



 **WILDERNESS  
ADVENTURES**  
FOUNDATION • EST 2022

# IMPACT STATEMENT 2023

**DO SOMETHING WILD  
INSPIRE GROWTH  
AND WONDER**

## A LETTER FROM THE DIRECTORS

Dear Friends,

Every summer, we get to see young people at their very best. In the middle of the wilderness, we see that teenager pushing themselves to new heights as they try for the summit. We see that young person gaze upon vistas they have only imagined and dreamed about. We see what unplugging from a device can do for a young adult, and how they become better because of it.

At our day camps, we see campers lending a hand to one another on the high ropes course or in the canoe as new friendships abound. These moments are the essence of childhood, and it is our belief at the Wilderness Adventures Foundation that finances should never get in the way of a child having any of these experiences. For so many deserving kids, these moments were experienced last summer because of the generosity of donors like you. Thank you for giving the gift of adventure and camp to these kids.

We are proud to share our 2023 Wilderness Adventures Foundation Impact Statement with you where we will highlight the impact your gift made on the lives of these young people.

Sincerely,



Tom and Catherine Holland



**TOM AND CATHERINE HOLLAND**

WAF Directors + WA Owners and Directors

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## **SEEKING TO MAKE THE SUMMER CAMP EXPERIENCE A POSSIBILITY FOR ALL CHILDREN**

The Wilderness Adventures Foundation was established in 2022 on the premise that socioeconomic circumstances should never impede a child from having a summer camp experience.

Each year, the WAF provides financial aid opportunities allowing students who are passionate about joining a summer camp program to do so without regard to their family's financial position.

## **MAKING SPACE FOR ALL AROUND OUR CAMPFIRE**

At Wilderness Adventures, we believe in fostering an inclusive environment for all participants regardless of race, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, faith or religion, national or ethnic origin, body type, disability (assuming the disability permits safe participation in the program) or any other category people use to define themselves. We celebrate diversity and will not tolerate harassment based on any of these characteristics.

# **OUR MISSION**

# A LOOK AT THE NUMBERS

## WILDERNESS ADVENTURES OVERNIGHT PROGRAMMING

**\$94,050.31**

total gifted to WA students/campers

**89%**

of tuition costs covered on average

**20** WA students  
aided

**14** full scholarship  
students

**9** different destinations  
traveled to

**3** partner  
organizations

## MISSOULA OUTDOOR LEARNING ADVENTURES (MOLA)

**\$5,450.00**

total gifted for MOLA campers

**14** MOLA campers  
aided

## BASE CAMP JACKSON HOLE

**\$8,166.38**

total gifted for Base Camp campers

**18** Base Camp  
campers aided

**1** partner  
organization



## A LETTER FROM A WA STUDENT

Thank you for the opportunity to be able to go and enjoy the Wilderness Adventures experience in Wyoming (2022) and Utah (2023). My heart pounds at the thought of looking back on these trips, in a good way of course. Both of my trips have been life-changing experiences. I was amazed and blown away the first time I went on a Wilderness Adventures trip, and even more so on my second trip because I was able to get another opportunity to leave my home state and travel to a place I've never gone and experience nature, new friends, challenges, and make new memories all over again.



From flying on a plane, to pitching a tent and sleeping outside, all of this was new to me. I've always used my leadership skills at school, but these Wilderness Adventures experiences brought out a new sense of leadership in me.

My Trip Leaders were engaging, wonderful, and encouraging. I can always play back memories in my mind of my experience and the feeling of being detached from my phone and taking everything in. I feel as though I am so far from home and the way things usually are, but so close to nature and who I really am at the same time.

I hope to join the Summer Gap Semester program one day to continue to grow my leadership skills and have these new experiences. Wilderness Adventures holds great memories in my mind and heart that never fade away.

– **ABRAHAM**

*2023 Utah Red Rocks Student*

*2022 Yellowstone Wilderness Student*



## A LETTER FROM A WA STUDENT

I wanted to personally thank you for enabling me and other students to go on these trips and experience things we might not otherwise ever see or do. The Jackson Hole High Trails trip was my first ever time to Wyoming and the western United States. While in Wyoming, I saw things I had never before seen in person. The mountains, rivers, plants, and wildlife left me in awe at the end of each day. Since leaving, all I can think about is going back out west, and camping under the stars!

Besides physically experiencing new things, I also emotionally grew. While on this trip I had to learn how to advocate for myself and be more independent. On top of that, I made friends with people I never knew existed! All of those new experiences and uncomfortable situations were made at ease with my Trip Leaders, Eric and Persie. They made sure that there was never a dull moment on this trip but also created a more than comfortable environment every day.

On my way home, I felt differently than how I had before I left for Wyoming. As I walked through the front door of my home, things felt different. The trip had changed me.

I want other kids to have these same life-changing experiences and feelings. WA trips are so impactful and can create magical experiences for anyone.

– CELIA

*2023 Jackson Hole High Trails Student*



## WITH SINCERE GRATITUDE TO ALL WILDERNESS ADVENTURES FOUNDATION DONORS

INCLUDES ALL DONORS 10/1/2022-10/1/2023

*\*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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## CONTACT

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## WILDERNESS ADVENTURES FOUNDATION

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

