



AmeriCorps

2023

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



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



CarWil



Chukar Chasers
Foundation



City of Elko



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
of Northern Nevada

Community Foundation of
Northern Nevada



Drake, Rose & Assoc.



Elevation
Transport



Elko Bighorns
Unlimited



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



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



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
Environmental Protection



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



Port of Subs



RamCon Construction



Renown Pediatric Injury
Prevention Specialist



Rocky Mountain
Elk Foundation



Saggio
Advertising



Sierra Nevada
Journeys



Small Mine
Development



Southern Nevada
Conservancy



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



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

2023 was a year of festivity and triumph as Nevada Outdoor School (NOS) celebrated our 20th Anniversary as a Nevada nonprofit organization in good standing with so many accomplishments. Over the years we have built upon many partnerships and friendships, collaborations and alliances. Throughout this Annual Report, we highlight some of the great successes of the immediate past fiscal year, but also commemorate some milestones since 2003. We celebrate with you and because of you!

In 2002, Nevada Outdoor School was founded in Winnemucca to establish an outdoor education program in rural Nevada that would connect students of all ages with the natural world and create a sense of land stewardship. Receiving our nonprofit status in June of 2003, outdoor programming began in earnest in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, AmeriCorps, the City of Winnemucca and Humboldt County. Since then, 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, averaging over 30 different funding sources annually. Over the years, our programs and partnerships have evolved and expanded to serve more rural Nevada communities, including a second fully staffed office in Elko. This growth indicates both a need and a value in rural Nevada communities for quality outdoor learning experiences.

Our Youth Programs have expanded to include Eureka and White Pine Counties in addition to Lander, Humboldt, Pershing and Elko Counties, serving thousands of students each year, deepening their connection to the natural world and inspiring a care for our amazing outdoor spaces for generations to come. Our Nature Explorers Summer Camp Excursions spent 3,968 hours exploring and learning about some of Nevada's most beautiful and interesting outdoor gems. Next summer will be full of new and exciting places to visit that we haven't been to before including a few of our special Nevada State Parks.

Did you know that you can receive formal outdoor skills training certifications from Nevada Outdoor School? With certified experts on staff, we are currently providing Hunter Safety, Tread Lightly, Leave No Trace and OHV/ATV Safety Certifications regularly, as well as less formal Outdoor Skills workshops to help you be safe, smart and efficient when exploring or recreating outdoors.

Traveling throughout the state with the message of responsible outdoor recreation, you will see the NOS "Road Show" mobile outreach booth at many community events and Expos. We also support various partner's events, such as the California Trail Interpretive Center and Nevada Department of Wildlife. If you see us out there, stop by and say hello and be sure to sign up for our monthly newsletters, so you can receive the most up to date information regularly.

This year our Ride Safe, Ride Smart has expanded statewide to provide more Youth OHV Safety Camps in more communities, as well as School Assemblies and High School Health Class presentations about OHV Safety. We have been fortunate to solidify a partnership with the Nevada Offroad Association, Tread Lightly and the Renown Pediatric Trauma Prevention Specialist to provide free Axel offroad helmets to youth at targeted events where large groups are riding and there has been a history of fatal youth OHV accidents.

Our staff strive every day to better the world through their passion for our mission. Their work and enthusiasm make this job exciting and rewarding. Our partners are organizations and businesses with high standards and integrity. Our AmeriCorps Outdoor Educators consistently focus on outdoor skills and knowledge that improve their personal development, confidence and safety while recreating outdoors. Happily, my work at NOS enables me to see the very best in people as they, individually and through our AmeriCorps Host Sites, work to improve lives, communities and the environment.

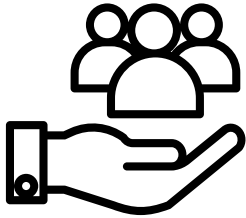
You, our donors, friends and partners are key to everything we do. From all of us at NOS, thank you for coming along this journey with us!

Melanie Erquiaga
Melanie Erquiaga, Executive Director

Nevada Outdoor School

BY NUMBERS

What we do, because of you!



NATIONAL SERVICE

22 AmeriCorps
Members at

5 Host Sites
providing

12,929 hours of
service



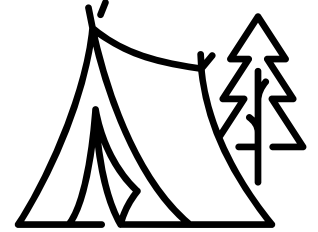
SCHOOL-BASED LESSONS

2,828

number of student
interactions during the
2022-23 school year
providing

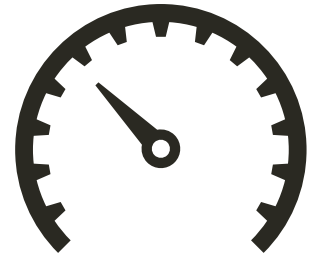
7,807

hours of outdoor education!



NATURE EXPLORERS

9 Unique Summer
Camps Offered

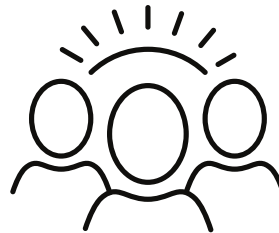


1 3 8 3 2

Total Summer Camp Miles
Driven in Fleet Vehicles

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COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

95

Outdoor skill workshops, community
nature programs and hikes, and outreach
events facilitated or attended serving

5,890

community members
throughout Nevada

Hours Campers Spent
Exploring the Outdoors

3,968





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.



2023 Statistics



408
people served



84 acres
improved



376 volunteers



3,386 hours of
volunteer service

Lifetime Statistics

393

Members placed
at Host Sites

308,285

Hours of Service that
has improved Nevada

\$1.3 million

Segal Education
Award dollars

In their own words...

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. This goes for adults and children. I learned so many skills while serving here that I got to teach others in my community.

-- Kaitlin, serving at Nevada Outdoor School, Elko



“

I sent in my application to NOS AmeriCorps with very little knowledge of its purpose or expectations. I saw that it was an outdoors program with a lot of camping and teaching. Camping I was familiar with, but teaching was going to be a new experience that I was very nervous to attempt. I found that I really enjoyed working with kids. I came to realize how many amazing kids I met, and the amount of memories I made with my coworkers. It is truly an amazing and rewarding opportunity that I would highly recommend to anyone with a sense of adventure!

-- Stewart, serving at Nevada Outdoor School, Elko



“

Being an AmeriCorps member has been such a wonderful experience! I'm beyond grateful for having the opportunity to be one. It has helped me become more of an outspoken person and has made me more confident in myself. I'm also grateful to have helped the FCAA. They are such wonderful people and go above and beyond to help our community which I admire.

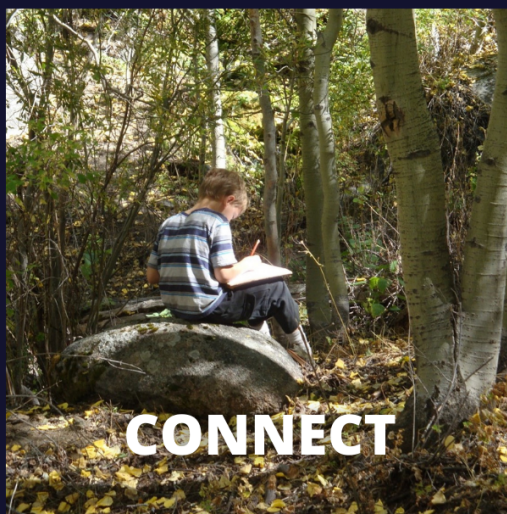
--Johanny, serving at Frontier Community Action Agency, Winnemucca



“

My time as a restoration crew member spanned three transformative months. The shifting hues of the landscape mirrored the changes within me, as I questioned my place in the cycle of growth and decay. The journey towards self-discovery isn't linear; it's marked by moments of doubt and revelation, much like the land's perpetual transformation. As I embraced discomfort and sought change, I discovered the true essence of transformation—anchored in humility, renewal, and the intricate dance of growth shared by both the self and the natural world.

-- Dakota, serving at Friends of Nevada Wilderness



NOS PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS

YOUTH

Nature in My World

School-Based Outdoor Learning Experiences

Nature in the Park

Hour long nature programs geared for 4 - 7 year olds

Nature Explorers

Outdoor exploration summer camps for ages 8 - 17

TRAINING

Formal Trainings

Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! Trainer Courses, Hunter Safety and Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Safety Training

Ride Safe, Ride Smart

NV OHV Safety Certification Program, Youth Rider Evaluation, School Assemblies, Community Events, and Camps for 7 - 17 year olds

Outdoor Skill Workshops

Workshops that increase skills and knowledge related to responsible outdoor recreation

COMMUNITY

Nature Clubs

Community based programs focused on outdoor recreation and the natural world

Road Shows

Customizable mobile education and outreach booth

Partnered Programs

Programs and events where NOS supports outdoor education led by other groups

YOUTH PROGRAMS



Nature in My World

2,828 K-8th students in 6 rural Nevada Counties were reached through **outdoor learning experiences**

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

Nature in the Park

351 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



9 Outdoor Adventures throughout the summer for **88, 8-17 year olds** fostering **3,968 Hours of TSO** exploring Angel Lake, Ruby Valley, Lamoille Canyon, Lake Tahoe, Water Canyon, Santa Rosa Mountains, Wildhorse SRA, & Jarbidge Wilderness



Accredited Youth Program

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 - 58 Participants

Tread Lightly! - 17 Participants

Leave No Trace - 28 Participants

OHV/ATV Safety - 32 Participants

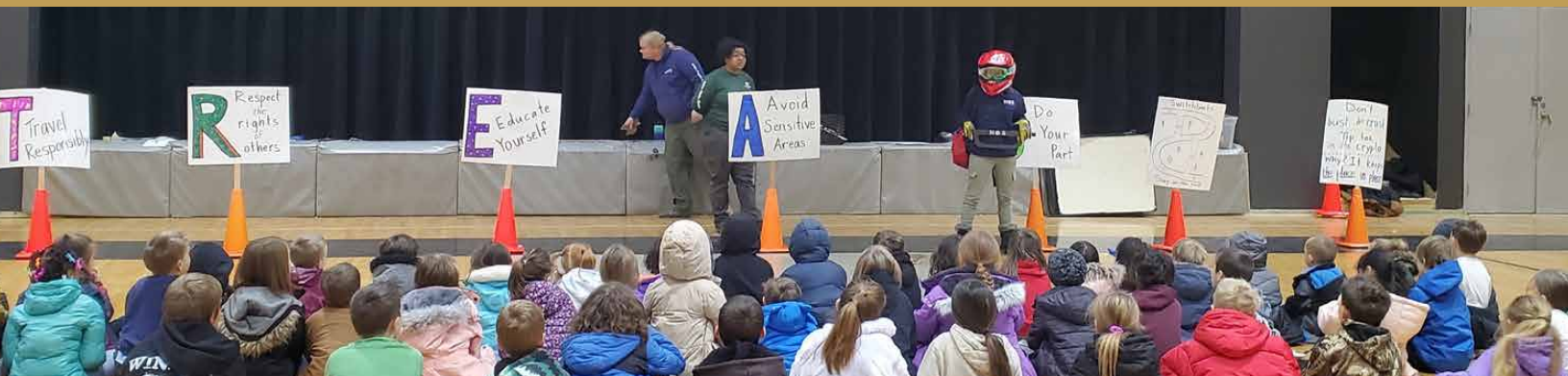


Outdoor Skills Workshops

246 Participants

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

TRAINING PROGRAMS

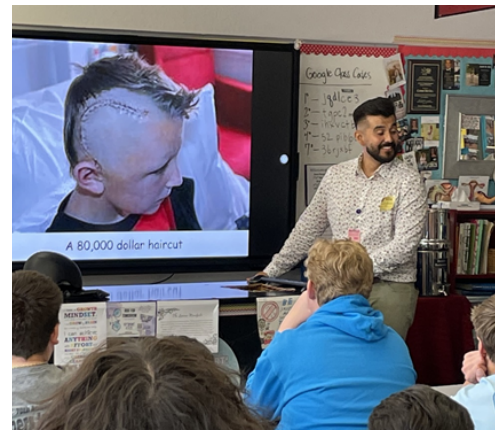


Ride Safe, Ride Smart (RS2)

3 RS2 Youth Camps - Putting helmets on kids!

403 Youth educated through RS2 Assemblies and classroom presentations

56 OHV riders contacts made



Take the course here!

Official Nevada OHV Safety Course Online

Take this course to complete your online OHV safety education. This course is sponsored by the Nevada Outdoor School and approved by the Nevada Offroad Association and Nevada Department of Conservation & Natural Resources.

[Get Certified →](#)



NOS's OHV Certification Program officially launched in March 2023! So far, 28 people have completed this online training and youth rider evaluation!

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

NOS Nature Clubs

201 Participants in Community Hikes & Walks explored **38 miles** in Nevada through the NOS Nomads Nature Club!



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



2,109 Public
Contacts Made!

**Road
Shows**

Traveling the state with the message of responsible recreation!

Partnered Programs

3,657 Public Contacts Made!

Supporting California Trail
Interpretive Center (CTIC)
events, Kids Fishing Day,
Trout Release, Lamoille Canyon
EE Days 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 dioramas, original murals, exhibits on the native peoples and productions 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!



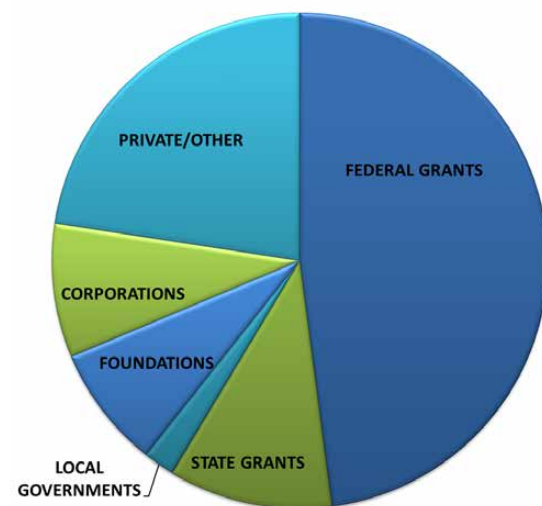
A NOS Programs Coordinator at the Trail Center provides field trips and Traveling Trunk classroom visits to Elko County School District students and enhanced visitor interpretive experiences to the general public!

FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2023 REVIEW

TOTAL REVENUE

AmeriCorps Nevada - Nevada Volunteers	\$255,098	23.36%
AmeriCorps Host Site Partnership Match	\$22,897	2.10%
Bureau of Land Management	\$100,021	9.16%
Chukar Chasers	\$1,500	0.14%
City of Elko	\$5,000	0.46%
Elko Bighorns Unlimited	\$5,000	0.46%
Elko Convention and Visitors Authority	\$2,500	0.23%
Elko County Commission	\$6,000	0.55%
Elko County School District	\$7,500	0.69%
Employee Retention Tax Credit	\$139,517	12.78%
Fundraiser Revenue	\$37,729	3.46%
Humboldt County Commission	\$5,000	0.46%
I-80 Corp	\$3,000	0.27%
Lander County	\$3,906	0.36%
Nevada Bighorn Unlimited - Midas Chapter	\$5,000	0.46%
Nevada Chukar Foundation	\$7,500	0.69%
Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles	\$109,911	10.07%
Nevada Dept of Environmental Protection	\$6,845	0.63%
Nevada Gold Heritage Fund	\$16,487	1.51%
Nevada Gold Mines	\$50,000	4.58%
Nevada Muleys	\$10,000	0.92%
Nevada State Parks	\$166,559	15.26%
NV Energy Foundation	\$20,000	1.83%
Other Miscellaneous Donations	\$20,024	1.83%
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$4,600	0.42%
Small Mine Development	\$7,500	0.69%
Southwest Gas Foundation	\$3,500	0.32%
Southwest Gas Fuel for Life	\$9,967	0.91%
SSR Marigold Mine	\$5,000	0.46%
TC Energy	\$30,000	2.75%
Trail Trust by Fox Factory	\$10,000	0.92%
US Forest Service	\$1,370	0.13%
Wild Sheep Foundation	\$5,000	0.46%
Yamaha Off Road Initiative	\$7,869	0.72%
Total REVENUE	\$1,091,800	100.00%

REVENUE COMPARISON



TOTAL EXPENSES

Accounting	\$7,916	0.86%
Advertising and promotion	\$21,030	2.27%
Background checks	\$1,138	0.12%
Employee benefits	\$23,149	2.50%
Fundraiser Expenses	\$24,773	2.68%
Information Technology	\$10,343	1.12%
Liability Insurance	\$36,172	3.91%
Occupancy	\$37,981	4.11%
Office Expenses	\$6,377	0.69%
Payroll taxes	\$46,379	5.02%
Program specific supplies	\$88,191	9.54%
Staff salaries	\$372,115	40.24%
Stipends for AmeriCorps Members	\$184,692	19.97%
Student lodging and transportation	\$475	0.05%
Training/Conferences/Conventions	\$5,895	0.64%
Travel Expenses (including Fuel)	\$54,764	5.92%
All other expenses	\$3,330	0.36%
Total EXPENSES	\$924,720	100.00%

YEARLY COMPARISON

	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY2021</u>	<u>FY2022</u>	<u>FY2023</u>
Income by year	\$762,067	\$650,651	\$601,403	\$655,891	\$740,866	\$1,091,800
Expenses by year	\$759,666	\$690,287	\$610,677	\$668,877	\$755,169	\$924,720

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gene Hunt – President & Treasurer

Tina Burke – Secretary

D'ette Mawson – Member

Angie Heguy – Member

Dr. Brandolyn Thran – Member

Krystal Gunn – Member



STAFF

Melanie Erquiaga – Executive Director

Dr. Brandolyn Thran – Associate Director and Science Advisor (Oct.–Jan.)

Karl Klein – Associate Director (Jan.–Sept.)

Zulma Mayorga – AmeriCorps Program Director

Sarah Welsh – Finance Director

Jessica Snaman Myers – Outreach Director

Jacklyn Orr – Communication and Marketing Specialist

Allana Havernick – Winnemucca Programs Coordinator

Meghan Sturgell – Elko Programs Coordinator

CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER PARTNERSHIP

Nicholas La Palm – Interpretative Program Coordinator (Oct.–Apr.)

Macy Rohr – Interpretative Program Coordinator (Apr.–Sept.)

AMERICORPS MEMBERS – OUTDOOR EDUCATORS

2021 – 2023

Johnny Cooper

2022 – 2023

Jasmine Burnett

2022 – 2023

Kaitlin Phipps

2022 – 2023

Toni Coulter

2023

Noah Doyle

2023

Noah Clymens

Summer of 2023

Angie Gonzales

Summer of 2023

Stewart Nielson

Summer of 2023

Mayra Rivas

Summer of 2023

Sedric Zimmerman

Summer of 2023

Jesse Baird







AmeriCorps

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