

Muagagana:

E lele le toloa ae ma'au i le auvai

The toloa (duck) flies far but will always return to the water.

Samoans will travel to other lands but will always return to their homeland.

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Mission: *To expand public appreciation and stewardship of the environment, Samoan culture, and self through educational place-based programs and collaborative partnerships.*

Vision: *Shaping the future of American Samoa through place-based education.*

*Leading and Learning with
L ♥ ve*

Our Story

In 2019, NELAS founders set up a nonprofit to share the experience they had with their grandparents. Their grandmother Fola Tuato'o would take them to the plantation on the mountainside or fishing to find and gather food and materials for the home. This allowed them to interact with their surroundings and learn about the environment. It is this type of childhood experience that NELAS wants to share. By combining place-based science education, Samoan culture, and self-development we provide modules to share this experience with the community.

Toe Fo'i ile Lau'ele'ele Program



Futiga Trail

earth, and this informs and nurtures our mindfulness and humanity. We apply the knowledge of our ancestors who are natural scientists with the natural history of American Samoa and with the healing power of nature to discover and reflect our purpose. Some of the modules that we offer include birds, plants, soil, and wetlands. Special thanks to Mr. Tony Maugalei and Ms. Jennet Chang from American Samoan Community College Land Grant, Ms. Sia'a Alama from Tafuna High School, and Chief Fale Uele of Utusi'a for presenting as part of the program.

Field Trips:

As part of the TIFL program, NELAS offered two field trips. The first field trip was on September 24, 2022. We visited the "Turtle and the Shark" Historic Landmark. Ms. Senouefa Gaea Bartley met with us. The story and the song she shared with us have been passed down from generation to generation. The second field trip was about the birds of American Samoa. Mr. Ailao Tualaeleli of the Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources (DMWR) led the field trip on October 22, 2022, at Futiga. The students, their families, and staff observed many forest birds and learned what they look and sound like.

Toe Fo'i ile Lau'ele'ele (TFIL) is Samoan for "Return to the Land." This program pursues to reinforce the connection between nature and Samoan culture in a similar manner that our ancestors learned and lived. Samoans for many generations lived off the land and appreciated what the land provided and shared. A good understanding of our world enables and reaffirms an appreciation of the greater