



2024

ANNUAL REPORT



NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL PARTNERS

Funders and Program Partnerships

thank
you ❤️

*We can do what we do,
because of you!*

Employee Giving Programs
(Matched by Employer)



FUEL for LIFE.
Employee Giving
Powered by Southwest Gas

Southwest
Gas



NEVADA GOLD MINES
**HERITAGE
FUND**

Nevada Gold
Mines



5th Gear
Powersports



American Legion
Post 5



**AmeriCorps
Nevada**

AmeriCorps



Blach Distributing



**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF WINNEMUCCA**

Boys and Girls Club
of Winnemucca



Bureau of Land
Mangagment



California Trail
Interpretive Center



Camp Chef



Canyon Construction



Chukar Chasers
Foundation



City of Elko



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
of Northern Nevada**

Community Foundation
of Northern Nevada



Drake, Rose & Assoc.



Echeverria Construction



Elko Bighorns
Unlimited



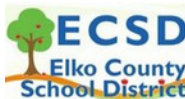
Elevation Transport



Elko Broadcasting
Company



Elko Convention and
Visitors Authority



Elko County
School District



Elko County



Elko Daily
Free Press



Elko Institute for
Academic Achievement



Family Support
Center



Friends of Black Rock
High Rock



Friends of Nevada
Wilderness



Frontier Community
Action Agency



Frontier Community Coalition

Frontier Community
Coalition



Great Basin
College



Great Basin Sun



Grocery Outlet



High Mountain Metal



Hycroft



Humboldt Connection
Suicide Prevention



Humboldt County
Commission



Humboldt County
School District



Humboldt County
Sheriff



Humboldt General
Hospital



I-80 Gold Corp.



Ignite Life
Chiropractic



Khoury's Grocery
Store



KNPB
Public Television



Lander County
Commission



Lander County
School District



Leave No Trace



NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL PARTNERS

Funders and Program Partnerships

McEwen Mining Nevada Inc.



MedX Air One



National Public
Lands Day



Nevada Bighorns
Unlimited - Midas



Nevada Chukar
Foundation



Nevada Department of
Conservation & Natural Resources



Nevada Department
of Wildlife



Nevada Division of
Outdoor Recreation



Nevada
Gold Mines



Nevada Muleys



Nevada Off-Highway
Vehicles Program



Nevada Offroad
Association



Nevada
State Parks



Nevada Volunteers



Nomadic
Broadcasting



Norte Hunters



NV Energy Foundation



Off Road
Nevada



Pleasant Senior
Center



Polaris TRAILS



RamCon Construction



Renown Pediatric Injury
Prevention Specialist



Rocky Mountain
Elk Foundation



Saggio
Advertising



Sierra Nevada
Journeys



Small Mine
Development



Southwest Gas



Spring Creek
Association



Spring Creek
Golf Club



SSR Mining Marigold



Shabonya Dutton,
Agent



Stewart Title



Trail Trust by
Fox Factory



Tread Lightly!



TC Energy



Union Pacific
Foundation



US Bank



USDA Forest
Service



Walt & Jordan Vetter
Financial Advisors



Vietnam Veterans
of Winnemucca



Walmart Foundation



Wild Sheep
Foundation



Winnemucca
Golf Course



Yamaha Outdoor
Access Initiative

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

With great enthusiasm, I present our 2024 Annual Report for Nevada Outdoor School (NOS)! Every year, when we draft this report, it gives us the opportunity to reflect on the last year – our accomplishments, failures, long standing partnerships and newly developed relationships. Throughout this Annual Report, we highlight some of the great successes of the past year and commemorate some milestones since our organization's founding in 2002. We celebrate with you and because of you!

Since our founding in 2002, NOS has become the premier provider of environmental, outdoor and ethics education in rural Nevada, partnering with many local agencies, organizations, non-profits, corporations and foundations, managing over 30 different funding sources annually. Our growth in the Elko County communities has really expanded along with our staffing needs, requiring us to find a larger office and work space to accommodate our people, our camping gear and all our outdoor education materials. Stop in and say hello at our new digs at 170 Idaho Street!

With our program participation growing we have been able to really put our Action, Impact, Choice outdoor education model into everything we do. Through guidance and support, we encourage our program participants to analyze their actions, evaluate the impacts those actions have and choose wisely to positively impact the natural world and reduce negative impacts when possible. At NOS, we believe that the more experiences people have outside exploring the natural world, the more they will want to learn about nature and the environment. The more they learn about the natural world, the more they will love, appreciate and care for the outdoors and increase their Time Spent Outdoors, or "TSO", our metric of success!

Eventually, one day, everyone will be good stewards of their environment, but until then, our work continues. Our staff and AmeriCorps Outdoor Educators strive everyday to better the world through their passion for our mission. Their work and enthusiasm make this job exciting and rewarding.

Our Ride Safe Ride Smart OHV Safety Program is expanding into more communities statewide, providing even more Youth OHV Safety Camps, hands-on OHV safety courses and youth rider evaluations. The Nevada online OHV Safety Course has already seen 80 participants since launching last year. I am especially proud to say that NOS, along with our partners Nevada Off Road Association, Renown Children's Hospital, University Medical Center, Tread Lightly! and the BLM – Carson City District, put 275 FREE youth off road helmets on kids at a couple of high use OHV recreation areas in Clark and Churchill Counties. Together we are fighting the problem of too many pediatric deaths and head traumas contributed to OHV accidents and so far, we are having great success. My hope is that eventually, helmet use for youth in Nevada will be a normal and expected sight at our high use recreation areas and in our rural communities. Until then, we will continue to work to secure the necessary funding to be able to continue this valuable program.

As I think back over this last year and about each and every person who makes Nevada Outdoor School such a unique and successful organization, I am filled with pride. Each one of our NOS staff and AmeriCorps Members brings a delightfully different perspective and a wealth of knowledge and mad skills to the team and I am lucky to be surrounded by such a talented group.

You, our donors, friends and partners are key to everything we do. From all of us at NOS, thank you for coming along this journey with us.

Melanie Erquiaga, Executive Director

Nevada Outdoor School

BY NUMBERS

What we do, because of you!



NATIONAL SERVICE

20 AmeriCorps Members at
5 Host Sites providing
19,730 Hours of Service



SCHOOL-BASED LESSONS

3,387 Student Interactions during the 2023-24 School Year
3,790 Hours of Outdoor Education



NATURE EXPLORERS

8 Unique Summer Camps
1,418 Hours Campers Spent Exploring the Outdoors



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COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

35 Outdoor skills workshops, community nature programs and hikes, and outreach events facilitated or attended serving
414 Community members throughout Nevada

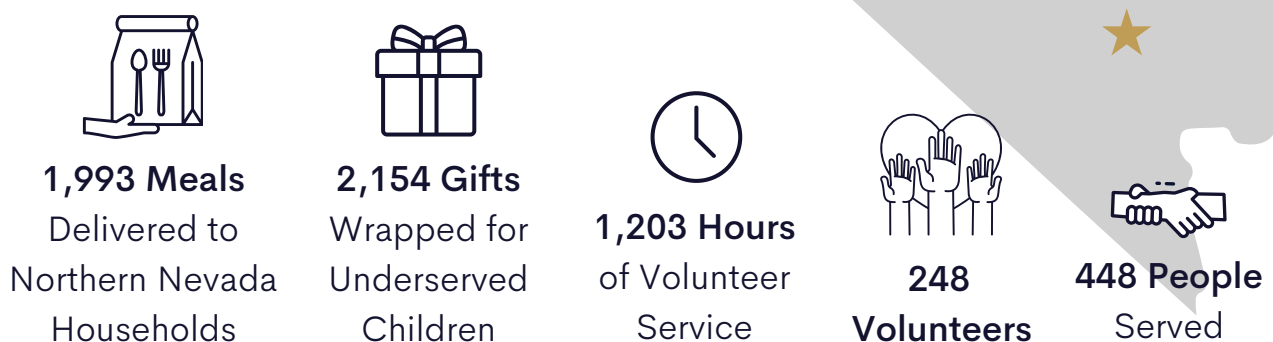




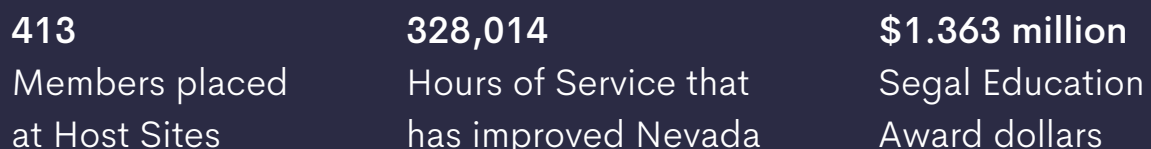
Since 2007, Nevada Outdoor School has been an integral part of the AmeriCorps program in Nevada. Therefore, while Nevada Outdoor School *programming* has an outdoor-ethic focus, the **overall impact** of Nevada Outdoor School expands far beyond responsible outdoor recreation and includes improving the lives in senior centers to public land improvements and trail maintenance.



2024 Statistics



Lifetime Statistics



THE AMERICORPS EXPERIENCE CHANGES LIVES



"Thanks to NOS and AmeriCorps, I've found my passion in teaching and I'll be continuing that after I exit. I get to go to college for Elementary Education thanks to the help of the amazing AmeriCorps education award, which I would not have been able to do before. I'm so excited to get to grow and expand on everything I've learned here at NOS, as well as teach others about what I've learned. I've learned how to be more confident in my abilities and in myself. I've also learned how to present myself, how to teach one-on-one, and how to teach to a large group as well."

- Kaitlin Phipps



"Engaging with AmeriCorps goes beyond just giving back; it's about embarking on a fulfilling journey. The satisfaction derived from hands-on conservation work is unparalleled, fostering camaraderie among like-minded individuals dedicated to a common cause. Additionally, AmeriCorps provides a unique opportunity to explore and appreciate the landscapes we're striving to protect. Whether it's trekking through the Spring Mountains or admiring the breathtaking vistas of the Mojave, each adventure deepens our connection with the natural world. Moreover, AmeriCorps has opened doors for me professionally, connecting me with agencies aligned with my career aspirations. It's more than just volunteering; it's about being part of a community committed to making a real impact."

- Etienne Nunez



"As a direct result of my hard work and unwavering commitment, I've secured a permanent position at the senior center. Thanks to the AmeriCorps program, I'll be pursuing a Human Services degree this fall. The skills and confidence I gained during my service have profoundly shaped the person I am today. I am so excited to see where life takes me now, knowing that I am a stronger individual because of this transformative experience."

- Lauren Kenney



"Growing up, I was definitely more of a follower than a leader, so stepping into a role of leadership was something that caused a lot of anxiety. So far, I've led quite a few outdoor learning experiences, where we meet with teachers and their students in an outdoor space to teach a fun lesson to them and increase their time spent outdoors! Although they used to make me nervous, the lessons have become something that I look forward to! It's amazing being able to show up and offer such a fun and valuable experience for my community. These programs that I've put together have allowed me to see exactly what I'm capable of, and I feel as though I can only grow further. I feel a lot of pride in the work that I do!"

- Noah Doyle



"I joined AmeriCorps with minimal job experience, having dropped out of high school during my junior year. For years, I convinced myself that I wasn't smart enough to obtain a GED.

Fifteen years later, I took the leap and joined AmeriCorps. My initial goal was to gain practical skills and enhance my resume. Little did I know that this experience would transform me in ways beyond my expectations. I discovered a passion for assisting senior citizens, and my self-confidence blossomed. AmeriCorps allowed me to grow within my community, opening doors I never thought possible.

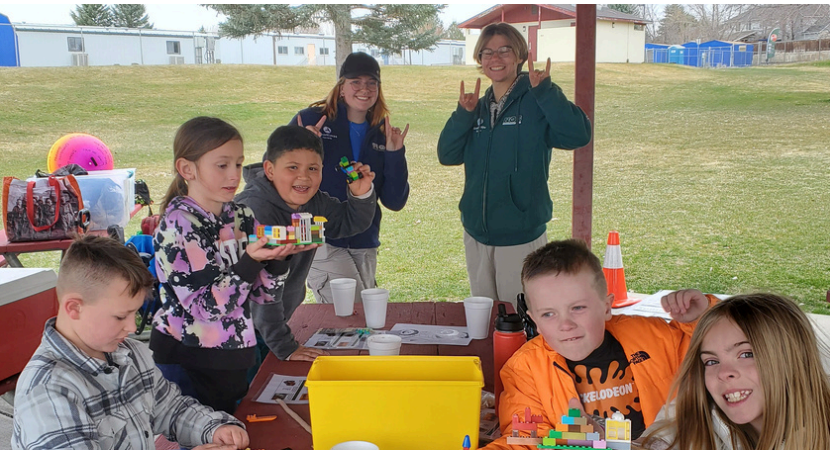
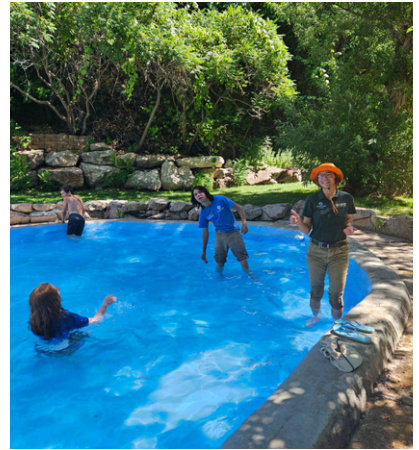
Now, I am a trusted resource for seniors seeking help as well as a Nevada Veterans Advocate. I advocate for those who served our country, and those that are the most vulnerable and overlooked in our community. I also achieved a long-awaited milestone: I earned my GED. This accomplishment fuels my determination to continue helping others and learning as much as I can.

The impact that AmeriCorps has had on my life is immeasurable, and I am honored to serve."

- Lauren Kenney



AmeriCorps
Nevada



NOS PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS

YOUTH	TRAINING	COMMUNITY
Nature in My World School-based outdoor learning experiences	Formal Trainings Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! Trainer Courses, Hunter Safety, Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Safety	Nature Clubs Community based programs focused on the natural world and increasing Time Spent Outdoors (TSO)
Nature in the Park Hour long nature programs geared for 4-7 year olds	Ride Safe, Ride Smart (RS2) NV OHV Certification Program and Rider Evaluation, RS2 School Assemblies, RS2 Community Events, Youth RS2 Camps, NV Free Youth Helmets	Road Show Customizable mobile education and outreach booth
Nature Explorers Outdoor exploration-based camps for 4-17 year old participants	Outdoor Skills Workshops that increase people's skills and knowledge related to outdoor recreation and the natural world	Partnered Programs Programs and events where NOS supports outdoor/environmental education

YOUTH PROGRAMS



Nature in My World

3,387 K-8 Students in 6 rural Nevada counties were reached through outdoor learning experiences.

Reaching students in Pershing, Humboldt, Lander, Elko, Eureka, & White Pine Counties.



Nature in the park

323 Hours of Time Spent
Outdoors for 4-7 year olds in
8 rural Nevada Communities!



Deepening youths' connection to, understanding of, and respect for the natural world.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

NATURE EXPLORERS

8 Outdoor Adventures throughout the summer for Fifty 8-17 year-olds, fostering 1,418 hours of TSO exploring Lamoille Canyon, Cathedral Gorge, Ruby Valley, and Water Canyon!



As a fully Accredited Youth Program, Nevada Outdoor School demonstrates the highest commitment to providing rural northern Nevada youth with relevant and accessible Leave No Trace Education.

TRAINING PROGRAMS

Providing people with the motivation, knowledge, and skills to increase their Time Spent Outdoors responsibly!

FORMAL TRAININGS

Hunter Safety	36 Participants
Tread Lightly!	10 Participants
Leave No Trace	29 Participants
OHV/ATV Safety	78 Participants



OUTDOOR SKILLS

256 Participants developed their skills in winter survival, outdoor navigation, Dutch Oven cooking, fishing, nature art, firearm safety, gardening, and much more!



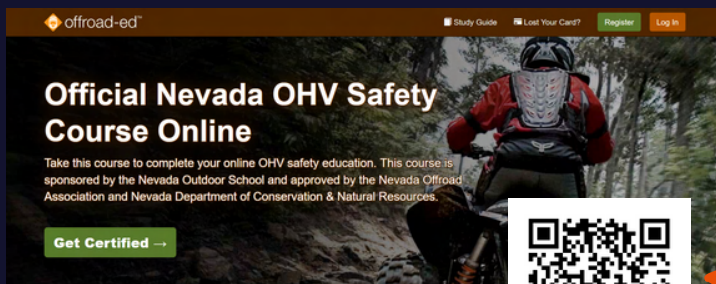
Through guidance and support, NOS programs challenge people to analyze their actions, evaluate their impacts and choose wisely to positively impact the natural world and minimize negative impacts when possible.

TRAINING PROGRAMS



RIDE SAFE, RIDE SMART (RS2)

- 6 Youth Educated in Ride Safe, Ride Smart OHV Safety
- 13 Participants in Train the Trainer OHV Safety
- 275 OHV Free Youth Helmets Distributed across Nevada!
- 632 Contacts made through OHV Summits and Roadshows!



NOS's OHV Certification Program officially launched in March 2023!

So far, 78 people have completed this online training and youth rider evaluation!

Take the course here!

<https://www.offroad-ed.com/nevada/>

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



NOS NATURE CLUBS

109 Participants in Community Hikes & Walks explored
273 Participants increasing their Time Spent Outdoors through NOS Nature Clubs!



Increase Your Time Spent Outdoors with NOS!



Contact with nature is associated with increases in happiness, subjective well-being, positive affect, positive social interactions and a sense of meaning and purpose in life, as well as decreases in mental distress (Science Advances, Vol. 5. No. 7, 2019).

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

ROAD SHOWS

Traveling the state with the message of responsible recreation!

3,208 Public Contacts Made!



PARTNERED PROGRAMS

3,903 Public Contacts Made!

Supporting the California Trail Interpretive Center (CTIC) events, Elko Ducks Unlimited, Eureka Restoration, Kids Fishing Derby, Humboldt County Library, Humboldt County School District, Lamoille EE Days, NV Bighorn Unlimited, Mybrary, Nevada Department of Wildlife, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Southwest Gas, Wild Sheep Foundation, and much more!



Do you want Nevada Outdoor School programs in your community?
Email: Information@NevadaOutdoorSchool.org



CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Since 2017, we have had a NOSome Assistance Agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Elko District to help staff the California Trail Interpretive Center (CTIC).

At CTIC, visitors can experience life size diorama, original mural, exhibits on the native peoples, and production depicting the trek of the early pioneers. They can hike on accessible trails, through a wagon encampment, and see a Shoshone village. It is a beautiful educational facility and a partnership that opens a lot of possibilities for NOS programs!



A NOS Programs Coordinator at the Trail Center provides field trips and Traveling Trunk classroom visits to Elko County School District students and enhanced visitor interpretive experiences to the general public!

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2024 REVIEW

Total Revenue

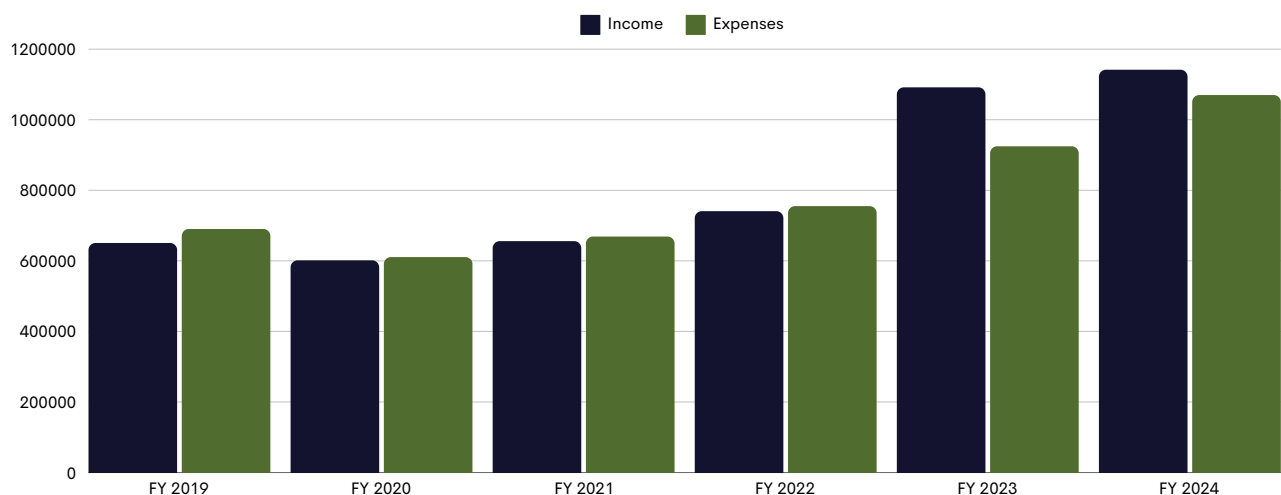
AmeriCorps Nevada - Nevada Volunteers	\$399,766	35.01%
AmeriCorps Host Site Partnership Match	\$61,100	5.35%
Bureau of Land Management	\$112,089	9.82%
Chukar Chasers Foundation	\$3,000	0.26%
City of Elko	\$5,000	0.44%
Elko Bighorns Unlimited	\$7,500	0.66%
Elko County Commission	\$6,000	0.53%
Elko County School District	\$7,500	0.66%
Fundraiser Revenue	\$29,449	2.58%
Humboldt County Commission	\$5,000	0.44%
I-80 Gold Corp	\$3,000	0.26%
Lander County	\$3,500	0.31%
Nevada Bighorn Unlimited - Midas Chapter	\$5,000	0.44%
Nevada Chukar Foundation	\$5,000	0.44%
Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles	\$63,264	5.54%
Nevada Gold Heritage Fund	\$17,178	1.50%
Nevada Gold Mines	\$50,000	4.38%
Nevada Muleys	\$10,000	0.88%
Nevada State Parks - Explore Safe Explore Smart	\$122,228	10.71%
Nevada State Parks - Lamoille Summit Trail System	\$83,234	7.29%
Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation	\$19,685	1.72%
NV Energy Foundation	\$25,000	2.19%
Other Miscellaneous Donations	\$21,907	1.92%
Polaris TRAILS Grant	\$10,000	0.88%
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$5,000	0.44%
Small Mine Development	\$8,000	0.70%
Southwest Gas Foundation	\$2,500	0.22%
Southwest Gas Fuel for Life	\$10,573	0.93%
SSR Marigold Mine	\$5,000	0.44%
Union Pacific Rail Road Foundation	\$10,000	0.88%
US Forest Service - Humboldt RAC	\$2,753	0.24%
Wild Sheep Foundation	\$2,500	0.22%
Yamaha Off Road Initiative	\$20,000	1.75%
Total REVENUE	\$1,141,727	100.00%

Total Expenses

Accounting & Bank Fees	\$7,354	0.69%
Advertising and promotion	\$18,035	1.69%
Background checks	\$749	0.07%
Employee & AmeriCorps Members Benefits	\$54,212	5.07%
Fundraiser Expenses	\$12,098	1.13%
Information Technology & Computers	\$4,260	0.40%
Lamoille Summit Trail System	\$100,488	9.39%
Liability & Workers' Comp Insurance	\$31,671	2.96%
Occupancy & Communications	\$45,540	4.26%
Office Expenses	\$9,538	0.89%
Payroll taxes	\$53,775	5.03%
Program specific supplies	\$39,071	3.65%
Staff salaries	\$357,290	33.39%
Stipends for AmeriCorps Members	\$269,476	25.19%
Training/Conferences/Conventions	\$4,949	0.46%
Travel Expenses (including Fuel)	\$45,926	4.29%
Vehicle Rental & OHV Trailers	\$11,482	1.07%
All other expenses	\$4,058	0.38%
Total EXPENSES	\$1,069,975	100.00%

Yearly Comparison

	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024
Income	\$650,651	\$601,403	\$655,891	\$740,866	\$1,091,800	\$1,141,727
Expenses	\$690,287	\$610,677	\$668,877	\$755,169	\$924,720	\$1,069,975



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Brandolyn Thran | President

Gene Hunt | Treasurer

Tina Burke | Secretary

Krystal Gunn | Member

D'ette Mawson | Member (Oct-May)

STAFF

Melanie Erquiaga | Executive Director

Zulma Mayorga | AmeriCorps Program Director

Meghan Sturgell | Director of Programming

Sarah Welsh | Director of Finance (Oct-April)

Jenny VanBuren | Director of Finance (May-Sept)

Jessica Snaman Myers | Outreach Director

Jacklyn Orr | Communication & Marketing Specialist (Oct-April)

Toril Tapia | Communication & Marketing Specialist (May-Sept)

Ash Fayal | Winnemucca Programs Coordinator (May-Sept)

Kim Pay | Elko Programs Coordinator (Aug-Sept)

CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER PARTNERSHIP

Macy Rohr | Interpretive Programs Coordinator

AMERICORPS MEMBERS | OUTDOOR EDUCATORS

2022 - 2024	Toni Coulter
2023 - 2024	Noah Clymens
2023 - 2024	Noah Doyle
2023 - 2024	Sedric Zimmerman
2023 - 2024	William Neff
2024	Kaneisha Smith
2024	Kindra Warren
2024	Leanna Fisher
Summer of 2024	Christy Ferguson-Sandvig
Summer of 2024	Jamie Horse
Summer of 2024	Manuel Salazar
Summer of 2024	Nicole Boivin







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