Outdoor Lab
FOUNDATION



2026 Annual Report

Enduring Program, Inspired Students, Cherished Sites

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Five years ago, Outdoor Lab Foundation committed to reimagining our work and reconnecting Outdoor Lab to our community, to our schools, and, most importantly, to our student participants. We engaged in a comprehensive effort to better understand what teachers, donors, partners, parents, and staff value most and where the Foundation can have the greatest impact.

From our surveys, focus groups, and direct conversations across the district, one message came through clearly: The Foundation's role as a connector, advocate and funder of Outdoor Lab matters more than ever. With this in mind, we built a multi-year strategic plan that required us to change the way we worked. We need to build strong public and private partnerships. We need to fund programs that are more relevant to the communities, schools, and stakeholders we serve. And we need to bring more individuals, corporations, sponsors, and funders into the fold and give them more opportunities to act on behalf of Outdoor Lab.

Since 2021, the Foundation has delivered over $1 million in tuition assistance support to families and schools in need. We have contributed over $130,000 to the Intern Program along with growing the training and credentials the interns receive. We donated over $450,000 to the sites for construction, maintenance, and beautification projects on our mountain campuses. And we have garnered in-kind donations of clothing, footwear, and outerwear valued at over $250,000 for our two gear libraries.

These accomplishments are a direct result of your support for this transformational program and your belief in the importance of the Foundation for making it possible. So how do we keep the momentum going despite the headwinds we face today? How can we lead as the most effective partner for the sites and the school district?

As we look ahead to 2027 and beyond, the Foundation Board of Directors, alongside staff and Outdoor Lab site leaders, will convene a new process this fall that will build off these successes and craft an updated strategic direction for the organization to follow for the next three years. We look forward to unveiling our new strategic plan in early 2027.

Again, none of this is possible without your generous support. Thank you for the many ways that you encourage us to stay our course and to be bolder and more ambitious for our students, our teachers, and our two beautiful mountain campuses.

Bryan Martin
Executive Director

Our Team

Foundation Staff

Bryan Martin
Executive Director

Ian Nawalinski
Development Manager

Breanna Bashford
Strategic Partnerships Manager

Ana Chittenden
Enrichment Coordinator

Administrative Staff

Tarah Blazek
Program Coordinator

Ashley Volzke
High School Leader Coordinator

Board of Directors

Jonathan Weimer
Board Chair

Melissa Hanson
Board Vice Chair

Keith Turgeon
Board Treasurer

Leslie Olsson
Secretary

Ben Dorland
Immediate Past Chair

Sam Bock

Doug Hanisch

Emily Cranford

David Kruse

Nicole Collins

Katie McClammer

Annie Goyanes

Brandon Tosti

Brandon Guernsey

Mount Blue Sky

Becky Paschke
Principal

Michele Wright
Principal's Secretary

Cheyne Heiny
Program Director

Jason Harding
Program Specialist

Donna Deneke
Kitchen Manager

CJ Dickson
Food Service

Amanda Ruleman
Registered Nurse

Cari Chopyak
Registered Nurse

Tommy Slat
Health Tech

Ricky Martinez
Caretaker

Luke Antill
Asst. Caretaker

Lois LaGrange
Food Service

Windy Peak

Jeremy Brasher
Principal

Ellie Steyn
Principal's Secretary

Garden Marantino
Program Director

Shawna Spivey
Program Specialist

Danny Aronson
Kitchen Manager

Andy Lewis
Food Service

Nissa Garin
Registered Nurse

LeAnne Downing
Registered Nurse

Sue Bramblett
Health Tech

Pat Bramblett
Caretaker

Elgin Cooke
Asst. Caretaker

Jessica Bramblett
Food Service

MANAGING FOREST HEALTH AT OUTDOOR LAB

Over the past year, Windy Peak and Mt. Blue Sky have undertaken major forest health, ecological restoration, and wildfire mitigation projects. As drought conditions worsen across the Front Range, reducing wildfire risk has become increasingly important for the mountain landscapes surrounding Outdoor Lab.

Beyond fire mitigation, this work will create healthier, more resilient forests. Reducing tree density and restoring diverse native vegetation will improve resistance to drought, pine beetle infestation, and other threats while creating better habitat for birds, insects, deer, elk, moose, and other wildlife. The projects will also help restore forest conditions that were more common before widespread fire suppression, with a healthier mix of tree species, ages, and sizes.

The Colorado State Forest Service is leading work at Windy Peak, while the Jefferson Conservation District is leading the Mt. Blue Sky project. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and CORE Electric Cooperative are also supporting defensible-space efforts at Mt. Blue Sky.

The Mt. Blue Sky project is expected to exceed $1 million. Outdoor Lab Foundation helped secure a $450,000 Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant through the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, supplemented by additional state and federal funding. At Windy Peak, the Colorado State Forest Service has provided planning and forest management expertise and funded more than $193,000 in contracted work to begin treatment this year.

Together, these projects will benefit 200 acres across both campuses.

Pictured left to right: Garrick Bateman, Bryan Martin, and Becky Paschke signing the grant agreement with Jefferson Conservation Dist.



YOUTH SATISFACTION SURVEY

1,005 6th Grade Responses

In Partnership With Teachers

Voluntary and Anonymous

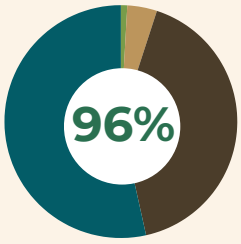
Unprompted, 47% named a core class as what they liked best

ARCHERY, ASTRONOMY, LEAVE NO TRACE, SITE HISTORY AND FIRE ECOLOGY

97% AGREE OR STRONGLY AGREE

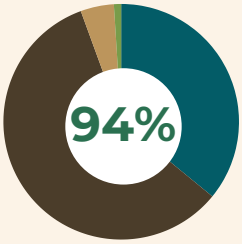
"I enjoyed spending time with the High School Leaders"





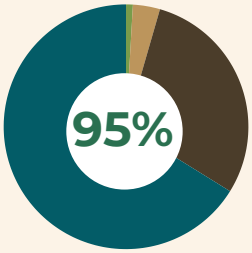
I felt safe participating in all activities

96% Agree or Strongly Agree



Classes and activities were interesting

94% Agree or Strongly Agree



I would recommend to a friend

95% Agree or Strongly Agree

How will you incorporate Stewardship and the I.C.A.R.E. values—Integrity, Commitment, Attention, Respect, and Empathy—into your daily life?





STEWARDSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

Volunteers and community partners played an important role in caring for and improving both Outdoor Lab campuses this year. At Mount Blue Sky and Windy Peak, volunteers supported invasive species removal, trail maintenance, painting projects, and improvements to the initiatives courses. Partners including Barber-Nichols, Bryan Construction, Galloway, National Charity League, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Walmart, Credit Union of Denver, Credit Union of Colorado, and local Scouts contributed time, expertise, and hands-on support to projects that strengthen campus infrastructure and help preserve these spaces for future generations of students at Outdoor Lab.

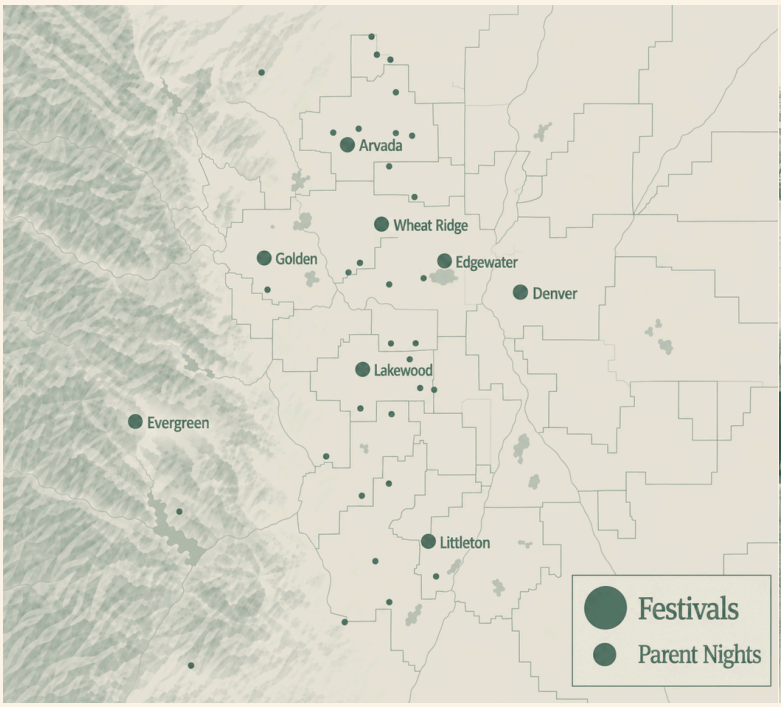
This year, 160+ volunteers supported 16 events, contributing 780 hours valued at an estimated $28,000. We are deeply grateful to every volunteer and partner who gave their time and energy to support Outdoor Lab and help care for the places that make these experiences possible.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH HIGHLIGHTS

Community outreach helps us connect directly with families and community members across Jefferson County. Through parent nights, fairs, festivals, and other local gatherings, we share information, answer questions, and connect people to Outdoor Lab.

The map below reflects the reach of these efforts across Jeffco, from mountain communities to the metro area. **This year, 130+ volunteers supported 18 events, contributing 315 hours valued at an estimated $11,500.** By maintaining a presence in a variety of settings, we are able to connect with families where they gather and reach communities across a broad geographic area. These opportunities help build familiarity with Outdoor Lab and strengthen connections throughout Jeffco.





Outdoor Lab FOUNDATION

2026 HIGHLIGHTS

TOTAL VALUE OF CONTRIBUTIONS: $455,000

- ☑ **$150K** FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE
- ☑ **$35K** FOR INTERN STIPENDS
- ☑ **$6K** FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
- ☑ **$17K** FOR EVENING PRESENTATIONS



4,100+ STUDENTS ATTENDED FROM 34 NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS

1,200+ UNDER-RESOURCED STUDENTS ATTENDED FOR FREE

We ♡ our Volunteers

280 VOLUNTEERS CONTRIBUTED
1,000+ HOURS VALUED AT **$41,000**

14 TITLE-I SCHOOLS SERVED



1,000+ HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS RECRUITED



- ☑ **$25K** DONATED TO GEAR LIBRARY
- ☑ **$90K** DONATED TO SITE SUPPORT



INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVED

TRAIL MAINTENANCE COMPLETED





CO STATE FOREST SERVICE CONTRIBUTED $193,000+ TO FOREST HEALTH EFFORTS

PEAK PERFORMERS

COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR

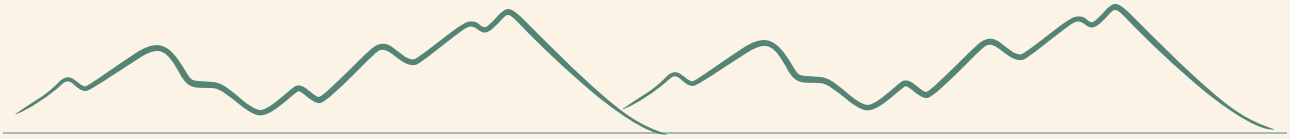
Emily Hatch (Wheat Ridge HS)

Emily is new to her counseling team but enthusiastically jumped into her duties to recruit High School Leaders. Since joining the team of counselors across the district who lead recruitment efforts, she has been a great collaborator and champion for the program. This year, she recruited over 60 High School Leaders who helped over 800 sixth-grade students.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Devin Hughes

Devin was a five-time High School Leader and an intern at Windy Peak during the 2023-2024 school year. He continues to support Outdoor Lab by jumping in to help wherever needed during site visits. In addition, Devin is an active volunteer with the Foundation, contributing to our community outreach and fundraising efforts.



TEACHER TEAM OF THE YEAR

Carmody Middle School

The team of Christy Swackhamer, Brittany Scritchfield, and Kathi Smith leads Carmody's planning. They have been stalwart Outdoor Lab champions and have collectively been to Outdoor Lab twenty-four times. They do a fantastic job of preparing their students, working with families, training their High School Leaders, and coordinating their visiting colleagues. Carmody students always have a well-organized and fun week at Outdoor Lab.

PARTNER OF THE YEAR

Jefferson Conservation District / CO State Forest Service

JCD and CSFS have been working hard to improve the forest health on both mountain campuses. They have been instrumental in implementing defensible space and other wildfire mitigation efforts. JCD and CSFS have also been working with us to better understand how we use the properties and also advised on the development of our Fire Ecology class. Lastly, they now run evening programs on forest health for our students.

JEFFERSON CONSERVATION DISTRICT

COLORADO STATE FOREST SERVICE



AFTER DARK 2026

On May 2, 2026, our community gathered for After Dark to celebrate Outdoor Lab and mark the 50th anniversary of Windy Peak. Thanks to the generosity of our guests, donors, sponsors, volunteers, and partners, the event raised more than $110,000 to support the programs, places, and people that make Outdoor Lab possible. The evening was a powerful reminder of the generations of supporters who believe in outdoor education and help ensure more students can experience the lasting impact of Outdoor Lab.

Thank you to our sponsors:

Valorem Financial
FirstBank
Highlands Sport & Spine
Ackerman Engineering
Barber-Nichols
City of Golden
CORE Electric
Clove & Twine
Loenbro
Compass Mechanical
Basecamp Legal
Bob's Atomic Burgers
One Hope



FOUNDATION PARTNERS

Ackerman Engineering has contributed over $25,000 to date. They have sponsored After Dark galas and served as the lead electrical engineer for the Mount Blue Sky dining room and Windy Peak bunkhouse.

As the electricity service provider to Outdoor Lab, they have donated over $50,000 through their “CORE Gives” Program and helped with fire mitigation work along their power lines.

Powder 7 donates 7% of sales for one day during their peak ski sales season. This program has generated over $40,000 and improved the Foundation’s brand awareness.

Co-Founder Kim Gieseler served on our Board of Directors and was Chair from 2021–2023. The company supports Outdoor Lab through volunteerism, After Dark, and contributions totaling $20,000 to date.

Thank you to our partners:

1 Stop Printing
Ackerman Engineering
Applewood Community Fdn
Arvada-Jefferson Kiwanis
Barber-Nichols
Benson Family Fdn
Bivouac Coffee
Brannan Companies
Bryan Construction
Burt Foundation
CertaPro Painters
Clove & Twine
Colorado Gives Fdn
Colorado OEDIT
Colorado Parks & Wildlife
CORE Electric
Credit Union of Colorado
Credit Union of Denver
Denver Colfax Marathon
El Pomar Foundation
EPA
Evergreen Legacy Fdn
Evergreen Rotary Club
FirstBank
City of Golden
Golden Civic Fdn
Highlands Sport & Spine
HydraPak
Jeffco Open Space Fdn
Jeffco Public Schools
Jeffco Schools Fdn
JSC936 Fdn
King Soopers
City of Lakewood
Mountain Time Soap
Patagonia
Powder 7
Safeway
Tectonic Mgmt Group
Tersus Solutions
Valorem Financial
Walmart
Waste Management
Weifield Group
Wells Fargo
Westerra Credit Union
City of Westminster
City of Wheat Ridge

WAYS TO GIVE

Recurring Donor

Becoming a recurring donor has a significant impact here at the Outdoor Lab Foundation. It's reliable funding we can count on each month. By signing up, you're saying to the community: "This is important and Outdoor Lab and its legacy matter." Caring for and guiding our students to care for the outdoors matters. Scan the QR code to become a recurring donor today or visit **outdoorlabfoundation.org/donate**.

Gift of Stock

Appreciated securities or mutual fund shares you've owned for more than one year are excellent charitable gifts. Each stock gift we handle strengthens our programmatic work while providing tax benefits for supporters. Donating stock or securities offers numerous benefits: a federal income tax deduction for a charitable contribution based on the stock's fair market value on the date of the gift (up to 30% of your adjusted gross income) provided you owned the stock for more than one year; carryover of the deduction for up to five additional years if the fair market value of the gift is more than 30% of your adjusted gross income; and avoidance of capital gains tax that is due when you sell appreciated stock. Note: stock owned for one year or less is considered a short-term asset and usually won't produce attractive tax benefits. We recommend that you consult with your attorney or tax advisor about the various tax benefits and restrictions that may apply to your specific situation. We are available to you and your advisors to answer questions or help arrange a planned gift to Outdoor Lab Foundation.

Corporate Sponsor

Our corporate partners play an important role in our ability to achieve our mission. We have developed a tradition of generous, committed support from companies large and small over the years. We offer a variety of platforms for companies and their employees to become involved and engaged with Outdoor Lab. Whether your interest lies with a corporate sponsorship, volunteerism, employee engagement, cause-related marketing, in-kind donations, or event promotion, the Outdoor Lab Foundation can help meet your unique objectives.

Planned Giving

Planned giving, like including Outdoor Lab Foundation in your will, allows you to decide how to distribute your assets after you pass away. Listing us in your estate is a fantastic way to ensure future generations of Jeffco students have access to Outdoor Lab. We recommend that you consult with your attorney or tax advisor about the various tax benefits and restrictions that may apply to your specific situation. Foundation staff are available to you and your advisors to answer questions or help arrange a planned gift that meets your needs.

LEGACY SOCIETY

The Outdoor Lab Legacy Society recognizes our most dedicated supporters whose generosity, volunteerism, and long-term commitment help secure the future of Outdoor Lab. Legacy Society members ensure Outdoor Lab continues to inspire generations of Jeffco students.

Don Ackerman
Mick and Angie Alcock
Marcia Anker
Lindsay Bearup
The Benson Family
Sally Blanchard
Ed Bohn
Jeff Brekke
Vivian Burrows
Alex Campbell
Karlyn Carpenter
Scott Charter
Nicholas Christenson
Marc and Nicole Collins
Louise Colvert
Kip and Emily Cranford
Karen Cravens
David Deidel
Amy Dempsey
Ben and Tracy Dorland
Dan Faath
Jill and Ken Fellman
Adrienne Fischer
Barbara Fuller
Sue Gallagher
Greg and Kim Gieseler
Linda Gieseler
Robb and Kari Gneiser
Jane Goin
Marcus Gregory
Gus Greivel
Brandon Guernsey
Jason Guerrero
Megan Haggstrom
Anne Hallock
Blair Hamill
John and Jennifer Hamilton
Doug and Cori Hanisch
Melissa and Brad Hanson
Susan Harmon
Dave Harris
Judith Hill
Gretchen Hock
Allan and Mary Horton
Terry and Peggy Horton
Amy Jacobs
Susan Jantzer
Jens Jensen
Josie Jones
Carl and Maybelle Kantner
Blanche Kapushion
Kathryn Keach
Jack and Sondra Kellogg
Abby Kilgas
Matt and Allison Lausten
Elizabeth Licavoli
Abby Lilly
Tony Lodice
Ryan Lucas
Rafael Maestas
Lisa Manie
Charlotte Maybury
Katie McClammer
BJ and Harold Meadows
Chris and Kristen Meier
Dave and Deb Miller
Leonard Nelson
Roberta J. Nieto
Michele Nosari
Dave Olson
Leslie and Henning Olsson
David and Peggy Orloff
Matt and Regina Palaoro
Sergio Morales Parra
Ralph and Ruth Pautz
Marcus and Jennifer Pennell
Craig Pierce
Joe Pierzchala
Roger Pool
Hilary Porter
Ashley Pratt
Eric Pratt
Harold and Norby Pratt
Jim Prichard
Chris Pulec
Joshua and Debbie Queen
Nancy Reisher
Tony Renfrow
Samuel Reyes Lopez
Bo and Tressa Riley
Derek Riley
Layle and Barbara Robb
Scott and Tori Rommel
Laurie Sanderson-Walcott
Steve and Helmi Sandifer
The Scheppers Family
John Stephen Schroeder
Mark Schultz
Susan Shucard
Kevin and Shelley Smith
Stacy Smoot
Meghan Stinton
Geoffrey Sweeney
John Teff
Julie Tolleson and Pam Zaske
Bob and Jennifer Toohill
Allison Torpey
Keith and Corrie Turgeon
Teresa Ulmer
Rod Wagner
Janice Weimer
Jonathan Weimer and Emily May
Bob and Kathy Weiss
Kelly Wilhelm
Rich and Katie Winner
Bob Workman

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Assets:

Unrestricted: $1,025,149
Restricted: $328,301
Total Assets: $1,353,450

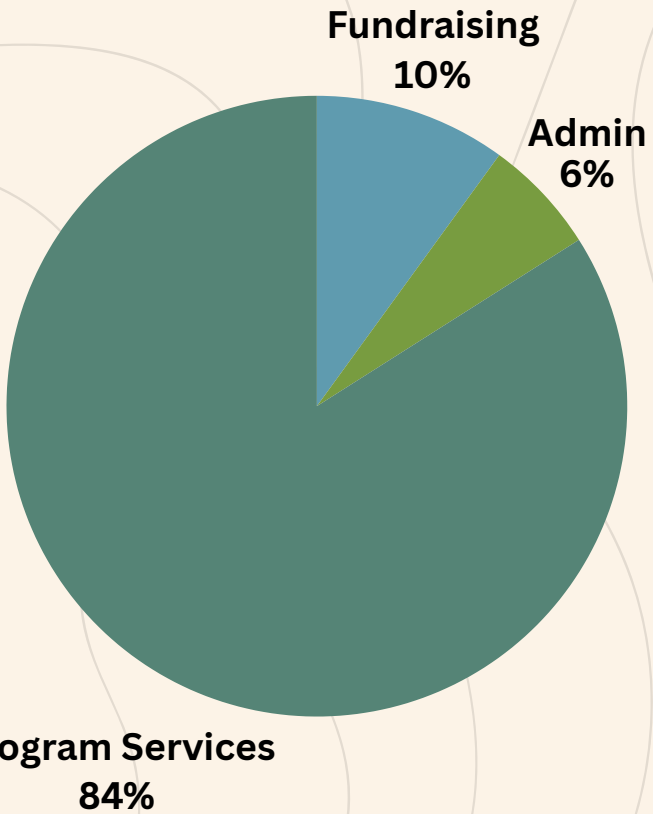
Income:

Contributions & Grants: $579,738
In-Kind Support: $100,113
Investment Income: $108,408
Total Income: $788,259

Expenses:

Fundraising: $84,483
Program Services: $752,787
General & Administration: $54,543
Total Expenses: $891,813

2025-26 Expenses



AFTER DARK

Outdoor Lab Foundation

SAVE THE DATE

NIGHT OF IMPACT

MAY 1, 2027

DENVER MARRIOTT WEST
GOLDEN, CO
4:30-9:30 PM



Camp Casual Dress



Camp Activities



Festive Food



Exciting Auctions

An immersive evening celebrating the discoveries, growth, and values of Outdoor Lab.

outdoorlabfoundation.org/afterdark

581 Conference Place
Golden, CO 80401
(303) 982-1200
www.OutdoorLabFoundation.org