



2022 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



American Red
Cross



AmeriCorps
Nevada
AmeriCorps



Blach Distributing



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF WINNEMUCCA
Boys and Girls Club
of Winnemucca



Bureau of Land
Management



California Trail
Interpretive Center



Camp Chef



Chukar Chasers
Foundation



City of Elko



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
of Northern Nevada



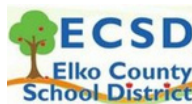
Elko Bighorns
Unlimited



Elko Broadcasting
Company



Elko Convention and
Visitors Authority



Elko County
School District



Elko County



Elko Daily
Free Press



Elko Institute for
Academic Achievement

Elite Island Resorts
CARIBBEAN

Elite Island
Resorts



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



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



NEVADA OUTDOOR SCHOOL PARTNERS

Funders and Program Partnerships



Lander County
School District



Lassen Park
Foundation



Leave No
Trace



MedX Air One



National Public
Lands Day



Nevada Division of
Environmental Protection



Nevada Bighorns
Unlimited - Midas



Nevada Chukar
Foundation



Nevada Department
of Wildlife



Nevada
Gold Mines



Nevada Muleys



Nevada Off-Highway
Vehicle Commission



Nevada
State Parks



Nevada Volunteers



Nomadic
Broadcasting



NV Energy Foundation



Nevada Offroad
Association



Off Road
Nevada



Pershing County
Senior Center



Pleasant Senior
Center



Polaris



Port of Subs



Public Lands
Alliance



Rocky Mountain
Elk Foundation



Saggio
Advertising



Sierra Nevada
Journeys



Small Mine
Development



Southern Nevada
Conservancy



Southwest Gas



Spring Creek
Association



Sportman's
Warehouse



SSR Mining Marigold



Trail Trust by
Fox Factory



Tread Lightly!



USDA Forest
Service



Wild Sheep
Foundation



Winnemucca Chrysler,
Dodge, Jeep, and Ram



TC Energy



5th Gear
Powersports

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

With great enthusiasm, I present our 2022 Annual Report for Nevada Outdoor School (NOS)! Each time we draft this report, it gives us the opportunity to slow down and reflect on the past year – our accomplishments, failures, partnerships and relationships we've built with like-minded individuals and organizations. Throughout this Annual Report, we highlight some of the great successes of the immediate past fiscal year, but also commemorate some milestones since 2002. We celebrate with you and because of you!

Here at NOS, we are immensely grateful to everyone who supports us to be able to experience the outdoors to the fullest. We have strengthened our program identity and have made great programmatic strides. We are especially proud of student participant growth, reaching more young people around the state, deepening their connection to the natural world and inspiring a care for our amazing outdoor spaces for generations to come.

This growth indicates both a need and a value in rural Nevada communities for quality outdoor education programs. We are a recognized stakeholder and valued local nonprofit organization in rural Nevada. Our school-based programs service region has expanded to include Eureka and White Pine Counties in addition to Lander, Humboldt, Pershing and Elko Counties. Plus, our Ride Safe Ride Smart OHV Safety Programs and our mobile outreach Road Show travels statewide.

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.

This year was an ambitious one as we worked to refine and also expand our programs. Working through a lens of outdoor ethics education, we initiated our Action. Impact. Choice. (AIC) education model. Through guidance and support, NOS challenges people to analyze their actions, evaluate the impacts those actions have and choose wisely to positively impact the natural world and minimize negative impacts when possible.

Our expanding community of individual, corporate, foundation and state and federal grantors, like you, make a difference. I feel a great sense of affirmation and gratitude for the contributions and work of families, students, AmeriCorps members, staff, board members and others who bring our important work to life each year. This work is accomplished by re-committing time and time again to constantly evaluate our programs, learn from our experiences and that of others, and be willing and able to quickly and efficiently make necessary changes to achieve our objectives. I am vitalized by the potential that lies ahead for NOS in 2023 and beyond and am confident that we are on the right track for success!

Wasting no time diving head first into the new year, NOS sets the standards for excellence in outdoor education, achieving a high quality of programs while also providing a good work/life balance for those that work so hard to bring our programs to life. I look forward to you joining us in the coming year as we explore the outdoors, work on youth development and community benefit, learn from each other and prepare for your adventures in 2023.

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

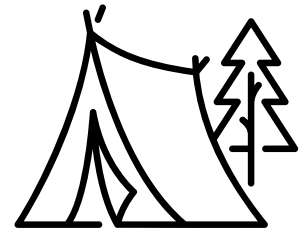
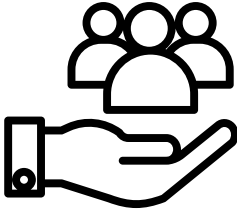


Melanie Erquiaga, Executive Director

Nevada Outdoor School

BY NUMBERS

What we do, because of you!



NATIONAL SERVICE

24 AmeriCorps Members at

6 Host Sites providing

17,029 hours of service

SCHOOL-BASED LESSONS

3,641

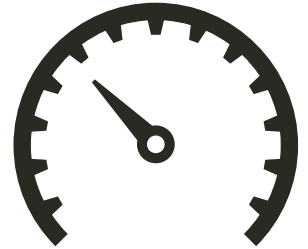
number of student interactions during the 2021-22 school year providing

260

hours of outdoor education!

NATURE EXPLORERS

15 Unique Summer Camps Offered



19500

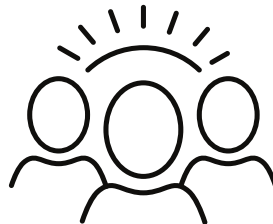
Total Summer Camp Miles Driven in Fleet Vehicles

Summer campers were from Nevada counties



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COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

54

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

3,421

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.



2022 Statistics



482
people served



260 acres
improved



17,029
hours of
AmeriCorps service



533 volunteers



5,863 hours of
volunteer service

Lifetime Statistics

371
Members placed
at Host Sites

295,356
Hours of Service that
has improved Nevada

\$1.3 million
Segal Education
Award dollars

In their own words...

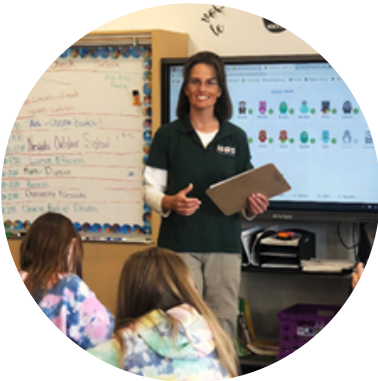
THE AMERICORPS EXPERIENCE CHANGES LIVES



“

I learned so many things about plants and animals and geography with the children and even got to teach them myself. I also learned a couple ways to manage my anxiety that at one point made it nearly impossible for me to talk in front of groups of people. I also got to experience things I wouldn't have been able to before, I grew up in a poor family so we never had the opportunity to go to any cool places, in just the 2 months here I got to see more than I had ever seen in the past 5 years of my life!

-- Sedric, serving at Nevada Outdoor School, Winnemucca



“

In addition to honest smiles and hugs, seeing the kids have fun with science and learning is another benefit to serving at Nevada Outdoor School. Hearing their laughter mixed in with gasps of comprehension has to be one of the sweetest sounds a Naturalist could ever hear.

-- Gretchen, serving at Nevada Outdoor School, Elko



“

What was most rewarding was to give back in a small way to Mother Earth and the Sagebrush Steppe Ecosystem that supports our way of life in the Great Basin. Learning more about myself, making lifelong friends and building up my resume don't hurt either. I feel a sense of pride whenever I bring up my AmeriCorps service, whether it's putting it down on a resume or talking to family and friends about it. I won't forget this summer for a long time.

-- Gabriel, serving at Friends of Nevada Wilderness



Statewide Recognition for the Governor's Points of Light Award

The Governor's Points of Light Award is the highest honor bestowed by Nevada Volunteers and the State Governor, recognizing individuals and organizations whose dedication, innovation, and leadership make Nevada a better place to live.

Tara Blake
Bronze, National Service Member Category
Served at: Friends of Nevada Wilderness

Zulma Mayorga
Silver, Volunteer Manager Category
AmeriCorps Program Director at NOS



At Nevada Outdoor School, no two days are alike. Since 2003 we have been inspiring exploration of the natural world, responsible stewardship of our habitat and dedication of community. To accomplish our mission our communities have access to a variety of programs that span the calendar year.

NOS PROGRAM FOCUS AREAS

YOUTH

Nature in My World

Outdoor Learning
Experiences in schools:
Academic Topics, Leave No
Trace, and Tread Lightly!

Nature in the Park

Hour long nature
programs geared for
3-7 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

Monthly 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

During **Fall (September, October, and November)**, new AmeriCorps members join our team and training is a high-priority. AmeriCorps Members receive CPR/First Aid, Defensive Driver, ATV Safety Institute (ASI), Leave No Trace, Tread Lightly!, Classroom Management, and many other trainings while serving at NOS.



A.I.C.
Action Impact Change

YOUTH

In School Year 21 - 22, Nature in My World school-based programming was presented in over **110 classrooms** across Elko, Lander, Humboldt, and Pershing counties, reaching over **2,300 K - 8th grade students**

TRAINING

Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) safety education is paramount to decrease injury and accidents. NOS is committed to OHV safety education and developed the Nevada online curriculum suitable for side-by-sides, four-wheelers, and dirt bikes for youth and adults.

COMMUNITY

The opportunity to spread the responsible outdoor recreation message is expanded through new and longstanding partnerships with local outdoor enthusiast groups, local, state, and federal agencies, and other non-profits.



With the completion of the online **Nevada OHV Safety Certification** (<https://www.offroad-ed.com/nevada>), our **Ride Safe Ride Smart Program** will be enhanced and we look forward to a record number of trainings in 2023!



Photos:

1 - 5. Outdoor learning experiences help students understand how humans are part of nature and all connected. Interactive games and activities teach this important message through play, while reinforcing important academic concepts and skills. 6. Whole families benefit from learning outdoor skills. Most NOS programs are created for all ages and all abilities, encouraging full-family attendance and participation, inspiring conversations that extend long after the program is over.



In the **winter months (December, January, and February)** our focus is getting into our northern Nevada classrooms and presenting Outdoor Learning Experiences, encouraging kids to become aware of their actions and how they may impact the environment, so they may choose wisely (**AIC Model**). While the weather may be unpredictable, the energy level of our lessons, trainings and community events is not!

YOUTH

150 Kindergartners explored weather through classroom lessons and outdoor learning experiences.

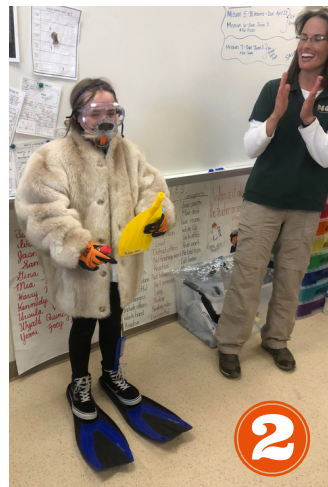
88 youth participated in Nature After School programs covering navigation, natural resources and communication.

TRAINING

Throughout the winter months, **52 community members** gained knowledge and skills related to winter survival skills, knot tying and First Aid Kits.

COMMUNITY

103 Community members braved the cold to enjoy a variety of outdoor recreation opportunities including hiking, snowshoeing, night hiking and campfires.



Photos:

1. Kindergartners work on number sense by running between temperatures during a lesson on weather. 2. Third grader demonstrates how animal adaptations influence behavior and survival. 3. Time to practice a skill, such as shelter building, is a precious commodity that NOS provides. 4 and 5. After some time spent outdoors with friends and family, a sweet treat of hot chocolate or a s'more is a welcome reward!



During **Spring (March, April, and May)**, field trip season is in full swing with our 2nd grade Watershed Heroes and a variety of partnered programs. You'll find NOS at local Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fairs, and busy preparing for summer camps. The warming temperatures and explosion of plant life provides a backdrop for ecological education and exploration!



A.I.C.
Action Impact Create

YOUTH

807 of Watershed Heroes were empowered to care for their local watershed. **670 students** participated in partnered field trips such as Lovelock Cave Days and Lamoille Canyon Environmental Education Days.

TRAINING

Spring was a time for training our staff, AmeriCorps, Partners and Community members. NOS Staff and AmeriCorps attended ATV Safety and Certified Interpretive Guide trainings. NOS facilitated a Leave No Trace Trainer Course at Fly Ranch outside Gerlach, Nevada.

COMMUNITY

Everyday is a great day to get outside but Earth Day reminds us to give back and take care of our planet! **198 community members** participated in Earth Day cleanups and hikes with us in Elko and Winnemucca this spring!



Photos:

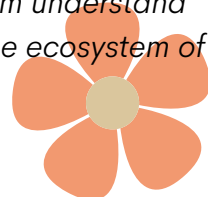
1. Learning how actions impact the Humboldt River Watershed is important and over 800 2nd graders in 4 counties became Watershed Heros, pledging to care for our local watershed by choosing wisely.
2. Elk Vision Glasses at Elko County STEM Fair surprised over 500 K-12 students
3. Working to turn Camp Oh-No! into Camp Oh Yay! helped over 300 5th Grade students see how their behavior impacts others and nature at Lamoille Environmental Days.



4. Passive outdoor activities are equally valuable. 64 painted at our inaugural Paint-in-the-Park events held at Water Canyon and Elko Main City Park



5. Exposure to local treasures, such as Lovelock Cave Days, to over 300 4th Graders helps them understand the unique ecosystem of Nevada.





During **Summer (June, July, and August)**, Nature Explorers summer camps and Nature at Nine Programs are the main focus. This summer, we also ran our 1st Adult Backpacking program! These high-quality and unique experiences for kids 4 years old to adult reached participants from 6 Nevada counties.

YOUTH

152 campers explored the outdoors and connected with the natural world during our **15 Nature Explorers Summer Camps!**



TRAINING

Summer season kicks off with our annual summer camp training and Leave No Trace Trainer Course for all programming staff and AmeriCorps Outdoor Educators to ensure high-quality, fun and safe programs.

COMMUNITY

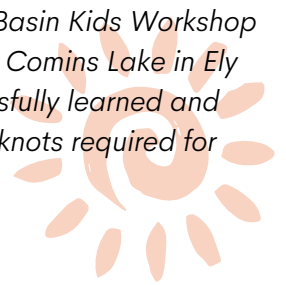
Partners, like the California Trail Interpretive Center (CTIC), the Eastern Nevada Landscape Coalition, and Great Basin National Park Foundation are instrumental in providing access to experts and meaningful locations.



Photos:

1. Community service is part of every camp. Spring Creek Marina was a bit cleaner after these kids left. 2. Learning how to read a map is an important outdoor skill. High school backpackers find themselves and decide on a route back to camp from 10,500ft above Island Lake in the Ruby Mountains. 3. NOS serves "kids" of all ages, the inaugural adult backpacking excursion to Griswold Lake in the Ruby Mountains gave these four hard working women a physical challenge to overcome and some time to relax. 4. High above Lake Tahoe, campers are exposed to a national treasure. 5. At CTIC, day campers learned archery skills which improves hand/eye coordination and confidence. 6. Crazy weather at Great Basin National Park didn't slow down campers from self-discovery and exploration. 7. Things big and small, from volcanos to aquatic macroinvertebrates were investigated at Lassen National Volcanic Park. 8. Knots are an essential responsible outdoor recreation skill, and you can't start learning them too young! Campers at

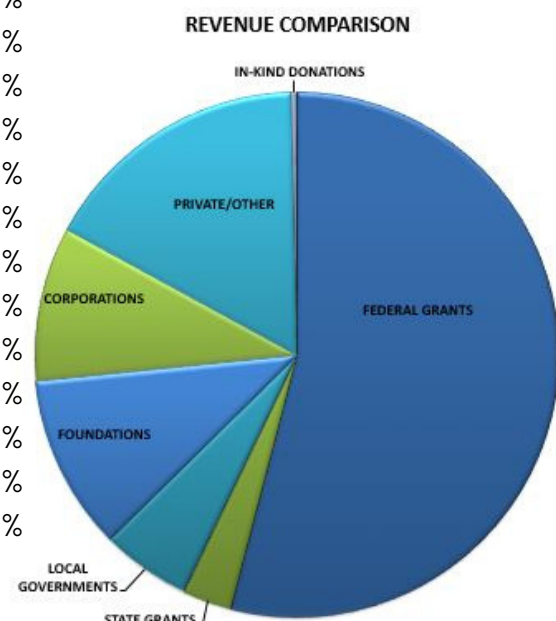
Great Basin Kids Workshop visiting Comins Lake in Ely successfully learned and tested knots required for fishing.



FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2022 REVIEW

TOTAL REVENUE

AmeriCorps Nevada - Nevada Volunteers	\$218,905	29.55%
AmeriCorps Host Site Partnership Match	\$49,515	6.68%
Bureau of Land Management	\$73,495	9.92%
Chukar Chasers	\$1,500	0.20%
City of Elko	\$25,000	3.37%
Community Foundation of Western Nevada	\$20,000	2.70%
Elko Convention and Visitors Authority	\$3,168	0.43%
Elko County Commission	\$6,000	0.81%
Elko County School District	\$5,000	0.67%
Fundraiser Revenue	\$29,082	3.93%
Humboldt County Commission	\$5,000	0.67%
I-80 Corp	\$3,000	0.40%
In-Kind Donations	\$2,592	0.35%
Lander County	\$5,000	0.67%
Lassen National Park Foundation	\$1,000	0.13%
Nevada Bighorn Unlimited - Midas Chapter	\$5,000	0.67%
Elko Bighorn Unlimited	\$5,500	0.75%
Nevada Chukar Foundation	\$7,500	1.01%
Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles	\$18,632	2.51%
Nevada Dept of Environmental Protection	\$3,728	0.50%
Nevada Gold Heritage Fund	\$17,342	2.34%
Nevada Gold Mines	\$35,000	4.72%
Nevada Muleys	\$11,000	1.48%
Nevada State Parks	\$107,842	14.56%
NV Energy Foundation	\$10,000	1.35%
Other Miscellaneous Donations	\$18,862	2.55%
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation	\$3,500	0.47%
Small Mine Development	\$7,500	1.01%
Southwest Gas Foundation	\$2,000	0.27%
Southwest Gas Fuel for Life	\$9,072	1.22%
SSR Marigold Mine	\$5,000	0.67%
TC Energy	\$20,000	2.70%
Wild Sheep Foundation	\$3,000	0.40%
Yamaha Off Road Initiative	\$2,131	0.29%
Total REVENUE	\$740,866	100.00%



TOTAL EXPENSES

Accounting	\$6,679	0.88%
Advertising and promotion	\$6,848	0.90%
Background checks	\$908	0.12%
Employee benefits	\$29,611	3.91%
Fundraiser Expenses	\$14,945	1.92%
Information Technology	\$4,224	0.56%
In-Kind Donation	\$2,592	0.34%
Interest Paid	\$1,704	0.23%
Liability Insurance	\$23,946	3.16%
Occupancy	\$34,411	4.56%
Office Expenses	\$2,352	0.31%
Payroll taxes	\$42,955	5.69%
Program specific supplies	\$25,310	3.34%
Staff salaries	\$358,829	47.44%
Stipends for AmeriCorps Members	\$143,584	19.00%
Student lodging and transportation	\$319	0.04%
Training/Conferences/Conventions	\$6,387	0.84%
Travel Expenses (including Fuel)	\$32,225	4.26%
All other expenses	\$18,944	2.50%
Total EXPENSES	\$756,773	100.00%

YEARLY COMPARISON

	<u>FY 2017</u>	<u>FY 2018</u>	<u>FY 2019</u>	<u>FY 2020</u>	<u>FY2021</u>	<u>FY2022</u>
Income by year	\$644,511	\$762,067	\$650,651	\$601,403	\$655,891	\$740,866
Expenses by year	\$628,050	\$759,666	\$690,287	\$610,677	\$668,877	\$756,773

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gene Hunt - President & Treasurer
Brett Worsham - Secretary
D'ette Mawson - Member
Angie Heguy - Member
Tina Burke - Member



STAFF

Melanie Erquiaga - Executive Director
Dr. Brandolyn Thran - Associate Director and Science Advisor
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 Rich - Elko Programs Coordinator

CALIFORNIA TRAIL INTERPRETIVE CENTER PARTNERSHIP

Nicholas La Palm - Interpretative Program Coordinator

AMERICORPS MEMBERS - OUTDOOR EDUCATORS

2020 - 2022	Macy Rohr
2021 - 2023	Johnny Cooper
2021 - 2022	Gretchen Westhoff
2021 - 2022	Kenzy Tom
Summer of 2022	Shae Relyea
Summer of 2022	Bianca Mojica
Summer of 2022	Sedric Zimmerman
2022 - 2023	Kaitlin Phipps
2022 - 2023	Toni Coulter
2022 - 2023	Jasmine Burnett





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