



Nevada Outdoor School.org



AmeriCorps

A scenic photograph of a mountain valley. In the foreground, several hikers with backpacks are seen from behind, walking along a dirt trail through green brush. The middle ground shows a lush green valley floor with a small stream. The background is dominated by steep, rocky mountains under a clear blue sky.

2025

ANNUAL  
REPORT



# NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL PARTNERS

Funders and Program Partnerships

Employee Giving Programs  
(Matched by Employer)



**FUEL for LIFE**  
Employee Giving  
Powered by Southwest Gas

Southwest Gas



**NEVADA GOLD MINE HERITAGE FUND**

Nevada Gold Mines



5th Gear Powersports



American Legion Post 5



AmeriCorps



Axel Off Road



The Atlantis



A&H Insurance



BF Guns & Gear



Boys and Girls Club of Winnemucca



Bureau of Land Management



California Trail Interpretive Center



Canyon Construction



Cavanaugh Business Center



The Children's Cabinet



Chukar Chasers Foundation



City of Elko



City of Winnemucca



Commercial Fun Center



Community Foundation of Northern Nevada



Communities in Schools



Cowboy Arts & Gear Museum



Core Title Group



Dayton Valley Golf Course



Duncan Golf Management



Elko Bighorns Unlimited



Elko Mybrary



Elevation Transport



Elko Broadcasting Company



Elko County School District



Elko County



Elko Daily Free Press



Elko Institute for Academic Achievement



Endless Pawsibilities



Frank Offenhauser Foundation



Friends of Nevada Wilderness



Frontier Community Coalition

Frontier Community Coalition



Great Basin College



Great Basin Sun



High Mountain Metal



Hycroft



Humboldt Connection Suicide Prevention



Humboldt County Commission



Humboldt County Library



Humboldt County School District



Humboldt County Sheriff



I-80 Gold Corp.



JM Capriola



KNPB Public Television



Lander County Commission



Lander County School District



Leave No Trace



McAdoo's



MedX Air One



Nevada Bighorns Unlimited - Midas



Nevada Bureau of Land Management



Nevada Classical Academy



Nevada Chukar Foundation



Nevada Department of Wildlife



Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources



Nevada Division of Forestry



Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation



Nevada Gold Mines



Nevada Humanities



Nevada Muleys



Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles Program



Nevada Offroad Association



Nevada State Parks



Nevada Volunteers



Nomadic Broadcasting



Norte Hunters



Northeastern Nevada Museum



NRA Foundation



NV Energy Foundation



Off Road Nevada



Orla Mining



Pleasant Senior Center



Polaris TRAILS



RamCon Construction



Renown Pediatric Injury Prevention Specialist



Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation



Saggio Advertising



Small Mine Development



Southwest Gas



Spring Creek Association



Spring Creek Golf Club



SSR Mining Marigold



Sierra Nevada Journeys



Shabonya Dutton, Agent



The Star



Trail Trust by Fox Factory



Tread Lightly!



Union Pacific Foundation



UNR Extension Office



US Bank



USDA Forest Service



Walt & Jordan Vetter Financial Advisors



Western Folklife Center



Wild Wonder Foundation



Vietnam Veterans of Winnemucca



Wild Sheep Foundation



Winnemucca Golf Course



Yamaha Outdoor Access Initiative

# Letter From the Director

It is with great gratitude that I present the 2025 Annual Report for Nevada Outdoor School (NOS). This is a valuable opportunity to reflect on the past year—our accomplishments and challenges—and to recognize both our long-standing partners and the new relationships we have built along the way.

Partnerships and collaboration are central to our work. When community partners come together, the impact can be exponential. Over the past year, we have strengthened a wide range of cooperative relationships, including program partners and funders such as county and city governments, foundations, and corporate supporters. We remain committed to stewarding our funders' philanthropic investments thoughtfully, while continually seeking new funding opportunities to advance our mission and meet the evolving needs of the communities we serve.

Maintaining multiple revenue streams has never been more critical. As many of you are aware, the AmeriCorps Nevada Grant Program—an essential funding source of Nevada Outdoor School since our founding in 2002—was unexpectedly cut by the current administration in April, through no fault of our own. Fortunately, flexible funding allowed us to cover AmeriCorps member support costs for just over a month until our grantor, Nevada Volunteers, successfully reinstated the grant. We are also deeply grateful to our partners at the Great Basin Institute for supporting our members throughout the transition and ensuring there was no interruption to their living stipends or education awards.

Through the successful implementation of our Action, Impact, Choice outdoor education model, we continue to guide participants in analyzing their actions, evaluating the impacts of those actions, and making informed choices that positively affect their communities and the natural world. We are encouraged by the increased reach and impact of our youth development, outdoor skills training, and community outreach programs, particularly with the establishment of our second office in Elko. In response to the growing mental health crisis, we are expanding outdoor education and recreation opportunities to increase people's "Time Spent Outdoors," supported by extensive research demonstrating the physical, mental, emotional, and social health benefits of mindful engagement with nature.

I am especially proud of the continued growth and impact of Nevada Outdoor School's Ride Safe Ride Smart program. With a strong emphasis on outreach, education, and resource access, our team engages directly with off-road vehicle users at high-use OHV areas statewide. This past year, we distributed 370 youth OHV helmets and supported 126 individuals in completing the Nevada online OHV Safety Course, while also promoting hands-on youth rider evaluations and safe riding practices.

While recent cuts to federal and state grants that traditionally support outdoor education and youth programs create uncertainty in the months ahead, our ultimate goal remains: the importance of our mission and the health of our communities. We will continue to pursue diversified funding sources to ensure our ability to serve rural Nevada communities and provide healthy, active, outdoor education programs for all ages.

Our donors, friends, partners, and participants are at the heart of everything we do. Thank you for being part of 23 years of success. From all of us at Nevada Outdoor School, thank you for joining us on this journey.

*Melanie Erquiaga*

Executive Director

# Nevada Outdoor School

# BY NUMBERS

*What we do, because of you!*

## National Service

**12** AmeriCorps Members at  
**2** Host Sites providing  
**9,286** Hours of Service



## School-Based Lessons

**4,395** Student Interactions during the 2024-2025 School Year  
**4,355** Hours of Outdoor Education



## Nature Explorers

**11** Unique Summer Camps  
**130** Campers  
**4,283** Hours Campers Spent Exploring the Outdoors



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## Community Opportunities

**227** Outdoor skills workshops, community nature programs and hikes, and outreach events facilitated or attended serving  
**3,654** Community members throughout Nevada





# AmeriCorps 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.

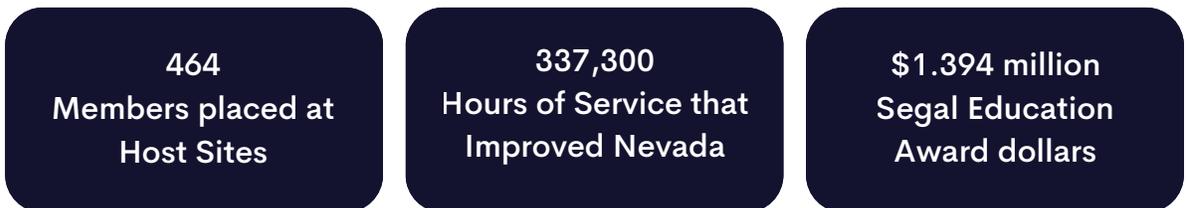


Nevada Outdoor School administers a state-wide AmeriCorps grant that places members in Host Sites throughout Nevada.

## 2025 Statistics



## Lifetime Statistics



# The AmeriCorps Experiences Changes Lives



"Teaching kids has a way of humbling you. They ask questions you never thought to ask, challenge your assumptions, and remind you of the value of patience, curiosity, and presence. Each lesson or activity became more than just a teaching moment for them, it became a learning curve for me. I loved watching the things I taught them light up their eyes, and spark further thoughts in their brains. It has been the most rewarding experience to see the way these kids' lives have been changed. My favorite lesson to teach is the adaptation lesson. I love that we get to dress our students up as a beaver, and teaching the kids about human adaptations (thumbs) is a blast. For real, try to do things without your thumbs, it's impossible!"

- Breanne Laborde



"Being an AmeriCorps member has had a massive impact on me. Before I joined AmeriCorps, I was not involved in the community and was a very introverted person. That all changed once I became a member. As part of my role, I assisted people in an office environment. One skill I improved significantly was my Spanish. Helping Spanish speaking participants allowed me to enhance my communication skills and build confidence. I also became more engaged with the community. During my 4-month term, I participated in events like Party in the Park, Color the Mucc, FCC community breakfast monthly meetings, and the HGH health fair. The monthly AmeriCorps member trainings helped me too and it helped me prepare for the real world. Being an AmeriCorps member has been such a wonderful experience. I am grateful to have supported the FCC as they are amazing people who do so much for the community, and I truly admire their work!"

- Johanny Catalan

# The AmeriCorps Experiences Changes Lives



"Serving as an AmeriCorps outdoor educator has been a super rewarding and eye-opening experience. I had the opportunity to meet so many wonderful new people and introduce them to the beautiful nature of Nevada. I was able to teach them about their local environment and ecosystem. One moment that stands out to me the most was watching a hesitant student grow into one of the most engaged participants by the end of the lesson. It showed me that even the small moments outdoors can spark lasting change. This service taught me patience, adaptability, and the power of nature to inspire. I leave with deepened passion for environmental education and gratitude for the opportunity to serve."

- Roxanne Keim



"As I look back on my service as an AmeriCorps Member, I like to see all of the good I have done by teaching kids, meeting new people, and hosting new events. Serving at Nevada Outdoor School as an Outdoor Educator, I have realized my strengths and weaknesses in this job. With teaching kids about the outdoors, I have experienced so much joy from just getting to see their faces, but also the joy of planning, throwing events, and teaching the events. During my term, I was able to also assist events not just teach so I got to experience how my teammates would perform in front of crowds and people...As I look back on my term, I like the way I was able to give to the community, and show what I can do to the community by helping but also by educating the people around. I would like to thank AmeriCorps for the job that was given to me and I would also like to thank Nevada Outdoor School for being a great host site and support for my job."

- Beau Blades

# AmeriCorps Members in Action



# NOS Program Focus Areas

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

Nevada Outdoor School connects Nevadans of all ages to the natural world, inspiring and creating healthy, active and engaged citizens who choose to explore the outdoors responsibly.

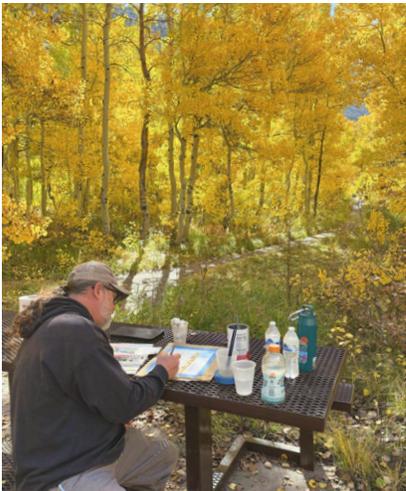
# YOUTH



# TRAINING



# COMMUNITY



# Youth Programs



## Nature in My World

2,898 K-8 Students in 6 rural Nevada counties were reached through outdoor learning experiences. Increasing time spent outdoors by 2,893 hours!

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



## Nature in the Park

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

727 Hours of Time Spent Outdoors for 4-7 year olds in 6 rural Nevada Communities!



# Youth Programs



## Nature Explorers

11 Outdoor Adventures throughout the summer for 130 Campers, fostering 4,283 hours of TSO exploring Lamoille Canyon, Ward Mountain, Great Basin National Park, 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!



## Fomal Trainings

ROHVA (Side by Side)		4 Participants
Tread Lightly!		7 Participants
Leave No Trace		8 Participants
Stop the Bleed		5 Participants



## Outdoor Skills

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



# Training Programs

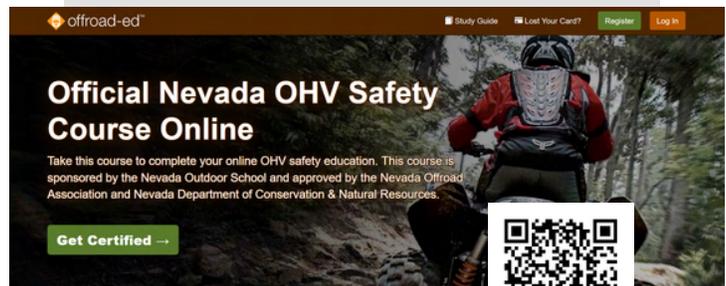
## Ride Safe Ride Smart

38 Youth Educated in Ride Safe, Ride Smart OHV Safety!

370 OHV Free Youth Helmets Distributed across Nevada!

11 Youth Participate in Rider Evaluations!

1,030 Contacts made through OHV Summits and Roadshows!



## Take the Course!

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

So far, 126 people have completed this online training and youth rider evaluation!

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

# Community Programs



## NOS Nature Clubs

**2,933 Participants**  
increasing their Time Spent  
Outdoors through NOS  
Nature Clubs!

**254 Participants** in  
Community Hikes & Walks  
explored

**1,497 Youth** Participated in  
Nature Journaling!



## Increase Your Time Spent Outdoors

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!

**4,778 Contacts Made!**



## Partnered Programs

**4,390 Contacts Made!**

Supporting the California Trail Interpretive Center (CTIC) events, Ducks Unlimited, BLM, NDOW, US Forest Services, NV Ag, Headstart of Northern Nevada, EIAA Charter School, Flagview Intermediate School, Communities in Schools in Winnemucca, Friends of the Ruby Mountains, Elko Art Club, NV Humanities, Great Basin College, UNR Extension Office, Girl Scouts of America, Northeastern Nevada Museum, Elko Mybrary, Lander County, and so much more!



Do you want Nevada Outdoor School programs in your community?

Email: [Information@NevadaOutdoorSchool.org](mailto:Information@NevadaOutdoorSchool.org)



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!



# NOS Programming in Action



# Fiscal Year 2025 Review

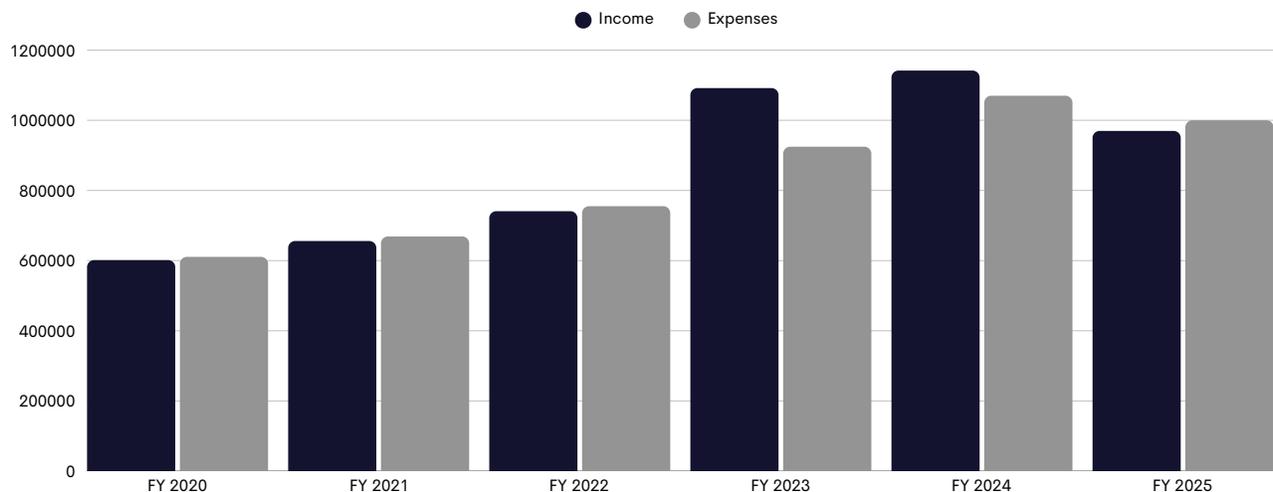
AmeriCorps Nevada - Nevada Volunteers	\$226,246	23.33%
AmeriCorps Host Site Partnership Match	\$6,500	0.67%
Barmingo USA	\$5,000	0.52%
Bureau of Land Management - CTIC Support	\$178,904	18.45%
City of Elko	\$5,000	0.52%
Community Foundation of Western NV - Jack Bobbitt Fund	\$5,000	0.52%
Elko Bighorns Unlimited	\$7,500	0.77%
Elko County Commission	\$6,000	0.62%
Elko County School District	\$7,500	0.77%
Fundraiser Revenue	\$30,975	3.19%
Hecla Mining	\$2,000	0.21%
Humboldt County Commission	\$5,000	0.52%
Hycroft Mining	\$1,000	0.10%
I-80 Gold Corp	\$5,000	0.52%
Lander County	\$4,500	0.46%
Nevada Bighorn Unlimited - Midas Chapter	\$5,000	0.52%
Nevada Chukar Foundation	\$5,000	0.52%
Nevada Division of Forestry	\$9,097	0.94%
Nevada Gold Heritage Fund	\$16,505	1.70%
Nevada Gold Mines	\$75,000	1.03%
Nevada Muleys	\$10,000	6.29%
Nevada State Parks - Explore Safe Explore Smart	\$72,957	7.52%
Nevada State Parks - Lamoille Summit Trail System	\$68,822	7.10%
Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation	\$25,000	2.58%
NV Energy Foundation	\$50,000	5.16%
NV Energy Employee Donations	\$1,094	0.11%
Other Miscellaneous Donations	\$11,729	1.21%
Renown Health for Youth Helmets	\$13,898	1.43%
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$5,000	0.52%
Small Mine Development	\$8,000	0.83%
Southwest Gas Foundation	\$2,500	0.26%
Southwest Gas Fuel for Life	\$12,710	1.31%
SSR Marigold Mine	\$8,000	0.83%
US Forest Service - Humboldt RAC	\$12,222	1.26%
<b>Total REVENUE</b>	<b>\$969,661</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Total Expenses

Accounting & Bank Fees	\$9,178	0.92%
Advertising and Promotion	\$5,709	0.57%
Background Checks	\$640	0.06%
Employee & AmeriCorps Members Benefits	\$42,552	4.26%
Fundraising Expenses	\$12,770	1.28%
Information Technology & Computers	\$4,992	0.50%
Lamoille Summit Trail Systems & Work	\$57,353	5.74%
Liability & Workers' Comp Insurance	\$30,866	3.09%
Occupancy & Communications	\$60,228	6.02%
Office Expenses	\$6,366	0.64%
Payroll Taxes	\$99,257	9.93%
Program Specific Supplies	\$69,163	6.92%
Staff Salaries	\$362,614	36.27%
Stipends for AmeriCorps Members	\$153,858	15.39%
Training/Conferences/Conventions	\$7,770	0.78%
Travel Expenses (including Fuel)	\$45,695	4.57%
Vehicle Rental & OHV Trailers	\$9,479	0.95%
All other expenses	\$21,402	2.14%
<b>Total EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$999,891.47</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

## Yearly Comparison

	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
Income	\$601,403	\$655,891	\$740,866	\$1,091,800	\$1,141,727	\$969,661
Expenses	\$610,677	\$668,877	\$755,169	\$924,720	\$1,069,975	\$999,891



## Board of Directors

Brandolyn Thran | President (Oct-Dec)  
Heather Nelson | President (Jan-Sept)  
Gene Hunt | Treasurer (Oct-Aug)  
Tina Burke | Secretary  
Krystal Gunn | Member  
Michelle Albisu | Member



## Staff

Melanie Erquiaga | Executive Director  
Zulma Mayorga | AmeriCorps Program Director  
Meghan Sturgell | Director of Training & Program Reporting  
Kim Pay | Director of Programming  
Jenny VanBuren | Director of Finance  
Jessica Snaman Myers | Outreach Director  
Toril Tapia | Communication & Marketing Specialist  
Ash Fayal | Winnemucca Programs Coordinator

## California Trail Interpretive Center Partnership

Macy Rohr | Interpretive Programs Coordinator  
Paul Gregory | Marketing & Outreach Manager  
Vincie Jahn | Site Steward (May - Aug)

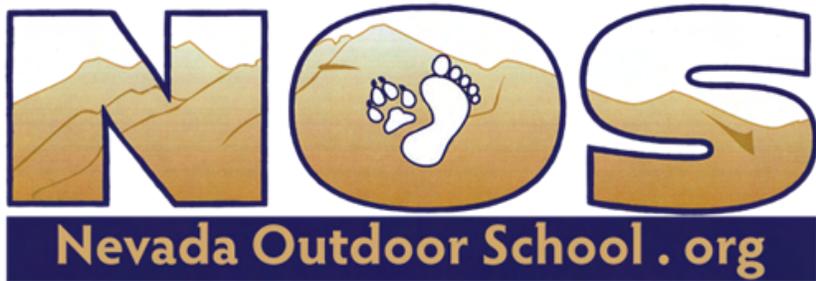
## AmeriCorps Members | Outdoor Educators

Jamie Horse	2024-2025
Nicole Boivin	2024
Christina Bradshaw	2025
Beau Blades	2025
Roxanne Keim	2025
Breanne Laborde	2025
Bayley Mason	2025
Vivian Grange	Summer of 2025
Kelton Spencer	Summer of 2025
Isabel Tolotti	Summer of 2025





# Thank You for Supporting Outdoor Education in Rural Nevada!



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