



Overview

The Digital Exploration Society

The DEX Mission



The Digital Exploration Society (DEX) was founded in early 1998 to foster greater awareness and understanding of the interdependence between people, the planet we inhabit and the technologies we create.

DEX came into being out of concern and curiosity based on the awareness that we are moving very rapidly towards a time in which technologies will allow us to communicate with anyone at any time from anywhere.



In the past, we have used our tools to manipulate and control our environment. These deployments have been both beneficial to our lives and destructive to our world. The Information Age and the technologies it spawns offer us an unprecedented opportunity to reverse the damage and to reconnect with our natural environment.

The DEX mission is to change the equation that keeps people isolated from each other and cynically alienated from the natural world. DEX is chartered to explore and discover how the coming generation of mobile technologies for media-rich communication can be used to achieve a dynamic unity between people through nature.



The process of exploration and re-connection is there for all of us, but it is the children who will show us the way.

DEX provides a new perspective on outdoor education by giving young people the technology and the mindset to explore, discover and share—locally and globally. As they pioneer the becoming world of immediate and intimate communications, students reveal to all of us how manmade technology can be put to humanistic purpose.



Our children, our world, the boundless life around us, can only be meaningfully sustained if people work together.

Communication has always been our one true solution.

DEX Goals and Methodology



DEX strives to fulfill its mission by launching, funding and supporting Internet-enabled outdoor learning adventures for students and teachers. The goals of each *DEXpedition* are: 1) to advance our appreciation of the natural world and our place within it through student-led exploration, 2) to guide children in discovering for themselves the importance of a sustainable human lifestyle, and 3) to accelerate the usability and deployment of digital technology for education and other creative, life-enhancing endeavors.



To be effective, education must be relevant and available to all. As DEX takes computers and kids out of the schools and into the field it empowers teachers as guides; it equates learning with exploration. The students and teachers participating in *DEXpeditions* are not on a "digital field trip." They are true pioneers. Their mission is to explore the uncharted territory where people, technology and nature intersect and to share their discoveries with others.



DEX equips Digital Explorers with digital cameras, sound recorders, portable computers, PDAs, scientific sensors, navigation systems and other newly evolving technologies. From wherever they are—mountains, beach, desert—the Digital Explorers transmit their images and data to the DEX website where schoolmates, teachers, parents and the world witness and share the students' discoveries.



From experience, DEX has identified middle school children as most open to and in need of the mindset fostered by digital exploration. They have shown themselves to be free of preconceptions and most open to pure exploration. (Many younger children are not ready to handle the equipment or the responsibility. Older students are more limited in their ability to imagine themselves as true explorers and tend to focus excessively on the tools rather than the experience.)



DEX is first and foremost dedicated to sparking the imagination. *DEXpeditions* are intended to inspire and set examples for students and teachers everywhere. DEX seeks to create community from diversity by exploring the power of communications technology and the lure of nature to unite children in the communal goal of discovery.

Long-term, the DEX goal is to take its message and mission to other parts of the globe, linking young people everywhere in the common adventure of understanding, appreciating and protecting the natural world.

Nature teaches unity. Technology makes it possible.

