A Letter from the Executive Director

It was a landmark year for Outdoor Lab in 2023. Together, we contributed over $400,000 in grants, in-kind donations, and volunteer support to our sites, schools, teachers. All of this toward making sure Outdoor Lab is a safe, fun, and impactful experience for every student in Jeffco. We opened two new buildings as well! Lastly, we launched a brand-new Career Pathways Program to help our High School Leaders and Interns sharpen their job readiness skills while also deepening their love for the outdoors.

The Foundation has many other things to celebrate in 2023, including our 20th anniversary, the release of a new impact report, new financial supporters, strengthened corporate partnerships, and a burgeoning volunteer corps.

As you know, we are 100% committed to making sure that no matter which neighborhood or articulation area a young person is growing up in access to Outdoor Lab is available to them. This means breaking down barriers to access.

Our most important philanthropic outlay is our Tuition Assistance Program. This year we granted $177,000 to 35 middle schools to ensure our most under-resourced students had their Outdoor Lab fees paid for. In addition, we worked with Jeffco leadership to change how fees for free and reduced lunch students are assessed so that local schools are not feeling overly stressed to cover costs for our most vulnerable students going forward.

We also recognize that not every kiddo sees themselves in outdoor culture so we have set up a number of support systems to make sure Outdoor Lab is a unifying experience for everyone. Specifically, this past year we garnered donations of outerwear valued at over $75,000 to ensure students are warm dry and comfortable. We've made important investments in the sites to ensure they're both welcoming and inspirational venues for outdoor learning. And, we've been engaging more at schools to support teachers and coordinators with outreach to students and families so that everyone is welcomed and prepared - and feeling confident - they'll have an extraordinary experience at Outdoor Lab.

We wouldn't be able to achieve these milestones without you. You are the visionaries, supporters, volunteers, and practitioners who engage weekly, monthly, and annually to help us achieve our mission. Thank you for your continued support and advocacy of this important local tradition.

Bryan Martin
Our Team

Foundation Staff
- Bryan Martin
  Executive Director
- Misha Shearer
  Community Relations Manager
- Kaelib TeeGarden
  Donor Relations Manager

Administrative Staff
- Jason Dewar
  High School Leader Coordinator
- Tarah Blazek
  Program Coordinator

Board of Directors
- Kristen Meier
  Board Chair
- Doug Hanisch
  Treasurer
- Kim Gieseler
  Immediate Past Chair
- Jason Dewar
  At-Large
- Ben Dorland
  At-Large
- Jonathan Weimer
  At-Large
- John Hamilton
  Vice Chair
- Emily Cranford
  Secretary
- Kathy Weiss
  At-Large
- Brandon Guernsey
  At-Large
- Allison Torpey
  At-Large

Thank You Site Staff!

Mount Blue Sky
- Ryan Bazz
  Principal
- Michele Wright
  Principal’s Secretary
- Christopher Kenney
  Program Director
- Jason Harding
  Program Specialist
- Kathy Farnsworth
  Registered Nurse
- Katie Moser
  Registered Nurse
- Donna Deneke
  Kitchen Manager
- Daniel Martinez
  Site Manager
- Kathy Della Mia
  Assistant Site Manager

Windy Peak
- Robb Gneiser
  Principal
- Roxanne Herzog
  Principal’s Secretary
- Garden Marantino
  Program Director
- Shawna Spivey
  Program Specialist
- Nicole Collins
  Registered Nurse
- LeAnne Downing
  Registered Nurse
- Danny Aronson
  Food Service Manager
- Kari Gneiser
  Food Service Lead
- Sawyer Gneiser
  Food Service
- Pat Bramblett
  Site Manager
- Ricky Martinez
  Assistant Site Manager

[Images of site staff]
## 2023 Highlights

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievements</th>
<th>Figures/Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5,000 students attended outdoor lab</td>
<td>35 neighborhood schools participated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>900 high school leaders contributed 76,500 hours as instructors and mentors</td>
<td>280 core classes taught</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$177,000 in tuition assistance distributed</td>
<td>$20,000 in intern stipends committed to 40 interns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One dining hall and bunkhouse funded</td>
<td>1,082 volunteer hours contributed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$75,000 in outerwear donated to gear libraries</td>
<td>20,000 youth program days in the field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One historic preservation plan completed</td>
<td>56 astronomy nights held</td>
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### - More Stats -

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Highlights</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40,000 miles hiked by sixth-graders</td>
<td>1 teacher’s residence renovated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,082 volunteer hours contributed</td>
<td>448 flag ceremonies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5,000 students attended outdoor lab</td>
<td>500 social emotional surveys conducted</td>
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</table>
We have all experienced the pleasure of taking a walk in nature or simply sitting beneath a tree on a beautiful day. A crisp winter chill, rustling leaves falling around you, the smell of wildflowers coming to life in spring. These experiences stir the senses and leave us all feeling refreshed and energized. But what has come into focus in recent years are the many tangible benefits - academic, physical, and emotional - that spending time in nature can yield.

Hundreds of studies across the globe have examined exactly what happens to hormone levels, heart rate, mood, education outcomes, civic-mindedness, focus, and other physiological and psychological measures when we are immersed, even briefly, in the natural world. The extensive evidence converges on the same conclusion: being outdoors, especially outside in green spaces, is good for us.

Nonprofit organizations such as the Children and Nature Network, the North American Association for Environmental Education, the Search Institute, Hello Insight, and Fresh Tracks, are coalescing the best academic research on the physical, academic, mental, and communal benefits of a close connection to nature.

Outdoor Lab has been producing these benefits for students since its inception. Beyond the curricular lessons of environmental science, natural history, sustainability, or geology, Outdoor Lab offers a unique opportunity for developing social-emotional learning in an awe-inspiring wilderness setting. Environmental education and outdoor science programs, especially those providing longer and overnight experiences like Outdoor Lab, can play an important role in supporting students’ social and emotional development.
Findings - SEL Overall Results

When comparing Outdoor Lab students to approximately 125,000 young people participating in 1,500 programs nationwide, Outdoor Lab has proven to be a solid research-based intervention that promotes SEL development. Outdoor Lab was particularly strong at growing Academic Self Efficacy, Social Skills, Positive Identity, and Well-Being in the Outdoors.

- **95%** Students who grew in at least one Core SEL capacity
- **70%** Students who showed significant growth in one of the three Outdoor SEL capacities
- **50%** Students who reported an increase in the number of adults who care for them and want to see them succeed
- **74%** Students who would recommend Outdoor Lab to a friend
- **70%** Students who told us that Outdoor Lab engaged them in learning styles that they prefer
- **68%** Students who reported “Engage Authentically” experiences, which measure a young person’s experience with an adult who takes the time to get to know them by listening and understanding who they are
- **70%** Students who reported “Challenge Growth” experiences, which measure a young person’s experience with an adult who encourages them to take risks and perform beyond their own expectations
Findings - SEL Title 1 Results

Title 1 students exceeded the overall population in having Engage Authentically, Promote Peer Bonds, and Challenge Growth experiences while at Outdoor Lab. Growth in Academic Self-Efficacy was the same in Title 1 students as in the overall population.

96% = Students grew in at least one Core SEL capacity

Students showed significant growth in at least one Outdoor SEL capacity = 73%

53% = Students reported an increase in the number of adults that care for them and want to see them succeed.

Measures where Title 1 students’ growth outpaced overall Core SEL measures = 3/5

100% = Of Title 1 students’ growth outpaced the overall population in Outdoor SEL measures

Title 1 students reported a higher Program satisfaction score = 79%

74% = More Title 1 students told us that Outdoor Lab engaged them in learning styles that they prefer

Title 1 students reported a higher Program satisfaction score = 79%
Site Support Highlights

Outdoor Lab’s inspirational mountain campuses are the backdrop of every experience at Outdoor Lab. The Foundation’s Site Support Program ensures that Mount Blue Sky and Windy Peak are maintained and improved so they may continue to host transformational outdoor experiences for thousands of Jeffco sixth-graders each year.

In the last year:

- Mount Blue Sky opened its new 6,000-square-foot building for dining and meal preparation, with a wrap-around deck and “garage-style” doors, supported by a $100,000 gift from the Foundation.
- Windy Peak opened a new 2,000-square-foot bunkhouse that will sleep 20 students.
- The Foundation donated $35,000 to renovate a teachers’ residence at Windy Peak.

This summer, along with community partners, corporate sponsors, and dedicated volunteers, the Foundation has been working hard to maintain and improve trails for the upcoming school year. Thank you to our volunteers who attend our Site Workdays to make necessary improvements that ensure the safety and comfort of students and staff on our mountain campuses!

A special thank you to...

- Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado for their expertise in planning and executing a trail re-route and stair re-build at Munt Blue Sky.
- Athletic Brewing Co. for selecting the Outdoor Lab Foundation as a recipient of their Two for the Trails grant that provided crucial funding for this project.
- Jordan’s Building Center in Wheat Ridge for donating all of the treated timber needed to re-build stairs on the Ecosystem trail.
- Pioneer Co. for donating all of the crusher fines needed to fill in the new staircase.
- Newmont Corporation for organizing a company volunteer day to help re-route and maintain the Ecosystem trail.
- Team Rubicon for their well-organized multi-day fire mitigation project on our Windy Peak campus.
Thank you to each and every one of our Legacy Society members.
Legacy Society members have walked the trails of Outdoor Lab with our students, and their footprint will have a lasting impact.
Thank You Generous Partners

Grants Received

- Colorado State Historical Fund
- City of Golden
- City of Wheat Ridge
- City of Lakewood
- Westminster Human Services Board
- Aegon Transamerica Foundation
- Virginia Hill Foundation
- Community First Foundation
- Whole Foods Market Community Giving Program
- Golden Civic Foundation
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife
- Applewood Community Foundation
- City of Arvada
- Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry Office
All The Ways to Give

Become a 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.

Make a Gift of Stock of Appreciated Assets

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 offer numerous benefits: • A federal income charitable contribution tax deduction based on the stock's fair market value on the date of the gift (up to 30% of your adjusted gross income) if the stock was owned 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.

Become a 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.

Make a Planned Gift

Planned giving, like including the 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 for the various tax benefits and restrictions that may apply to your specific situation. Staff at the Foundation are available to you and your advisors to answer questions or help arrange a planned gift that meets your needs.
Financial Overview 2022-23

Assets:
Unrestricted: $1,211,036
Restricted: $247,472
Total Assets: $1,458,508

Income:
Contributions & Grants: $506,988
In-Kind Support: $48,227
Investment Loss: ($3,856)
Assets Released from Restriction: $180,297
Total Income: $551,359

Expenses:
Fundraising: $27,262
Program Services: $638,523
General & Administration: $74,258
Total Expenses: $740,043

2022-23 Expenses
- Fundraising 3.7%
- Administrative 10%
- Program Services 86.3%
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<tr>
<th>History Colorado</th>
<th>KING Soopers</th>
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| ATHLETIC BREWING CO®  
NON-ALCOHOLIC BREWS | City of Golden |
| City of Wheat Ridge | Lakewood Colorado |
| Outdoor Lab Foundation  
3000 Youngfield St, Ste 167  
Wheat Ridge, CO 80215  
OutdoorLabFoundation.org  
(720) 403-8241 | 1stBANK |