Title

Beyond Boundaries

07/14/2026

by **Alek Wiggins** in **Impact 100 Richmond Grant Application (2026)**

id. 54642350

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Original Submission

07/14/2026

Score	n/a
1. Name of Organization	Beyond Boundaries
2. 501C3 Number	47-1935834
3. Geographic Area(s) Served:	Chesterfield County City of Richmond Goochland Hanover Henrico Powhatan
4. Application Contact Name:	Alek Wiggins
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7. Organization Website (if applicable):	BeyondBoundariesRVA.org
8. Organization Executive Director/CEO Contact:	Shep Roeper

9. Organization Executive Director/CEO Phone Number:	+18046155999
10. Organization Executive Director/CEO Email:	Shep@BeyondBoundariesRVA.org
11. What is your highest rating on GuideStar (we recommend at least Gold):	Platinum
Provide a link to your GuideStar organizational profile, if applicable.	https://app.candid.org/profile/9418647/beyond-boundaries-47-1935834
12. Please confirm that the following grant criteria are met by the applicant:	Organization has an annual operational budget above $250,000. Organization has been in existence for 36 months or longer, and is currently in good standing in the state where the entity was formed. Project will serve needs in the City of Richmond and/or the surrounding counties (Chesterfield, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, and Powhatan). Funds will be utilized within 12 - 18 months, and the program/project has demonstrated sustainability following the use of Impact 100 Richmond funds.
13. Select ONE of Impact 100 Richmond's focus areas where your proposed work best aligns:	Health & Wellness
14. Summary: Provide 1-2 sentences that summarize your specific funding request and the goal of this project or program effort?	Adventure is for all. Now, so is summer camp. We're seeking $100,000 to help build Central Virginia's first fully accessible overnight camp.

15. Organization: Briefly describe the history and mission of the organization.	Founded in 2015 with two rafting trips serving 15 people, Beyond Boundaries removes physical, cognitive, and financial barriers to outdoor recreation. Our mission is to ensure people of all abilities can experience adventure alongside their community. Guided by Access, Community, and Empowerment (A.C.E.), we now provide rafting, kayaking, climbing, fishing, hiking, biking, skiing, and boating programs across Central Virginia. In 2025, Beyond Boundaries delivered 342 programs and recorded 2,672 participant experiences, approximately 75% involving people with disabilities. We work through a network of more than 40 nonprofit and community partners, pairing our adaptive outdoor expertise with organizations that know their participants best. Our partnership with the YMCA of Greater Richmond represents the next chapter of that growth: a permanent, accessible home at Camp Thunderbird where children who have often been asked to adapt to the outdoors will instead enter a place designed to welcome them.
16. Community Need: Describe the community need(s) that the program/project will address.	Outdoor adventure can build confidence, independence, physical well-being, and social connection, but many children are still excluded from the full camp experience. Cabins with steps, narrow routes, inaccessible restrooms, limited adaptive expertise, and high participation costs can make overnight camp impractical or impossible for youth with disabilities and families with limited financial resources. The need is substantial. The CDC estimates that about one in six U.S. children has a developmental disability. Beyond Boundaries' network of more than 40 partners regularly encounters families seeking inclusive recreation, and our 342 programs recorded 2,672 participant experiences in 2025 alone. Yet Central Virginia has limited overnight infrastructure designed from the outset to support mobility, sensory, cognitive, and economic access. This project addresses both physical and financial barriers. Universally accessible cabins, restrooms, routes, and program spaces will allow more children to participate safely and with dignity, while subsidized programming and scholarships will preserve affordability. Families should not have to ask whether their child can be accommodated; they should know from the beginning that they belong.

17. Community Need: Describe how a $100,000 Impact 100 Richmond grant for this program/project would be transformational for your organization and/or the community.	A $100,000 Impact100 Richmond grant would move this project from a well-supported vision toward completed construction. Beyond Boundaries has secured $1.4 million of the $1.8 million Phase One budget. An Impact100 award would close 25% of the remaining $400,000 gap. Those final dollars represent matching commitments already in place, once the remaining $400,000 is raised, the matching funds will be released, fully funding Phase One and allowing construction to move forward. This is not an investment in an untested idea. Beyond Boundaries already serves thousands of participant experiences annually, works with more than 40 community partners, and has secured a long-term site partnership with the YMCA of Greater Richmond. What we lack is permanent overnight infrastructure designed around the needs of the people we serve. The grant would expand our work from several-hour outings into overnight camps, family weekends, leadership programs, and multi-day adventures. A child who has never been able to attend camp could sleep in an accessible cabin, share a campfire with friends, and wake up knowing the space was built with them in mind. Impact100 would help create a lasting regional asset, not a one-time program. The facilities will serve children, families, and nonprofit partners for decades, extending the value of the investment far beyond construction.
18. Program/Project: Provide a high-level description of the program/project for which you are seeking funding.	Beyond Boundaries is developing a multi-phase inclusive outdoor recreation campus at YMCA Camp Thunderbird in Chesterfield County. This request supports Phase One, a $1.8 million project that will create six universally accessible, four-season cabins and an accessible central bathhouse, along with the site and accessibility improvements required for safe, dignified overnight use. The completed first phase will support overnight camps, family weekends, leadership retreats, outdoor education, and multi-day adventures for youth with disabilities and from underserved communities. The design will prioritize wheelchair access, accessible restrooms and routes, participant safety, and spaces that can be adapted for a range of physical, sensory, cognitive, and developmental needs. Phase One is the foundation of a broader campus vision. A future Phase Two will add a universally designed lodge with climate-controlled programming space, accessible restrooms, and dormitory accommodations, expanding the site's capacity and seasonal use. Impact100 Richmond funding will be restricted to Phase One construction and accessibility work. Together, the phases will establish a permanent home for Beyond Boundaries and a shared regional resource for the nonprofit partners and families we serve.

19. Program/Project: What challenges are you likely to encounter? How will your organization address them?	The primary risks are construction cost changes, permitting delays, weather, site conditions, and contractor scheduling. Beyond Boundaries has reduced these risks through extensive preconstruction planning with the YMCA of Greater Richmond, architect Guernsey Tingle, and general contractor M.L. Bell. The Phase One budget includes contingency funding, and work will be phased so decisions can be made without compromising accessibility or fiscal discipline. Fundraising is another potential challenge, but approximately $1.4 million, or 78% of the $1.8 million budget, is already committed. Remaining requests are focused on closing the final $400,000 rather than financing an unproven concept. The final challenge will be scaling overnight operations responsibly. Beyond Boundaries has already tested multi-day programming through overnight experiences at Camp Hanover and the VCU Rice Rivers Center. We will use those lessons to refine staffing ratios, participant screening, caregiver coordination, emergency procedures, and program schedules before opening the new facilities. These safeguards, combined with more than a decade of adaptive programming experience and a strong partner network, position the organization to manage construction and proceed responsibly.
20. Program/Project: Will you collaborate with any other organizations? If so, who will be your partners, and what will they contribute?	Yes. The project is anchored by a long-term partnership with the YMCA of Greater Richmond. The YMCA provides the Camp Thunderbird site, access to existing amenities such as the lake, trails, climbing areas, and gathering spaces, and stewardship of the broader property and major infrastructure. Beyond Boundaries is leading fundraising, accessible design, construction coordination, and inclusive programming. Guernsey Tingle is providing architectural expertise, and M.L. Bell is supporting preconstruction and general contracting. Their knowledge of accessible design, site development, permitting, scheduling, and cost control helps reduce construction risk. The campus will also serve Beyond Boundaries' network of more than 40 nonprofit and community partners. Organizations such as the Autism Society of Central Virginia, Virginia Down Syndrome Association, Jacob's Chance, Boys2Men, and Girls2Women will help identify participants, communicate individual support needs, coordinate families and caregivers, and shape programs around the communities they know best. This collaboration ensures the campus will not function as a private facility for one organization. It will be a shared community resource combining the YMCA's property, Beyond Boundaries' adaptive outdoor expertise, and our partners' trusted relationships with children and families across Central Virginia.

21. Program/Project: Using metrics appropriate for your program/project, describe your goals, indicators of success, and plan for achieving success (i.e., people served, dollars raised, community outcomes, etc.).	Success will be measured first by completing Phase One on schedule and within the approved $1.8 million budget: six universally accessible cabins, one accessible bathhouse, and the supporting site improvements required for overnight use. A related fundraising goal is to close the remaining $400,000 construction gap. During the first full year of operation, Beyond Boundaries expects to serve approximately 300 onsite participant experiences, roughly 10% of our current annual reach, through overnight camps, family weekends, leadership programs, and partner retreats. We will track enrollment, unique and returning participants, program days, overnight occupancy, and the number of nonprofit partners using the campus. We will continue our sustainable growth model year over year, and continue to serve more youth and offer more programs at camp annually. Participant and caregiver surveys will evaluate safety, satisfaction, confidence, independence, skill development, and sense of belonging. Our first-year objective is to meet or exceed current organizational benchmarks: more than 90% reporting a positive experience and stronger social connection and approximately 97% expressing interest in returning.
22. Program/Project: Is there a specific timeline for your program/project, or will it be ongoing? If ongoing, describe the metrics used to evaluate it in the long term.	Phase One follows a defined construction timeline, while the campus and its programs are intended to operate indefinitely. Final planning, permitting, and fundraising will continue through 2026. Construction is expected to begin in early 2027, with six accessible cabins and the central bathhouse completed in time for initial overnight programming in summer 2027. Phase Two, including a universally designed lodge, will proceed under a separate fundraising and construction schedule. After opening, Beyond Boundaries will evaluate the project annually through participant enrollment, unique and repeat participation, overnight occupancy, scholarship use, partner utilization, cost per participant, facility condition, safety incidents, and revenue raised or earned to support programming. Participant and caregiver surveys will measure confidence, independence, skill development, satisfaction, and belonging. The first-year target is approximately 300 onsite participant experiences, with responsible annual growth as staffing, partner demand, and facility capacity increase. Maintenance reviews and joint planning with the YMCA will ensure the property remains safe and accessible. These measures will show not only how often the campus is used, but whether it continues to remove barriers and deliver meaningful outcomes over time.

23. Funding: Describe your organization's financial position, including current financial state, cash flow, endowments, annual fundraising, and goals related to revenue.	Beyond Boundaries is in a stable financial position, supported by diversified revenue, disciplined budgeting, and regular Board oversight. In 2025, the organization reported approximately $898,000 in total revenue and $609,000 in expenses. Total revenue included both general operating support and gifts associated with the camp campaign. Our annual operating budget in 2026 is approximately $700,000. Revenue comes from foundation and government grants, individual contributions, corporate sponsorships, fundraising events, and marginal program fees. Staff monitor cash flow throughout the year, and financial statements are reviewed regularly by the Board. Because fundraising and program expenses are seasonal, Beyond Boundaries maintains cash reserves and plans expenditures conservatively to ensure continuity of operations. Beyond Boundaries does not currently have a formal endowment. Our long-term capital strategy includes a $200,000 strategic reserve fund goal to support future campus needs, along with continued reserve growth. Approximately $1.4 million has been committed toward the $1.8 million Phase One campaign. Future revenue priorities include growing recurring giving, major gifts, grants, corporate partnerships, and earned program revenue while increasing operating support in step with program growth.
24. Funding: What is the total program/project budget request? Have you raised any other funds to date to support the program/project? If awarded, how will a $100,000 grant from Impact 100 Richmond be used?	Beyond Boundaries is requesting $100,000 from Impact100 Richmond toward the $1.8 million Phase One budget. Phase One includes six universally accessible cabins, an accessible central bathhouse, necessary site and infrastructure work, professional services, and project contingency. Approximately $1.4 million has already been secured through foundation grants, private philanthropy, corporate support, and individual gifts. This represents about 78% of the project budget and leaves a remaining gap of approximately $400,000. An Impact100 grant would close 25% of that remaining gap. Funds would be restricted to Phase One construction and accessibility costs, including cabin and bathhouse work, accessible entrances and routes, restroom modifications, and related site improvements. No portion of the award would be used for unrelated general operations. At this stage, the grant would not merely start a campaign; it would help finish one. Impact100's investment would convert years of planning, a secured YMCA partnership, and $1.4 million in commitments into usable overnight infrastructure for children who have historically been excluded from camp because of disability or cost.

25. Funding: How will you fund ongoing expenses associated with the program/project if awarded the Impact 100 Richmond grant? If funding is for a capital project, what are the anticipated ongoing expenses (maintenance, utilities, etc.), and how will you sustain these expenses?	Beyond Boundaries and the YMCA of Greater Richmond have structured the partnership to distribute long-term responsibility and limit financial risk. Under the agreement, the YMCA will maintain the broader Camp Thunderbird property and major infrastructure for the first 30 years, while Beyond Boundaries will operate programs and steward the accessible facilities created through this campaign. Anticipated recurring costs include program staff, insurance, utilities, cleaning, routine cabin and bathhouse maintenance, equipment replacement, supplies, inspections, and seasonal opening and closing. These expenses will be incorporated into Beyond Boundaries' annual operating budget and reviewed as utilization grows. Funding will come from the same diversified sources that currently support our approximately $700,000 operating budget: foundation and government grants, individual and recurring gifts, corporate partnerships, fundraising events, and appropriate program fees. Fees will offset a portion of costs, while scholarships and partner subsidies will ensure that ability to pay does not determine access. The organization will also strengthen reserves and pursue a $200,000 strategic reserve fund goal as part of its long-term campus strategy. Annual facility, utilization, and financial reviews with the YMCA will guide maintenance schedules and operating adjustments, ensuring the campus remains safe, accessible, and financially sustainable for decades.

Upload PDF Format Only: Organizations 501c3 Letter

IRS_Tax_Exempt_Form.pdf

Upload PDF Format Only: Organization Budget for this Current Fiscal Year (showing annual budget of $250K or greater)

2026_Beyond_Boundaries_AOP_1.pdf

OPTIONAL Upload PDF Format Only: Partner Budget for Current Fiscal Year (showing annual budget of $250K or greater), if applicable

Upload PDF Format Only: Detailed Program/Project Budget in a template of your choice (limit one page)

Beyond_Boundaries_Phase_One_Detailed_Budget.pdf

Upload PDF or JPEG Format Only: List of Organization's Board of Directors

Board_of_Directors.pdf

OPTIONAL Upload PDF Format Only: Letter of Commitment or MOU from Partner Organizations (if applicable)

LOS_YMCA.pdf

Thank you for taking the time to apply for the Impact 100 Richmond grant! Once you submit you will receive a confirmation email.
