

2022-23 ANNUAL REPORT



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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Carter", written in a cursive style.

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



2023 Highlights

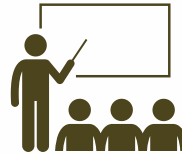
5,000 STUDENTS
ATTENDED OUTDOOR
LAB



**35 NEIGHBORHOOD
SCHOOLS**
PARTICIPATED



**900 HIGH SCHOOL
LEADERS CONTRIBUTED
76,500 HOURS AS
INSTRUCTORS AND
MENTORS**



**280 CORE
CLASSES TAUGHT**

**\$177,000 IN TUITION
ASSISTANCE DISTRIBUTED**



**\$20,000 IN INTERN
STIPENDS
COMMITTED TO 40
INTERNS**



**ONE DINING HALL AND
BUNKHOUSE FUNDED**



**1,082 VOLUNTEER
HOURS
CONTRIBUTED**

**\$75,000 IN OUTERWEAR
DONATED TO GEAR
LIBRARIES**



**20,000 YOUTH
PROGRAM DAYS
IN THE FIELD**



**ONE HISTORIC
PRESERVATION PLAN
COMPLETED**



**56 ASTRONOMY
NIGHTS HELD**

- More Stats -

**40,000 MILES
HIKED BY SIXTH-
GRADERS**

**1 TEACHER'S
RESIDENCE
RENOVATED**

**448 FLAG
CEREMONIES**

**500 SOCIAL
EMOTIONAL SURVEYS
CONDUCTED**

Why is Outdoor Lab Important?

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

Students who showed significant growth in one of the three Outdoor SEL capacities



70%

50%



Students who reported an increase in the number of adults who care for them and want to see them succeed

Students who would recommend Outdoor Lab to a friend



74%

70%



Students who told us that Outdoor Lab engaged them in learning styles that they prefer

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



68%

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



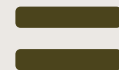
79%

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.

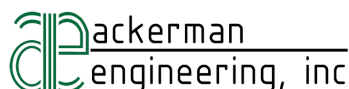
Legacy Society

- Don Ackerman
- Mick & Angie Alcock
- Marcia Anker
- Sally Blanchard
- Ed Bohn
- Holly & Jeff Brekke
- Vivian Burrows
- Alex Campbell
- Karlyn Carpenter
- Nicholas Christenson
- Louise Colvert
- Emily & Kip Cranford
- Karen Cravens
- David & Kelly Deidel
- Amy Dempsey
- Jason & Jennifer Dewar
- Ben & Tracy Dorland
- Dan Faath
- Ken & Jill Fellman
- Barbara Fuller
- Greg & Kim Gieseler
- Linda Gieseler
- Robb Gneiser
- Marcus Gregory
- Gus Greivel
- Jason Guerrero
- Megan Haggstrom
- Blair Hamill
- John & Jennifer Hamilton
- Doug Hanisch
- Susan & Larry Harmon
- David Harris
- Heather Hawker
- Judith Hill
- Peggy & Terry Horton
- Amy Jacobs
- Susan Jantzer
- Jens Jensen
- Blanche Kapushion
- Kathryn Keach
- Sondray Kellogg
- Matt and Allison Lausten
- Abby Lilly
- Tony Lodice
- Ryan and Kelly Lucas
- Rafe Maestas
- Charlotte Maybury
- BJ Meadows
- Kristen Meier
- Dave Miller
- Leonard Nelson
- Henry and Roberta Nieto
- David Olson
- Jennifer & Marcus Pennell
- Joe Pierzchala
- Roger and Carolynn Pool
- Hilary Porter
- Harold & Norby Pratt
- Ashley Pratt
- Jim & Marilyn Prichard
- Debbie Queen
- Nancy Reisher
- Tressa & Bo Riley
- Derek Riley
- Barbara & Layle Robb
- Scott and Tori Rommel
- Laurie Sanderson-Walcott
- Steve Sandifer
- John Schroeder
- Mark Schultz
- Sue Shucard
- Kevin Smith
- Meghan Stinton
- Julie Tolleson
- Teresa Ulmer
- Kim and Rod Wagner
- Jonathan Weimer & Emily May
- Kathy & Bob Weiss
- David Weiss
- Eric Wilhelm
- Rich & Katie Winner
- Bob Workman

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



Newmont Corporation Ethos Veterinary Health LLC Avid 4 Adventure Golden Mtn Guides

Hamill Design Group 5280 Burger Bar Kullestrand PTA Kiwanis Club of Columbine

Homegrown Tap and Dough Golden Lions Club Virgin Experiences Katherine Homes

Mountainsmith Grip6 Exxel Outdoors Christy Sports Pioneer Sand and Gravel

Lakewood ELKS Lodge Jordan's Building Center National Geographic Maps Hestra Gloves

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:

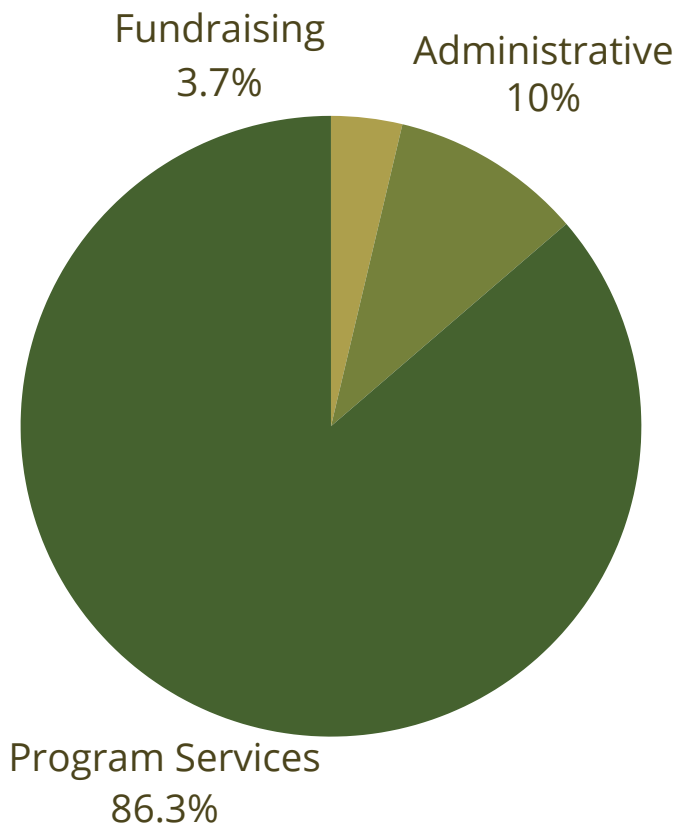
Fundraising: \$27,262

Program Services: \$638,523

General & Administration: \$74,258

Total Expenses: \$740,043

2022-23 Expenses





History Colorado



ATHLETIC BREWING CO[®]
NON-ALCOHOLIC BREWS



City of
Golden



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1STBANK