

Colorado Outdoor Equity Grant Awardees Fall 2022

ORGANIZATION NAME	LOCATION	GRANT AMOUNT	MISSION AND OUTDOOR EQUITY PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Adaptive Sports Association	Durango	\$50,000	The Adaptive Sports Association (ASA) provides outdoor, sport, and recreational experiences for people with disabilities. These activities are provided regardless of individual financial limitations and create an atmosphere for learning and enhancing self-esteem. Using specialized equipment and trained volunteer instructors, ASA strives to make the transformative power of the outdoors accessible to all. The OEGP will provide programmatic support for ASA's year-round programs.
Asian Girls Ignite	Denver	\$78,000	Asian Girls Ignite envisions a world where Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) girls and women define their power. AGI's mission is to build a strong community of AAPI girls and women to celebrate their individual and collective power through shared stories. Funding will support AGI Outdoors, which addresses the lack of AAPI representation in outdoors spaces by providing AAPI girls access to learn outdoor skills, build confidence and self-efficacy, and connect with the community of AAPI women who have a passion for the outdoors.
Colorado Center for the Blind	Littleton	\$50,000	Colorado Center for the Blind provides training, support and opportunities that blind individuals and others need to empower them to develop positive attitudes and lead independent lives as fully integrated, productive and contributing members of society. Funding will support breaking barriers to get underserved blind youth to equally participate in outdoor recreation, learn environmental and conservation science, and learn about new career fields while developing non-visual skills and confidence to reach a full and independent life.
Colorado Discover Ability	Grand Junction	\$50,000	The mission of Colorado Discovery Ability (CDA) is to increase the independence, self-confidence and self-worth of people with disabilities through outdoor recreation. CDA works to bring joy, improved health, a sense of camaraderie, and new skills to those often overlooked. Funding will help expand the number of young adults, teens and children involved in adaptive outdoor sport and recreational experiences and improve outreach efforts to engage racially and ethnically diverse, low-income, and severely-disabled youth.
Colorado Rocky Mountain School (HS)2 Program	Carbondale	\$6,700	(HS)2 prepares a group of first-generation and low-income high school students of color to succeed in college by empowering them with STEM-based skills, a family of driven peers, and a space to see the light and power in their own voices. At (HS)2, access to the outdoors is core to realizing their mission. With funding, (HS)2 will provide a group of Denver-based students a trip to Buttermilk Mountain for a weekend of skiing, snowboarding, and learning about the impacts of climate change.
Connections for Independent Living	Greeley	\$21,000	Connections for Independent Living challenges barriers, both physical and attitudinal, which restrict the rights and personal development opportunities of people with disabilities. Their mission is to promote the full inclusion and integration of people who live with all types of disabilities into all levels of society. Funding will support a Connect with Friends group with a specialized outdoor emphasis for youth with disabilities in Weld, Morgan, Logan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, and Yuma counties.
Denver Indian Center	Denver	\$85,000	The mission of the Denver Indian Center is to empower American Indian youth, elders, families and community by promoting self-determination and economic, mental and physical health through education, advocacy and cultural enrichment. Funding will increase connections to the land for Native American youth leaders through wilderness first aid, traditional medicine and food collection, and leadership skill training.

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Environmental Learning for Kids	Denver	\$75,000	Environmental Learning for Kids (ELK) is an inclusive nonprofit organization that develops inspired and responsible leaders through science education and outdoor experiences for underserved, urban youth ages 5–25. ELK reaches out to students who have been traditionally overlooked and under-encouraged in science and science-related careers, most notably, youth of color, LGBTQ+, and girls. Funding will support an increase in the number of youth served through ELK's four core programs and the Urban Rangers, ELK's youth employment program.
Fort Collins Community Action Network	Fort Collins	\$50,000	FCCAN's mission is to create community based on furthering economic, social, and environmental justice, sustainability, human rights, and peace for all by building coalitions, developing strategies and actions, and supporting existing progressive organizations. The grant will support efforts alongside affiliate member Fuerza Latina, to improve access to the outdoors for Latinx immigrants in Larimer County, specifically for youth and undocumented members of the community.
Friends of Youth and Nature	Hotchkiss	\$67,180	Friends of Youth and Nature (FOYAN) connects youth to outdoor activities to promote healthy physical, social & emotional lifestyles to build resilience; educates youth & community members about environmental stewardship; and provides opportunities to develop outdoor skills. FOYAN will facilitate a coalition of Together for Resilient Youth organizations to eliminate barriers in getting underserved youth outdoors. The program will provide mountain bike gear and mentored outdoor skill building activities for at-risk youth.
Get Outdoors Leadville!	Leadville	\$70,750	Get Outdoors Leadville!'s mission is to deepen the Lake County community's connection to the natural world by expanding equitable access to culturally informed and enriching outdoor experiences. GOL! envisions a world where people of all identities, backgrounds, and abilities experience safety, wellness, and a sense of belonging in the natural world. Funding will support culturally-specific outdoor experiences for Latinx youth and families that foster a sense of connection and belonging to public lands.
Gypsum Elementary School	Gypsum	\$5,000	Gypsum Elementary School provides P.E. classes with an emphasis on physical and health literacy. Many students do not participate in outdoor activities beyond the playground and soccer field. Gypsum Elementary will introduce and invite students and families to participate in hikes, snowshoeing, fishing, and other outdoor activities. They will invite experts from their own community to share their love of outdoors with students, with the goal of lifelong fitness and health.
Haseya Advocate Program	Colorado Springs	\$70,000	Haseya Advocate Program is a Native-led and operated organization that serves Indigenous survivors of domestic and sexual violence in the Colorado Springs region. Haseya Advocate Program knows and recognizes the power Native peoples hold, and seeks to ensure their safety by providing services, resources, and personalized support. They believe Native survivors are strong and beautiful, and are driven to make sure survivors can live their lives in safety, joy, and peace. Funding will increase access to outdoor spaces and knowledge related to land stewardship and seasonal living for the Native community of the Pikes Peak region.
International Rescue Committee in Denver	Denver	\$30,000	The International Rescue Committee's (IRC) mission is to help people whose lives and livelihoods are shattered by conflict and disaster, including the climate crisis, to survive, recover and gain control over their future. Its vision is to lead the humanitarian field by implementing high-impact, cost-effective programs for people affected by crisis. The IRC in Denver's youth program aims to support outdoor access for refugee youth through its Youth Outdoor Learning Opportunities project, promoting environmental education, connection, and integration.

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Montezuma Inspire Coalition	Cortez	\$70,000	Montezuma Inspire Coalition (MIC) creates meaningful social and outdoor experiences for youth to foster connection, curiosity, and discovery. Their vision is that youth of all ages and backgrounds in Montezuma County will respect, care for, and enjoy themselves, their communities, and the natural world. By sharing these values with their family, friends, and across generations, MIC seeks to build an inclusive, strong, healthy and resilient community and economy. Funding will support 6 MIC partners: the Gear Lending Library, Fozzie's Farm, Dolores River Boating Advocates, San Juan Mountains Association, Medicine Horse Center, and Southwest Conservation Corps.
Mountain Dreamers	Frisco	\$40,000	The mission of Mountain Dreamers is to inspire, educate, and advocate for immigrants and their allies to create systems that advance equity and social justice in our mountain communities. Their vision is an inclusive mountain community that promotes equitable opportunities for immigrants from diverse backgrounds to be safe, to be celebrated, and to thrive. Funding will support the OSO Outdoors program. OSO Outdoors' goal is to identify and break down barriers to outdoor access for mountain region immigrant, Latinx, and BIPOC youth and their families.
Northfield High School	Denver	\$7,000	Northfield's La Raza Club, in its second year at Northfield High School, ensures Latino/a students who commute from communities outside of Central Park have a voice and equity in a mostly-affluent school population. Student members are from mostly marginalized communities in the far east of Denver such as Montbello and Commerce City neighborhoods. La Raza Club will inspire member youth to become lifetime stewards of the Colorado mountains and to create future Latinx Colorado mountain stewards and professionals centered in preserving the Colorado outdoor environment through mountain biking trips to Colorado communities for youth and their families.
Sims Fayola Foundation	Denver	\$50,000	Sims Fayola Foundation (SFF) is committed to improve the life outcomes of young men and boys of color in the Denver metro area and increase the capacity of those who work with them to provide their services through a culturally appropriate, equity- and gender-specific lens. Funding will support SFF's Male Youth of Color Outdoor Engagement Program, which seeks to reduce barriers to the outdoors for male youth of color by introducing them to outdoor recreation and conservation activities.
Southern Ute Indian Tribe	Ignacio	\$10,000	The Southern Ute Indian Tribe is a sovereign Tribe, managing resources and protecting their culture as they serve their people now and into the future. The SunUte Community Center core values are to promote a positive and welcoming community center that is affordable, fun, and clean. SunUte strives to provide professional health, wellness and fitness programs for the Tribal membership and surrounding community. Due the rural location of Southern Ute Indian Tribe the SunUte community center is the only place to help meet the needs for fitness, health, and wellness. With this grant funding SunUte will update the outdoor basketball court and make it into a multi-use area with the addition of a highly-requested outdoor pickle ball court.
Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning	Denver	\$40,815	Spring Institute for Intercultural Learning's mission is to empower people and organizations to succeed across languages and cultures. Since 1979, Spring Institute has provided services to meet the needs of Colorado's refugee and immigrant community. The Refugee and Immigrant Outdoor Youth Empowerment Program will bring refugee and immigrant youth living in the East Colfax on outdoor excursions focused on environmental stewardship throughout all four seasons.

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Steamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports	Steamboat Springs	\$25,000	The mission of Steamboat Adaptive Recreational Sports is to empower and enrich lives through adaptive recreational activities. Funding will provide general operating funds to support camps and lessons for youth with disabilities who reside in Colorado. Programs will take place in the outdoors and strive to increase physical activity, social skills, and learning while building confidence and a sense of belonging using sports like skiing, horseback riding, water sports, hiking and more – with the overall goal of improving the lives and well-being of participants.
The Nature Connection	Hotchkiss	\$40,000	The Nature Connection is a school district program dedicated to eliminating barriers to getting outside for youth and families in Delta County and Olathe. Their vision is to be a trusted provider of high-quality, K-12 school, summer and job pathway programs that help young people develop outdoor skills and the confidence for exploring the “best backyard in the world.” Funding will support additional field staff salaries to serve the low-income and diverse schools in their community.
The Storytellers Project	Denver	\$50,000	The Storytellers Project aims to increase emotional intelligence and healthy coping skills in youth and adults by encouraging them to use the arts as a vehicle to tell their stories, deal with stress, and heal from trauma. They envision a world where adults and children have strong and healthy coping skills that can protect them against the unhealthy results of trauma including depression, PTSD, drug abuse, and prevent the repetition of cycles of family violence. Funding will support a month-long Outdoor Adventure Camp for youth whose lives have been impacted by the incarceration of a parent.
Vibe Tribe Adventures	Aurora	\$80,000	Vibe Tribe Adventures helps Colorado's urban and rural communities in Denver and the Front Range connect, reconnect, or deepen their natural right to nature, conservation, and the outdoor industry. They accomplish their mission through outdoor recreation, extreme sports participation, backcountry and water safety, stewardship and conservation, outdoor industry employment training and resources, and outdoor industry entrepreneurship training and mentoring. The grant will support three of their programs: Black Girls Hike, the American Adventure Sports Club, and the Urban Trekker youth program. Their vision is to create life-long outdoor recreation enthusiasts, employees, and entrepreneurs from formerly marginalized communities within the outdoor and conservation industries through consistent and quantifiable training and engagement and to equip and empower their participants to share their knowledge with friends, family, and peers.
ViVe Wellness	Denver	\$70,000	ViVe was founded in 2017 with a mission to address health equity in Denver’s underserved communities through wellness and education. ViVe plans recreation activities, particularly in the outdoors, for Denver’s low-income, Latino youth. Funds will provide 18 months of continuous outdoor programming, including environmental & career path education opportunities, for children, youth, and families that are nature-deprived and haven’t had opportunities to spend time in the outdoors.

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Youth Club of Trinidad	Trinidad	\$55,363	Youth Club of Trinidad's mission is to enable disadvantaged young people to reach their full potential by providing opportunities to help them achieve academic success, build healthy habits, and reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens. Their vision is to significantly transform the lives of youth through providing: a safe, positive, equitable, and inclusive environment to learn and grow; opportunities to build positive, meaningful, and healthy connections with their peers and adults and the outdoors; high-quality strength-based activities and programs to explore and obtain skills necessary to make good decisions; engaging experiences that foster hope, belonging, and a sense of purpose; and opportunities for youth to lead, contribute their ideas, and be recognized. Funding will help purchase a van to transport youth to outdoor programming and will support an additional staff member who specializes in outdoor education during the busy summer camp season.
Youth Seen	Denver	\$75,000	The mission of Youth Seen (YS) is to foster and empower the social and emotional well-being of LGBTQI youth and their families in all communities. YS envisions a place where young people are empowered as individuals to receive non-judgmental and unbiased interactions in every aspect of their lives. Camp Seen is a 7-day summer camp where QTBIPOC and other LGBTQ youth ages 13-17 have an opportunity to meet youth like themselves in a safe environment free of judgments and expectations.