A scenic mountain landscape with rugged, rocky peaks and a lush green valley in the foreground. Several hikers are visible on a trail in the valley. The background is 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
Pawsabilities



Frank Offenhauser
Foundation



Friends of Nevada
Wilderness



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



McAdoos



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



The Power of Good is Always On

Northeastern Nevada
Museum

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
Finacial 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





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.

Winnemucca
Pleasant Senior Center
Frontier Community Coalition
Nevada Outdoor School

★
Gerlach
Friends of
Black Rock
High Rock



★
Reno
Friends of
Nevada Wilderness

★
Elko
Nevada Outdoor School

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

Las Vegas
Friends of
Nevada
Wilderness



2025 Statistics



2,000 Gifts
Wrapped for
Underserved
Children



164.5 Hours
of Volunteer
Service



54
Volunteers



505
People
Served

Lifetime Statistics

464
Members placed at
Host Sites

337,300
Hours of Service that
Improved Nevada

\$1.394 million
Segal Education
Award dollars

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
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 Lessons, 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

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!



Formal 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!



A screenshot of the 'offroad-ed' website for the 'Official Nevada OHV Safety Course Online'. The page features a background image of a person riding an OHV in a forest. It includes a 'Get Certified' button, a QR code, and a 'Study Guide' link.

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



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

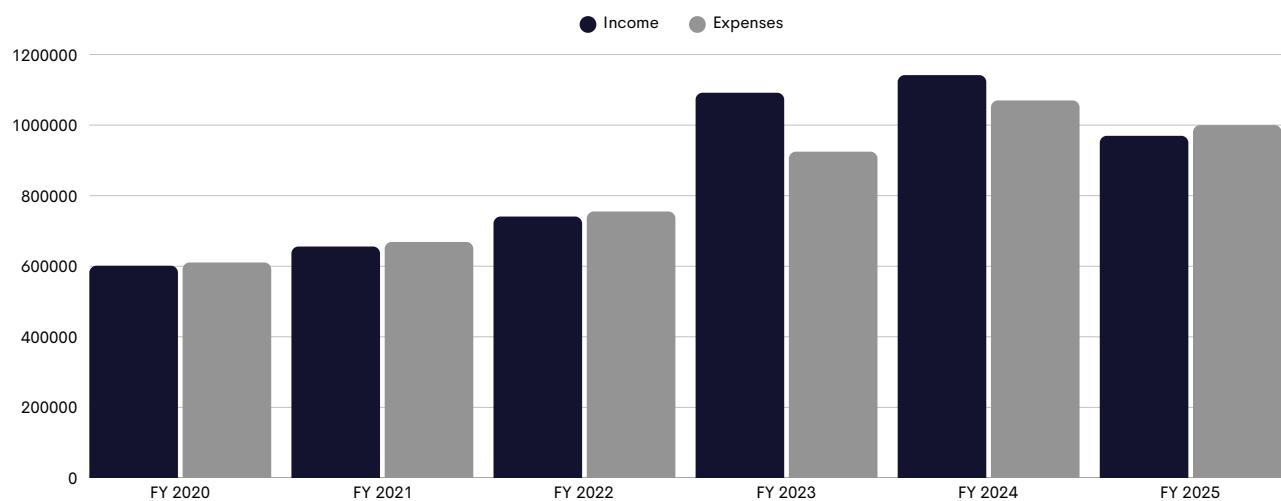
AmeriCorps Nevada - Nevada Volunteers	\$226,246	23.33%
AmeriCorps Host Site Partnership Match	\$6,500	0.67%
Barminco USA	\$5,000	0.52%
Bureau of Land Management - CTIC Support	\$178,904	18.45%
City of Elko	\$5,000	0.52%
Community Foundation of Western NV - Jack Bobbitt Fund	\$5,000	0.52%
Elko Bighorns 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%
 Total REVENUE	 \$969,661	 100%

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%
 Total EXPENSES	 \$999,891.47	 100.00%

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!



AmeriCorps

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170 Idaho St., Elko, Nevada 89801 | 775-777-0814

www.nevadaoutdoorschool.org

