



# ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022





# A Letter from the Executive Director



Thank you for a fantastic year of partnership and progress at Outdoor Lab. In the proceeding pages of this Annual Report, you will learn about the work we are doing alongside the site staff, the school district, and the community to sustain and strengthen Outdoor Lab. Additionally, I hope you will reconnect with why your support for the program matters and how important Outdoor Lab is to our community.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Outdoor Lab serving students in Jeffco. There are very few programs in the country that operate at a scale as large, have such inspirational and emotive campuses, provide the depth and breadth of programming, and tie back to the curriculum being taught at home schools.

Over the past year, we completed 57 week-long camps, served 35 middle schools, provided over 15,000 nights under the stars, recruited over 900 high school leaders, and supported 40 interns on campus. In total, we served over 5,000 students connecting them – often for the first time – to the outdoors. In total, students hiked over 48,000 miles and were engaged in experiential learning through over 24,000 program days.

While at Outdoor Lab, students develop self-confidence, self-efficacy, autonomy, and leadership. Moreover, environmental education has proven to emphasize skills essential for succeeding in tomorrow's world, such as questioning, investigating, defining problems, developing conclusions, and identifying solutions. It also supports cooperative learning, critical thinking and discussion, and focuses learners on action strategies with real-world applications.

Because of you and our robust community of supporters, the Outdoor Lab Foundation is well-positioned to better equip and support our teachers, students, and families as they prepare for Outdoor Lab. More importantly, we have established a vision for the program that will enhance, and make more meaningful, the Outdoor Lab experience for all students now, and into the future.

Thank You!

Handwritten signature of Bryan Carter

# 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

**Kim Gieseler**

Board Chair

**Kristen Meier**

Vice Chair

**Jens Jensen**

Immediate Past Chair

**Richard Armitage**

Board Secretary

**John Hamilton**

At-Large

**Kathy Weiss**

At-Large

**Jason Dewar**

At-Large

**Doug Hanisch**

At-Large

**Emily Cranford**

At-Large

**Brandon Guernsey**

At-Large

**Ben Dorland**

At-Large

# Thank You Site Staff!

## Mount Evans

**Ryan Bazz**

Principal

**Michele Wright**

Principal's Secretary

**Marilyn Allen**

Program Director

**Jason Harding**

Program Specialist

**Kathy Farnsworth**

Registered Nurse

**Katie Moser**

Registered Nurse

**Donna Deneke**

Kitchen Manager

**Darla Schueppert**

Kitchen Lead

**Daniel Martinez**

Site Manager

**Josh Sanchez**

Assistant Site Manager

## Windy Peak

**Robb Gneiser**

Principal

**Roxanne Herzog**

Principal's Secretary

**Garden Marantino**

Program Director

**Christopher Kenney**

Program Specialist

**Nicole Collins**

Registered Nurse

**LeAnne Downing**

Registered Nurse

**Danny Aronson**

Food Service Manager

**Kari Gneiser**

Food Service Lead

**Merritt Gneiser**

Food Service

**Pat Bramblett**

Site Manager

**Ricky Martinez**

Assistant Site Manager



# Our Strategic Direction

We are heartened by the overall direction of the organization. In addition to our programmatic accomplishments, we have earned **GuideStar Platinum Status** and a **100 of 100 Give with Confidence score from Charity Navigator**. We have also become a **1% for the Planet Environmental Partner**.

Most importantly, the Foundation has written a new multi-year strategic plan to define our work through 2025. Our strategic pillars are – Strong Partnerships, Lasting Support, and Community Relevance. Read below for an overview of our plan or click this QR code to be linked to a more in depth explainer.



## Strategic Priority 1

Partnerships form the foundation of what we do. We must have great relationships with the mountain campuses, neighborhood schools, district administrators, and other non-profit organizations to achieve our mission and vision. Here, our goal is to **deepen our partnerships with our closest stakeholders** by serving as a convener of ideas, a supporter of our shared priorities, and a reliable problem solver.

## Strategic Priority 2

Fundraising success is vital to our ability to realize programmatic goals. Increased funding will allow us to deploy more resources into the community, build capacity internally, and ensure high quality outdoor learning experiences for students. Here, our goal is to **secure sustainable and replicable revenue for the Foundation and broad public support for Outdoor Lab**.

## Strategic Priority 3

To warrant strengthened support from our community we must make certain that our services are meaningful, relevant, and successful. Moreover, we must support Outdoor Lab's work to be a safe and trusted provider of environmental education experiences for all students. Here, our goal is to **ensure families, students, teachers, and schools feel confident about participating in Outdoor Lab** knowing that we are connected to what truly matters to them.



# Tangible Achievements

With our strategic plan as a guide, we will focus on the following major initiatives. We are proud of what we have already accomplished through these programs and look forward to investing more time and resources into them in the years ahead.

**The Tuition Assistance Program** – In 2022, we delivered nearly **\$200,000 in tuition assistance grants to 35 middle schools**. An inability to pay the tuition should not be a barrier for children to have a transformative time in the outdoors.

**The Intern Program** – Provide a **\$1,000 stipend and coordinate 3 college credits to 40 interns** each year. We're also building a Career Pathways Program to support interns in their next step after Outdoor Lab.

**The High School Leader Program** – Recruiting great high school leaders and ensuring they are ready for Outdoor Lab is a major priority for us. We will continue to outfit them and **provide three \$2,000 scholarships** per year for our most outstanding leaders.

**The Site Support Program** – In 2022, we delivered **\$108,000 to the Mount Evans campus** to assist in the construction of the new dining hall. We have also funded repairs to the Astronomy Lab, renovated a staff residence, and coordinated **two 30-person volunteer projects** to keep the campuses looking great.

**Evening Programs** – We have established a fund to help schools get engaging evening presentations booked and paid for in an easy and efficient manner.

**Gear Library Expansion** – We have garnered over **\$100,000 in product donations** to fill the shelves of both sites with lightly-used or new gear and outerwear so students can stay warm, dry, and feeling safe while in the mountains and away from home.

**Historic Preservation** – We were recently awarded a **\$50,000 grant from the State Historic Fund** to protect the Windy Peak campus's historic buildings. This important legacy project will make the site's history come to life for students.





# Community Engagement

We've been engaging with our community more than ever this past year and are incredibly thankful for our strengthened relationships and new connections.

We hosted two volunteer workdays to prepare the Mount Evans and Windy Peak campuses for the upcoming school year. More than 60 people combined over both sites worked on various projects such as rebuilding amphitheater benches, redoing the flag circle, painting picnic tables, mitigating fire risks, and mulching the initiatives course.

We also held After Dark 2022, our annual fundraising celebration, at the Rose Event center in downtown Golden with 200 community members attending and giving back to Outdoor Lab. Local 9News reporter and Outdoor Lab alum Marc Sallinger and national champion auctioneer Shawn Hagler joined us to facilitate the evening.

Throughout the school year we have attended parent nights to support our sixth-grade students, teachers, and their families as they prepare for their trip to Mount Evans or Windy Peak. We've been in high schools across the district to support recruitment of our wonderful high school leaders who help make the program run at such a large scale. We've also identified new ways to engage with different populations in our community at events such as the Colorado School of Mines involvement fair.

We look forward to seeing you out in the community next year!





# Major Progress on Outdoor Lab Construction Projects

Great progress is being made on the new construction projects at Mount Evans and Windy Peak. The new dining hall at Mount Evans will boast over 6,000 square feet of dining and meal prep space, a wrap-around deck overlooking the meadow, and an open-air dining environment (weather permitting!) made possible by three garage-style doors that open to the deck.

The Windy Peak bunkhouse project adds 2,000 square feet of sleeping space – enough for 20 students! This is a much-needed upgrade for Windy Peak as the new building will have toilets and showers within the space. All the other bunkhouses at Windy sleep many fewer students and require the use of a centrally located bathhouse. Limiting the number of students that must leave their bunkhouses to use the bathhouse at night will improve safety and cleanliness for all.

We are grateful for our partners BH Phipps Construction (Evans) and Bryan Construction (Windy) for their hard work to make these awesome new assets a reality for Outdoor Lab students. We are also indebted to Hilary Porter, from Jeffco's Construction Management team, for her stalwart efforts to see these projects through from conception to completion.



***Drawing of Mount Evan's Dining Hall Design***



***Progress at Mount Evans***



***Drawing of Windy Peak's Bunkhouse Design***



***Progress at Windy Peak***

# Legacy Society

- Don Ackerman
- Sally Blanchard
- Ed Bohn
- Jeff & Holly Brekke
- Vivian Burrows
- Alex Campbell
- Louise Colvert
- Dave Coren
- Emily Cranford
- Karen Cravens
- David Deidel
- Jason Dewar
- Ben Dorland
- Ken & Jill Fellman
- Barbara Fuller
- Kim and Greg Gieseler
- Linda Gieseler
- Jason Guerrero
- John Hamilton
- Doug Hanisch
- Susan Harmon
- Dave Harris
- Heather Hawker
- Judith Hill
- Peggy & Terry Horton
- Amy Jacobs
- Susan Jantzer
- Jens Jensen
- Blanche Kapushion
- Sondra & Jack Kellogg
- Matt Lausten
- Abby Lilly
- Ryan Lucas
- Rafe Maestas
- Charlotte Maybury
- BJ Meadows
- Kristen Meier
- Dave Miller
- Leonard Nelson
- Hank & Roberta Nieto
- Dave Olson
- Jennifer & Marcus Pennell
- Roger Pool
- Harold & Norby Pratt
- Ashley Pratt
- Jim & Marilyn Prichard
- Nancy Reisher
- Bo & Tressa Riley
- Derek Riley
- Barbara & Layle Robb
- Tori Rommel
- Laurie Sanderson-Walcott
- Steve Sandifer
- Mark Schultz
- John S. Schroeder
- Susan Shucard
- Elizabeth Sipes
- Anne Smith
- Theodore Swenson
- Rod Wagner
- Jonathan Weimer
- Kathy & Bob Weiss
- Eric Wilhelm
- Jennifer Williams
- Michelle Winzent
- 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 to Our Generous Sponsors



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Edward Jones Investments   Fairway Mortgage   Alpine Remediation Inc.

Evergreen Dental Group   Ethos Veterinary Health LLC   Colorado Camping Connection

## 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

Denver Children's Foundation   Golden Civic Foundation   Children and Nature Network

Kiwanis Club of Columbine   Kiwanis Club of Arvada   Kiwanis Club of West Colfax

# 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 2021-22

## Assets:

Unrestricted: \$1,045,309

Restricted: \$398,021

Total Assets: \$1,443,330

## Income:

Contributions & Grants: \$644,509

In-Kind Support: \$5,825

Investment Loss: (\$10,170)

Assets Released from Restriction: \$76,415

Total Income: \$640,164

## Expenses:

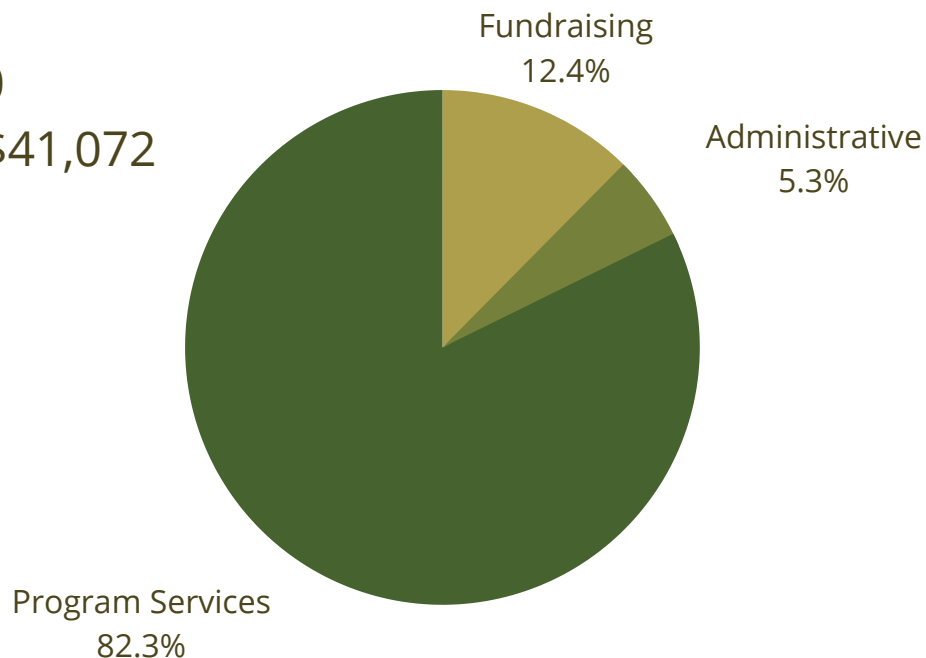
Fundraising: \$63,690

Program Services: \$633,020

General & Administration: \$41,072

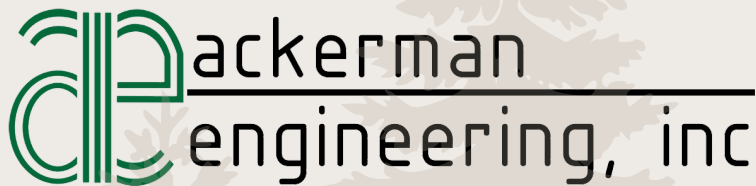
Total Expenses: \$737,782

## 2021-2022 Expenses





VALOREM  
FINANCIAL



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Wheat Ridge, CO 80215  
OutdoorLabFoundation.org  
(720) 403-8241



SULLIVAN MECK & TOOLEY, P.C.