

# IMPACT STATEMENT 2025

DO SOMETHING WILD INSPIRE GROWTH AND WONDER



















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### A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

Each summer at Wilderness Adventures, we witness countless "firsts"...

The first time a camper sleeps under the stars.

The first time they paddle a river, reach a summit, or lead a group.

The first time they realize they're capable of more than they ever imagined.

These moments, big and small, are what define the camp experience. They are the sparks that build confidence, curiosity, and courage. In a world where children's lives can feel carefully mapped and managed, camp offers a different kind of gift: discovery.

Through the Wilderness Adventures Foundation, we believe every young person deserves the chance to experience these powerful firsts. Because in that first step onto the trail, that first leap into a lake, or that first time leading a team, something changes – they begin to see themselves differently.

In 2025, your support helped make these moments possible for so many campers. Thanks to your generosity, children from across the country experienced their first true adventures in the outdoors and discovered a lifetime of confidence and wonder in the process.

As you read this year's Impact Statement, I hope you see what we see every summer: the incredible ripple effect that begins with a single opportunity.

Thank you for helping create so many firsts that will last a lifetime.

With gratitude,

Tom and Catherine Holland

Tan & Catherne

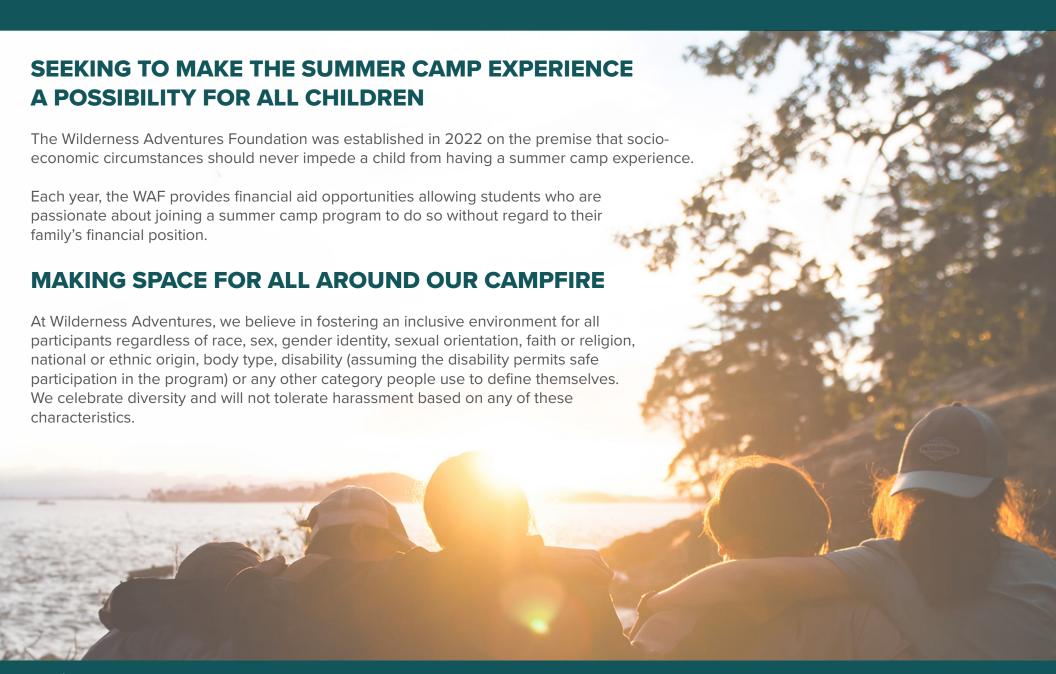


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# **OUR MISSION**



## **FUNDRAISING EFFORTS**

# MAGGIE PERKINS AND THE LEADVILLE SILVER RUSH 50

This summer, previous Base Camp Director and WA Trip Leader, and current WAF Board Member, Maggie Perkins, ran the Leadville Silver Rush 50 race (a 50 mile run!) to raise money for WAF. Her goal? To make sure no child is ever turned away from a life-changing summer experience due to financial barriers. We are beyond grateful for Maggie and her dedication to summer camp and the mission of WAF!

### Maggie raised a total of... \$3,446





"Summer camp set my life on a course I never could have imagined as a nine-year-old at sleep-away camp. I've spent 19 of my 28 summers at camp, and I can't imagine who I'd be without

the friends and mentors who've shaped me in countless ways. I ran the Leadville Silver Rush 50 Miler to raise money for the Wilderness Adventures Foundation so other children can experience the same joy, confidence, and pride that comes from Doing Something Wild."

Maggie Perkins2025 WAF Board Member

### **OLD BILL'S FUN RUN**

Old Bill's Fun Run is a unique and highly successful fundraiser in Jackson Hole, focused on community and collective impact. Without finish lines, podiums, or medals, it unites participants in a shared goal to raise money for local non-profits and causes, amplifying generosity to create lasting change.

During Old Bill's Giving Season, WAF and our community unite, cultivating generosity that allows us to break financial barriers and offer camp experiences to all children. We are so grateful for each donation to the Wilderness Adventures Foundation through Old Bill's.

By the end of this year's Old Bill's Fundraising season, WAF raised a total of...

\$60,375



# YOUR DOLLARS AT WORK

As Wilderness Adventures continues to grow, our partnerships with organizations, community foundations, and individuals who share our mission to make the outdoors accessible to all do as well. These collaborations allow us to expand our reach and deepen our impact, creating even more opportunities for youth to experience the transformative power of adventure. Your donations make this possible.

What began as a single vision to help young people grow through adventure has evolved into a network of programs that reach children and teens across the country. From day camps in Missoula and Jackson Hole to overnight adventures across the lower 48, each experience shares the same purpose: to inspire confidence, leadership, and a lifelong connection to the natural world.

Every dollar contributes to moments of discovery, laughter around a campfire, and lifelong friendships that form in the outdoors. Because of your support, more young people are finding courage in challenge, strength in community, and joy in nature.

As you flip through the pages of this Impact Statement, you'll see how your contributions are fueling adventure and opportunity across each unique program. Together, we are shaping the next generation of outdoor leaders and stewards.

















# **WILDERNESS ADVENTURES**

### THE IMPACT

Since 1973, Wilderness Adventures had been taking students beyond the familiar, offering adventure travel experiences that build confidence, leadership, and a sense of purpose. Whether backpacking in the Rockies or sea kayaking in Alaska, participants learn to lead, collaborate, and grow through shared challenges and unforgettable experiences in the outdoors.

"Your support helped open a door that has had a truly transformative impact on Aron. We've watched him for years talk about wanting to become a marine biologist. But until now, he always followed that dream with a quiet disclaimer – something like "but I could never do that." After returning from the trip, that doubt is gone. Aron is now absolutely certain that this is what he wants to pursue, and more importantly, he finally sees it as a real possibility for himself.

Since the trip, he's been working hard to improve his grades and GPA, and we're actively helping him research other ways to strengthen his resume and applications for post-secondary opportunities in marine biology and related fields. The experience allowed him to see himself in a future that aligns with his passions – what an incredible gift you've helped give him.

Aron is a brilliant young person who has not had the support he deserved growing up. He has so much potential, and every ounce of encouragement he receives now makes a difference. Thank you for helping to make this moment possible. I believe it may have truly changed the trajectory of his life."

WA Guardian2025 WAF Financial Aid Recipiant

### THE NUMBERS

\$88,925.00

total gifted to WA students/campers

89%

of tuition costs covered on average

WA students aided

different destinations traveled to

partner organizations









# **BASE CAMP**

### THE IMPACT

Each summer, Base Camp invites kids in K-8th grade to discover the beauty and adventure of Jackson Hole. Every week of camp is action-packed and each day is an opportunity to grow, explore, and connect with the wild places and people that make Jackson Hole so special.

Campers are immersed in hands-on activities and experiences like arts and crafts, nature science, target sports, hikes, ropes courses, song and dance, and sometimes even a field trip to a nearby hike. Through outdoor play and creative challenges, campers develop independence, resilience, and meaningful friendships.

Over the past few summers, WAF has provided financial assistance to deserving families so their children can benefit from the fun, friendship, and growth that Base Camp offers and we look forward to continuing to offer increased financial support in the coming years.

# BASE CAMP JACKSON HOLE

\$6,457.05

total gifted for Base Camp campers

sessions of camp aided

Base Camp campers aided

partner organization

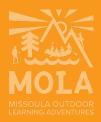












# MOLA

### THE IMPACT

Missoula Outdoor Learning Adventures (MOLA) gives kids in grades K-10 the chance to explore their local trails, rivers, and mountains while learning valuable lessons in teamwork and leadership. Each day offers new outdoor challenges – from hiking and rafting to biking and climbing. Through these adventures, campers develop outdoor and leadership skills, build self-confidence, strengthen their sense of teamwork, and deepen their appreciation for the natural world.

MOLA has been serving the Missoula community since 2000, and thanks to generous donors, WAF is able to provide financial assistance to deserving children, ensuring that every camper has the opportunity to experience the magic of MOLA.

"I'd like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for the experience William was able to have this summer. He truly enjoyed being there and opened his world to new opportunities.

And him being camper of the week made me shed some tears. This summer made him very proud of himself and trusts himself more. What more could we ask for. Thank you again."

MOLA Parent2025 WAF Financial Aid Participant



### **THE NUMBERS**

\$5,480.00

total gifted for MOLA campers

25 sessions of camp aided

MOLA campers aided







# **CAMP NEW FORK**

### THE IMPACT

For nearly 100 years, Camp New Fork was operated by the Boys Scouts of America: Crossroads of the West as a premier destination for scouts from around the United States. With the support of the US Forest Service, Wilderness Adventures and the Boys Scouts worked to transfer the USFS special use permit.

Last year, as Wilderness Adventures brought summer camp back to Camp New Fork, support from the Wilderness Adventures Foundation made it possible for families to send their children to Camp New Fork who might otherwise not have had the opportunity. We look forward to supporting even more families in the years to come.

Camp New Fork gives 2nd-8th graders the chance to unplug and immerse themselves in exciting outdoor adventures. Camp New Fork is filled with classic camp fun that fosters friendships, teamwork, and plenty of laughter. These sessions are a great stepping stone for campers who are interested in eventually exploring longer overnight programs, or for those who simply want to experience the magic of summer camp.

### THE NUMBERS

\$2,275.00

total gifted for CNF campers

sessions of camp aided

CNF campers aided









# **WILD HORIZONS**

### **LINDSAY'S STORY**

Twenty-nine years ago Lindsay was diagnosed with leukemia. Three years later, she spent a month with WA exploring the Wyoming wilderness alongside 15 other teenagers – hiking, canoeing, and just being in nature. Lindsaybelieves this trip changed her life and she wants to give this gift to adolescent cancer survivors so that they can enter adulthood renewed, confident and empowered to become even better versions of themselves post cancer. Fast forward to 2024 and Lindsay and her husband, Tom



Lindsay on the Grand Teton Summit (1997)

Sweeney, climbed the Grand Teton to raise money with the goal of fully funding a trip for teen cancer survivors like herself. She successfully raised \$35,412 to fully fund a trip for 8 students in 2025, and Wild Wyoming was born. This group spent two weeks backpacking in the Wind River Range, sea kayaking on Yellowstone Lake, and whitewater rafting.

Lindsay will continue to work with Wilderness Adventures and WAF to offer this trip for years to come so that cancer survivors can have the same life-changing experience that Lindsay had in 1997.

### THE WILD HORIZONS MISSION

Teenage years can be fraught with a host of challenges. Cancer and treatment can add additional layers of distress that sometimes leave patients more susceptible to anxiety, depression, and other mental health issues. Wild Horizons strives to get teen cancer survivors out in the wild, challenge their minds and bodies, and forget about cancer for a while and to provide them with outdoor adventures that renew, heal, and re-energize students for whatever life experiences lie ahead.

### THE NUMBERS

\$35,412

raised by Lindsay Payne

\$1,200

donation for new sleeping bags

students fully funded



2025 Wild Wyoming students hiking in the Wind RIver Range.

"I just wanted to take a second to thank you for spearheading this amazing trip. I remember during our video chat you saying how this trip changed your life as a child, I think it has had the same effect for Milo. In the few days he's been home, I've noticed a new quiet confidence in him that was definitely not there before. He is more sure of himself and less timid. I can't thank you enough for giving him this opportunity. I am excited to see where this new confidence takes him! He kept a journal while they were gone. I've asked his permission to share with you, one of the final days entries:

"I feel like I've changed. I'm not the same Milo I was before. Similar, but not the same. I take my medicine with water, I ask for seconds on salad night, and I even decide to sleep on the beach with an iminant thunderstorm rolling in. It's strange, despite everything, I'm still happy to be me. This trip's done a lot for me, here's to the last day!"

### - WA Parent

Lindsay Payne Financial Aid Participant



# **COOMBS OUTDOORS**

### THE IMPACT

Through a competitive grant from the Community Foundation, funds raised through Old Bill's, and other donations, Wilderness Adventures was able to partner with Coombs Outdoors to offer several fantastic trips for Teton County youth in 2025. Opportunities were provided for 108 underserved students from Teton County to immerse themselves in nature on overnight trips this summer. These students camped at Camp New Fork, paddled on Yellowstone lake, backpacked in the Bridger-Teton National Forest and the Wind River Range, rafted in Missoula, and whitewater kayaked down the Snake River.

We are incredibly grateful for this opportunity provided by the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole. After a successful second summer, we are already beginning to plan Coombs Outdoors trips for 2026 and are excited to deepen this partnership as it aligns with the mission of WAF.

"As our collaboration [with Wilderness Adventures] grows, we continue to work toward a shared mission: providing meaningful, inspiring outdoor experiences for children. This partnership not only fosters personal development but also strengthens our joint commitment to building a more diverse, inclusive, and empowered outdoor community. By working together we are breaking down barriers that might prevent children from experiencing the outdoors, ensuring that all kids, regardless of background or ability, have access to transformative adventures. Through these shared experiences, we are cultivating resilience, confidence, and a lifelong love of nature, while reinforcing the values of respect, teamwork, and stewardship that will benefit both our community and the next generation of outdoor leaders."

### - Yolanda Vazquez

Engage Program Manager for Coombs Outdoors

### THE NUMBERS

\$16,000 \$15,000 \$8,000

in kind donation from Wilderness Adventures

gifted from WAF through Old Bill's

gifted from the Jackson Hole **Community Foundation** 

\$5,000

donation to WAF from Coombs Outdoors





### WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE TO ALL WILDERNESS ADVENTURES FOUNDATION DONORS

INCLUDES ALL DONORS 10/1/2024-10/1/2025

\*A special thanks to members of the WA Leadership Team and the WAF Board of Directors for their ongoing support of the Wilderness Adventures Foundation and commitment to providing amazing adventures to students in wild places.

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# ways to donate

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307-733-2122

### **MAIL A CHECK**

Wilderness Adventures Foundation PO Box 2768 Jackson, WY 83001

### **DONATE ONLINE**

CLICK HERE

# get in touch

### **WAF TAX INFORMATION**

EIN: 86-2979213

### **ADDRESS**

85 E Snow King Avenue PO Box 2768 Jackson, WY 83001

### CONTACT

info@wildernessadventures.com 307-733-2122



We are greatly honored by all the individuals who have supported our efforts to make camp a reality for all kids.