

## Accomplishments

*How has FES fulfilled its mission to educate people about elephant seals and other marine life and to teach stewardship of the coast?*

Friends of the Elephant Seal (FES) has provided education about elephant seals and on safe and responsible wildlife viewing in the following ways.

- More than 2.2 million visitor contacts have been documented since 1997.
- More than 225,000 docent hours have been logged over the past 20 years.
- School group docents have interacted with over 40,000 students. Friends of the Elephant Seal docents also provide classroom visits.
- Comprehensive training is provided to new docents. More than 400 volunteers have participated in the docent training.
- FES Newsletters, brochures, and handouts provide information about the annual life cycle of the northern elephant seal.
- Information and photographs are provided to journalists, authors, and film makers.
- Foreign language translations are available on the website and at the viewing areas.
- Docents give presentations to groups throughout San Luis Obispo County.
- Docents serve as “eyes and ears” to wildlife protection agencies, providing information about wildlife harassment and other violations.

In partnership with the State of California, created safe and respectful viewing platforms. The south boardwalk was completed in 2003. A second boardwalk, on the north side of the main parking lot, was completed in 2010. The California Conservation Corps constructed the boardwalks.

FES became a formal State Parks Cooperating Association in 2011. This relationship opened opportunities including installation of a web cam and improved WiFi access at the vista point.

FES promoted stewardship of the Piedras Blancas section of the California Coastal Trail.



*Friends of the Elephant Seal is committed to continuing its mission to teach respect for elephant seals and all marine life.*

December 2017