A New Approach to Conservation

1980: SFS founded in Cambridge, MA, based on the idea of creating informed environmental stewards in all trades and professions
1981: First expeditions begin in Galapagos, Belize, Kenya, Mexico, Iceland, Cayman Islands, Alaska, Montana, Virginia
1983: SFS programs accredited by Northeastern University
1985-1989: First Centers established in Kenya, U.S. Virgin Islands, Australia, and Hawaii
1987: SFS creates its Affiliation Program to build relationships with U.S. colleges and universities
1989: Programs shift from being primarily ecology-based to a more comprehensive resource management perspective

The Advent of Field Centers

1990: Center for Marine Resource Studies moves from USVI to the Turks & Caicos Islands; Center for Marine Mammal Studies moves from Hawaii to Mexico
1991: Center for Sustainable Development Studies opens in Costa Rica
1993: SFS transitions to entirely case-based curriculum
1994: SFS programs accredited by Boston University
1995: Center for Coastal Rainforest & Fisheries Studies opens on Vancouver Island; First Safety Director hired; SFS moves to a fully Center-based operation
1997: Center for Coastal Studies opens in Mexico
1999: Center for Wildlife Management Studies opens in Kenya

Expanding and Refining

2001: Center for Wildlife Management Studies expands to include both Kilimanjaro Bush Camp and Nairobi Nat’l Park Camp
2002: SFS institutes five-year research planning at each Center
2003: First “Five-Year Research Plans” begin at each Center; SFS alumni numbers exceed 10,000
2005: SFS celebrates 25 years of environmental education, research, and leadership
2007: Center for Rainforest Studies introduces sequential summer programs; field practicum in “Public Health and the Environment” begins in Kenya
2008: Wildlife Management program expands to include both Kenya and Tanzania
2009: Second set of “Five-Year Research Plans” created

SFS for a New Generation

2010: SFS launches new summer program in Bhutan
2012: SFS launches new semester program in Panama
2014: SFS launches new semester programs in Peru and Cambodia; SFS accredited by the Univ. of Minnesota
2015-2016: SFS launches new semester program in Bhutan
2019: SFS launches new semester programs in Chile, Kenya