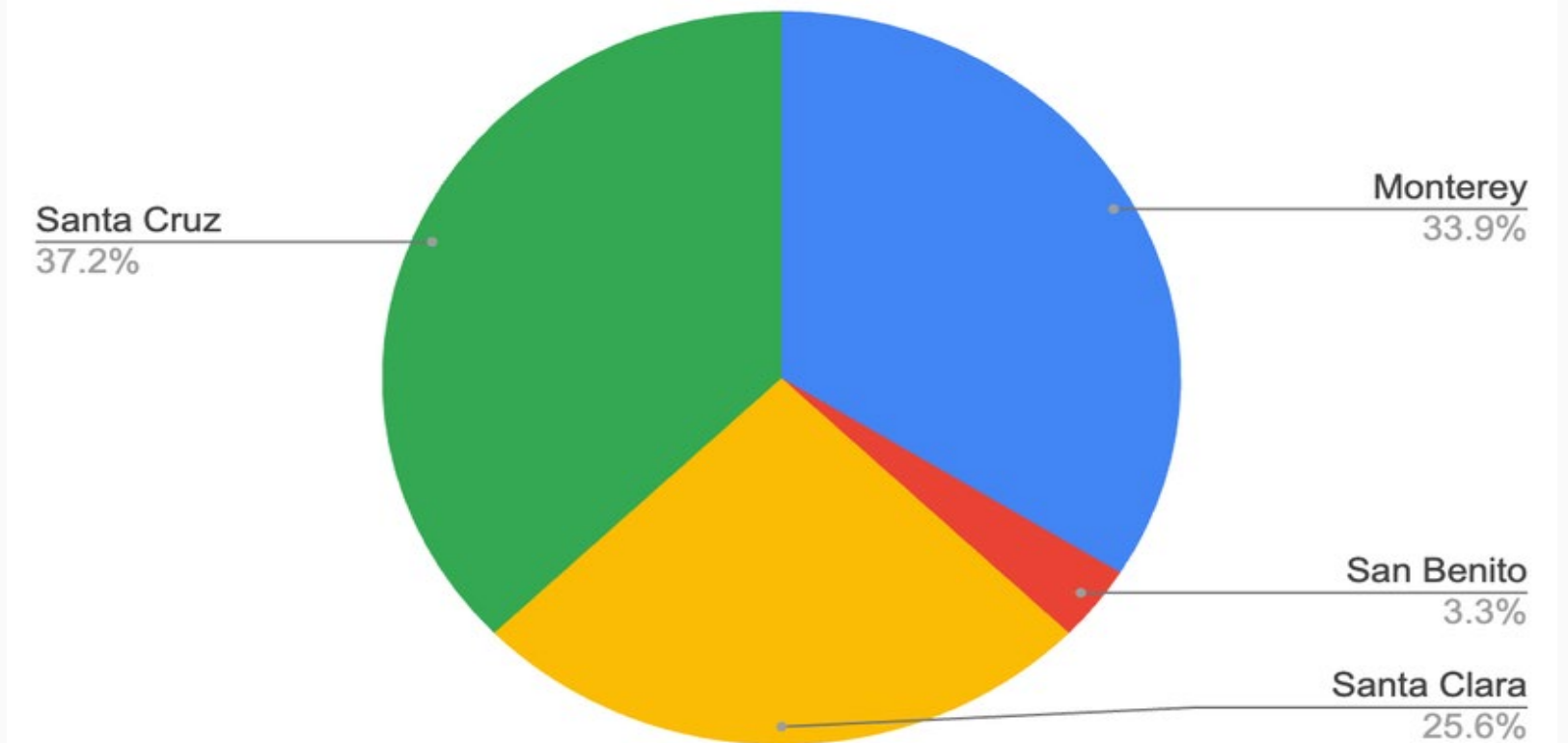
4389

students served

136,331

total impact

Trips by County



Geographic Distribution

O'NEILL YACHT CHARTER PARTNERSHIP

2025-2026 usage

Total Charter Hours:

OSO Hours 271.5 (37% use)

OYC Hours: 466 (63% use)

Partnership continues to support joint efforts to expand access to the Santa Cruz Harbor and create a new generation of ocean safe, and marine aware stewards.



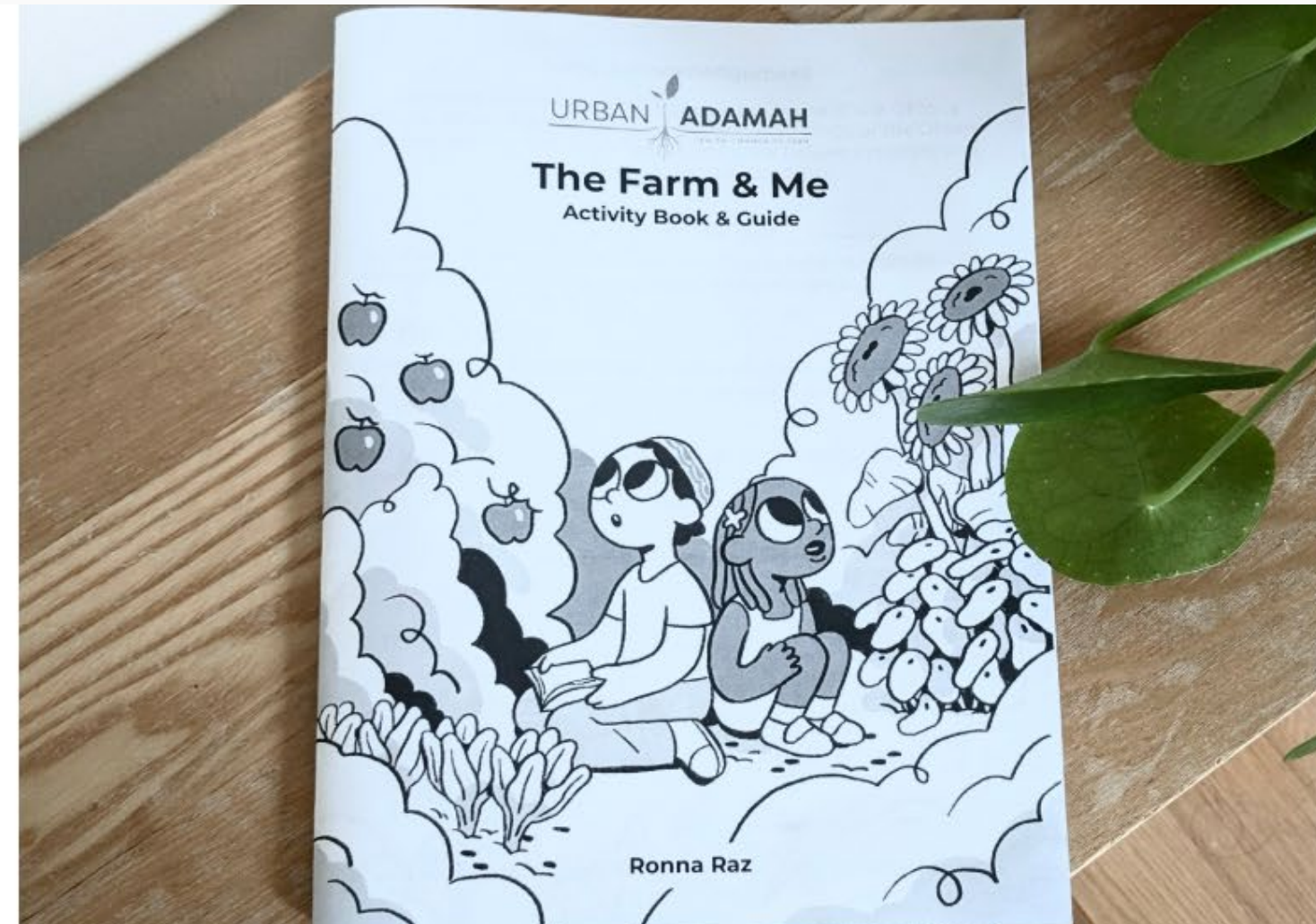
OSO VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Waves of Impact

We have had a successful volunteer program this past school year, with our largest cohort, new curriculum, and both morning and afternoon shifts! We had great feedback from our volunteers, expressing gratitude for the opportunity to help our organization and make a lasting experience for the students.

Number of volunteer shifts	353 shifts (157 Fall & 196 Spring)
Number of hours on program	1,108 hours
Number of hours at outreach events	37.25 hours
Total volunteer hours	1,145.25 hours





BEACH AND HARBOR EDUCATION EXPANSION

Partnership Gratitude

Working with Graphic Illustrator Ronna Raz, we are working to secure funding to create a similar education book around beach safety and education. Providing participating students with hands-on lessons to explore and discover either before or after their field experience with O'Neill Sea Odyssey. Thank you for the letter of support and partnership

MAKE SANTA CRUZ THE CLEANEST COUNTY IN CALIFORNIA



pitchinsantacruz.org



Pitch -In Campaign

Working in partnership with the Coastal Watershed Council, Watsonville Wetlands Watch and Save Our Shores, the O'Neill Sea Odyssey worked to keep the harbor and our community free of litter.



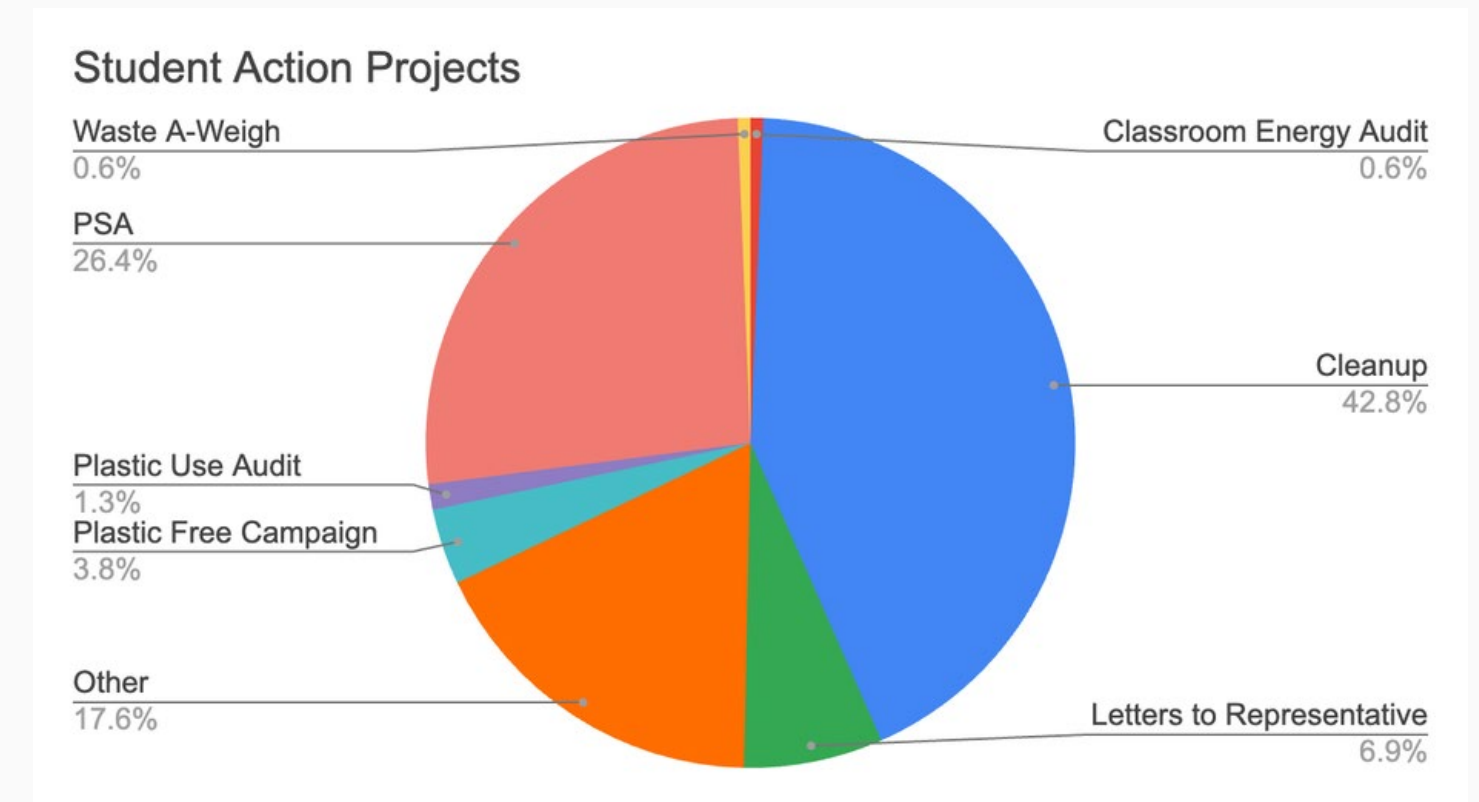
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

OSO Recognitions and Publications

O'Neill Sea Odyssey had the opportunity to celebrate our impact and accomplishments throughout the year - our efforts and partners were recognized:

- California Resource Recovery Agency Statewide Conference Presentation about Green Schools Program in Santa Cruz County.
- City of Santa Cruz Eddy Award as Non-Profit Community Partner

Student Action Projects



- The most common cleanup locations were at school campuses and beaches.
- The 'other' category mostly consisted of art projects made of recycled materials and combinations of multiple of the given project categories (i.e. Cleanup + PSA).
- 11 classes chose to write letters to government representatives with the majority bringing up issues relating to ocean conservation and habitat protection.
 - 119 letters to local officials
 - 42 letters to state officials
 - 115 letters to federal officials



QUOTE

Teacher from 4th Grade Valencia Elementary School

“I had a handful of students who bravely conquered their fears today. There were initial tears and trepidation, but by the end of the excursion they did not want to embark...the new curriculum had lots of visuals and realia for the students to connect in a tactile modal of learning...Thanks to O’Neill Sea Odyssey, students have leveraged their perspective about ocean ecosystems, conservation, and human impact. We came as a loquacious crew of curious 4th graders, and we leave as an inspired, joyful, empathetic team of ocean stewards. We appreciate you all!”

30 YEARS OF LEGACY ON THE OCEAN

Transportation for Ocean Stewards Fund

For thirty years, the O'Neill Sea Odyssey has transformed the Monterey Bay into an interactive classroom, carrying forward Jack O'Neill's visionary belief that hands-on ocean education, should be accessible to every young person regardless of their background. To honor this milestone OSO is proudly announcing the launch of the Transportation for Ocean Stewards Fund. Dedicated to breaking down the persistent financial barrier of rising busing costs for low-income schools.

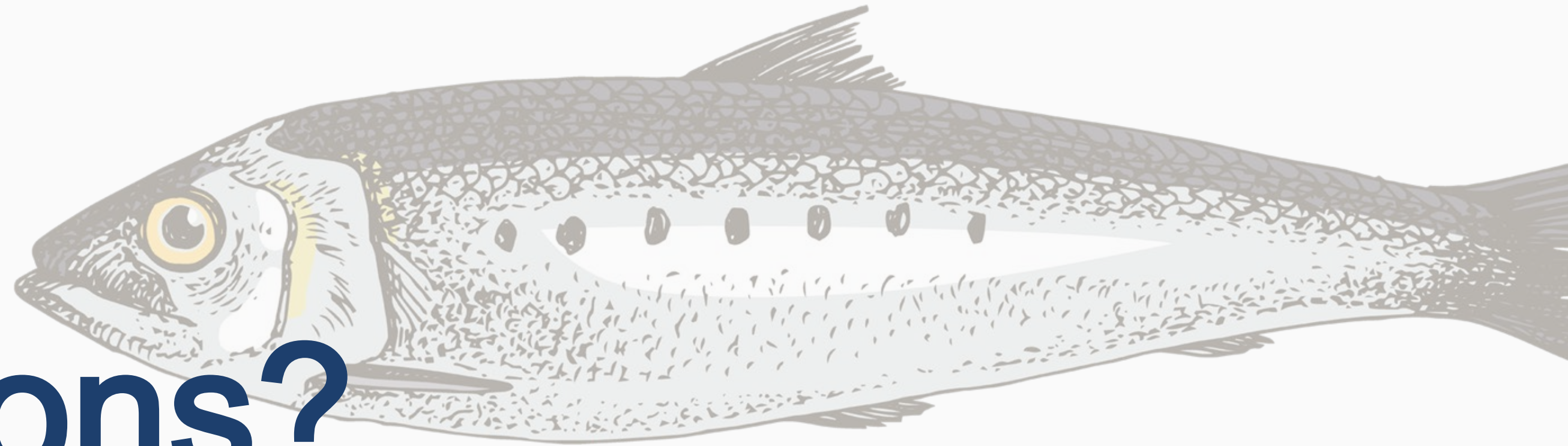




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Questions?

THE OCEAN IS

YOUR

CLASSROOM