



OUTDOOR FOUNDATION®

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside San Diego

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Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside Boulder-Denver

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2022 was a landmark year of growth for the Outdoor Foundation. The Thrive Outside Community Initiative helped to connect 40,842 youth and their families to the joy, wonder, and myriad benefits of the outdoors. We also welcomed five new Thrive Outside Communities, solidifying Thrive Outside as a nationwide network with unprecedented impact.

Looking back on this past year, our team is incredibly proud of the tremendous progress the Thrive Outside Initiative has made. The number of youth participants in Thrive Outside Communities increased to 40,842 in 2022, up 175% from 2021. Our participant base was 69.5% black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC), and our collective impact approach continues to drive community-led systems change.

None of this would be possible without the leadership, knowledge, and trust of our community partners and program providers. Throughout this report, you'll see success stories from each of these partners, data that quantifies the transformational impact our network delivers, and insights from our 2022 research that helps to inform our collective work. In particular, our team is proud of the following accomplishments:

- We launched Thrive Outside Cohort 3, welcoming the communities of Boulder-Denver, Chicago, Detroit, Seattle, and Washington, D.C., to our national network.
- We hosted our inaugural in-person Thrive Outside Convening in Oklahoma City, which gathered community leaders from each Thrive Community to deepen relationships and collaboration within the network, further embody collective impact, and support the work engaged in by each region.
- All 13 Thrive Communities celebrated National Thrive Outside Day, with inclusive and accessible outdoor programming and engagement opportunities to help break down barriers to the outdoors and increase participation among youth and their families.

- We released the [2022 Outdoor Participation Trends Report](#), highlighting the critical need to help bring youth and their families outside and inspire them to build lifelong relationships with the outdoors.
- In support of our ongoing effort to better serve our partners, we also conducted an evaluation of the Thrive Outside Initiative. We are proud to share that the Thrive Outside partners and providers find the program deeply valuable.
- The Net Promoter Score (NPS), an indication of how likely someone is to recommend an organization or company to friends and colleagues, for Thrive Outside increased from 51 in 2021 to 71 points in 2022. This NPS is 20 points above the average of more than 100,000 organizations that measured NPS in 2022.

I sincerely thank you for your generous contributions of time, energy, ideas, and financial investment that helped make 2022 a year of tremendous growth. Your ongoing support makes our work possible. We look forward to building on this momentum and continuing to help drive equitable outdoor access in communities across the country.

Onward,



Stephanie Maez
Executive Director

We All Thrive Outside

OUR VISION:

The Outdoor Foundation is dedicated to getting people outside for their health, the health of communities, and the health of the outdoor industry.

OUR MISSION:

Through community investments and groundbreaking research, we work with partners across the country to address equity barriers and help make the outdoors accessible for all.

HOW WE DO IT:

The Outdoor Foundation's Thrive Outside Initiative awards multi-year, capacity-building grants to diverse communities to build and strengthen networks that provide children and

families with repeat and reinforcing experiences in the outdoors. This national community-led initiative is built with trusted local and national partners and is supported by three years of funding and varying levels of capacity support during and after the initial three-year grant.

OUR COHORTS:

Since 2019, the Outdoor Foundation's Thrive Outside Initiative has welcomed three cohorts of Thrive Outside Communities, totaling to 13 communities nationwide. Each cohort is at a different stage in its work to create a more inclusive and accessible outdoor experience for communities. While Cohort 1 was launched in 2019, Cohort 3 has just begun. Throughout the report, you'll read more about where each Thrive Outside Community is in its journey.

Collective Impact:

We know that to enact real change, we must utilize a systemic approach that focuses on relationships between organizations and all community partners. Because of this, the collective impact model is at the core of Thrive Outside. Collective impact brings people together—in a structured way—to achieve social change. Our work integrates mechanisms in which backbone organizations, service and program providers, and community partners can pool and share resources and insights and build relationships with each other. This boosts the capacity of every Thrive Outside Community collectively, supports Thrive partners individually, and strengthens the entire national network.

2022 Thrive Outside Initiative

COLLECTIVE IMPACT IN ACTION:

Thrive Outside programs are community-led networks of diverse partners with a shared vision to provide positive, equitable opportunities for their youth, families, and community members to connect with the outdoors.

- Backbone partners
- Local businesses
- State governments
- Steering committee partners
- School districts
- Federal government
- Community service providers
- Local governments
- Funders

We acknowledge that the work of the Outdoor Foundation and our Thrive Outside Initiative spans across the unceded and ancestral territories of indigenous tribes and First Americans throughout the present-day United States. We seek to honor and pay respect to the history of this land and its people.

Learn more about the unceded and ancestral territories in your community by clicking [here](#) to explore the **Native Land map**.





Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside Atlanta

COHORT ONE

Atlanta

Thrive Outside Atlanta is a network of partners working to ensure that Atlanta is a place where the community meets nature. The partners offer outdoor recreation and environmental education opportunities for youth from low socioeconomic communities in Metro Atlanta. Last year, close to 700 youth in the Metro Atlanta area participated in nature-based programs, including interpretive hikes in the forest, water sports, up-close experiences with threatened animals, and much more.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Enriching the lives of youth, activating south and west Atlanta greenspaces, and convening local environmental organizations

“We love Thrive so much. Thrive has such a valuable impact on our kids because the kids and their families can’t afford to go on these trips otherwise. Connecting our children to nature is so important! To be able to connect Black and Brown youth is everything to me.”

DEIDRE TOLBERT

Executive Director, Whitehead Boys & Girls Club



Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside Grand Rapids

COHORT ONE

Grand Rapids

The Thrive Outside Grand Rapids network is primarily based around its Gear Library, where organizations and residents can borrow free outdoor equipment through the City of Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department. The Gear Library also offers workshops, events, and in-depth support for partner programs. In 2022, 20 partner programs and nearly 6,500 youth utilized the Gear Library resources.

Gear Library equipment and programming cover over 20 different outdoor activities and are offered year-round. During the spring and summer of 2022, the Gear Library offered gear and programming centered on camping, hiking, kayaking, picnicking, and general playing or relaxing in nature. During the winter, the Gear Library focused on snowshoeing, sledding, fat biking, and educating people on ways to layer and dress for cold weather.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Gear Library, public-private partnerships, and school-based programming

“Everything was super easy. I can’t wait to check out more items.”

V A N N E S A C .

“I’m so happy to have this resource in my neighborhood.”

T Y S .

Written by gear library members after they borrowed and returned items:



Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside Oklahoma City

COHORT ONE

Oklahoma City

Thrive Outside OKC, led by RIVERSPORT Foundation, works to create and provide outdoor recreational opportunities to as many youths in the Oklahoma City region as possible. They focus on building community trust, removing barriers and providing access to children who identify with a race underrepresented in the outdoor industry, attend Title I schools, or have families involved in the justice or foster care systems. Their work centers around core programs such as the Thrive Outside Kayak League, Youth Rowing League, Thrive Outside Camps, Bike Club, Course for Change, Boy Scout Camps and programs supporting tribal wellness.. All of these programs experienced unprecedented demand and growth in 2022.

In 2022, they served 2,804 youth through programming that included free or low-cost summer camps, cultural activities, field trips and watersports programs.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Water sports, including whitewater rafting and kayaking, and biking and running programs

“I had a great time at RIVERSPORT. Thank you for letting me go and giving this opportunity. It was a great experience for me because it allowed me to have a fun time and make new friends. The scholarship was important to me because my dad died, and my mom works hard and does the best she can but sometimes can’t pay for everything. This means a lot to me, so thank you again.”

L I L I A N A

Youth participant



Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside San Diego

COHORT ONE

San Diego

Thrive Outside San Diego is an equity-focused collective impact model that brings together multi-sector stakeholders to create more inclusive, representative, and accessible outdoor learning experiences for underserved San Diegans. Within this network, collective impact is defined as a network of community members, organizations, and institutions that advance equity by learning together and aligning and integrating resources and actions to achieve systems-level change.

Thrive Outside San Diego consists of over 90 network partner organizations, and in 2022 they connected 10,819 youth with impactful outdoor experiences and stewardship and leadership development opportunities.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Ocean and mountain activities, collaboration with San Diego County Behavioral Health Initiative, local and state advocacy to address equity barriers, and youth and BIPOC leadership development

“Outdoor Outreach has helped open the door to opportunities to fight for community access to green spaces and parks. It helped spark my passion for the work that I contribute to today. In the future, I aspire to have a career related to policy or nonprofit work. I hope to go to graduate school, earn a degree in Political Science, and help implement inclusive legislation.”

K E A N U

member of the Outdoor Outreach advocacy club “Outdoor Voices”

COHORT TWO

Maine

Thrive Outside Maine, led by backbone Nature Based Education Consortium, is driven by the shared belief that all Maine youth deserve the opportunity to learn outside in ways that connect them to their community and the natural world. The broad network is made up of environmental nonprofit organizations, high school and college students, teachers, environmental learning center directors, state agency staff, youth activist organization members, indigenous learning center educators, land trust coordinators, and many others who care deeply about a future in which all Maine youth have equitable access to meaningful, safe outdoor learning experiences.

In 2022, the network focused on several collective efforts including the advancement, passage, and implementation of a \$2 million state climate education professional development bill; the coordination of the participatory process for the Outdoor Equity Fund; the development of a local outdoor advocacy network hub to enable a shift toward the outdoors in Maine school districts; and a BIPOC storytelling initiative to shift the public narrative about whom the outdoors is for and what outdoor connection can look like.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Stories for Change working group, advocacy for the Outdoor Equity Fund, outdoor education curriculum, Collective Impact systems change convenings

“What can we do collectively and individually to move the needle a little bit? A good climate education program across the entire state — that’s going to be huge. It starts there.”

MELISSA LUETJE

Science teacher at Kennebunk High School



Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside Maine

COHORT TWO

Philadelphia

Through 2022, Thrive Outside Philadelphia built the structure of their network and focused on identifying hubs, securing anchor institutions, and developing asset assessments to identify actions to address community-level barriers to the outdoors. Thrive Outside Philadelphia also continued to work closely with their steering committee to develop the structure of their partnership.

To celebrate Thrive Outside Day, Schuylkill River Greenways and Berks Nature hosted Ride for the River, an Alliance for Watershed Education (AWE) River Days event that was attended by 245 people.

“We are grateful that Thrive Outside is providing our networks the space to do the difficult and time-intensive work of building connections and finding alignment across organizations in our region. This foundation is essential to creating a system of parks, trails, and recreational opportunities throughout Greater Philadelphia that are inclusive and welcoming to all.”

KELSEY BROOKS

National Wildlife Federation



Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside Philadelphia

COHORT TWO

St. Louis

Thrive Outside St. Louis aims to shift the culture of outdoor recreation by connecting a network of community partners to remove barriers to accessing the outdoors. The network currently has 86 diverse partners that are well-connected to the local and regional community.

In 2022, more than 1,200 St. Louis-area youth were introduced to outdoor recreation and adventure through collaborative programs. Activities included geocaching-hiking, paddling, fishing, swimming in the Mississippi River, camping, and outdoor art projects. River City Outdoors (RCO), which serves as the backbone organization for Thrive Outside St. Louis, also hosted the Thrive Outside St. Louis Partner Convening in 2022 to bring together representatives from approximately 35 nonprofits, recreation organizations, educational facilities, community groups and clubs, and outdoor retailers.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Youth leadership programming, river-based activities in Missouri and on the Mississippi River, and city park and neighborhood beautification

“By working with community organizations and partners across St. Louis, we can help strengthen our ecosystem of outdoor recreation. The goal is to change ‘I and me’ to ‘us and we.’”

CHRIS GEDEN

Thrive Outside Program Manager, River City Outdoors



Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside St. Louis

COHORT TWO

Twin Cities

Thrive Outside Twin Cities works with a diverse network of partners to increase year-round access to the outdoors for youth and families that have been traditionally underrepresented in the outdoors or experience barriers to outdoor participation. As the backbone organization of Thrive Outside Twin Cities, Wilderness Inquiry focuses on partnership support, relationship building with BIPOC-led organizations, and ongoing youth engagement work. The network also works to enhance program offerings and connect more young people to opportunities for professional exposure and workforce development.

In 2022, Thrive Outside Twin Cities connected 8,019 youth to near-nature outdoor and virtual-learning experiences. This included introductory paddle experiences, outdoor education at school and park sites, and ecology and history lessons relevant to the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Deep community engagement, outdoor education, river-based activities on the Mississippi River, and workforce development

“Our goal is to break down barriers, whether physical, cognitive, emotional, behavioral, financial or whatever, that keep people from accessing and enjoying the outdoors.”

ERIKA RIVERS

Executive Director, Wilderness Inquiry



Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside Twin Cities



COHORT THREE

Boulder-Denver

Thrive Outside Boulder-Denver is focused on delivering a comprehensive suite of pre-K to high-school, backyard to backcountry, and family-integrated environmental education and outdoor recreation programming to the regional community. The community currently works to engage low-income and Latino/a/x communities in Lafayette and Boulder, with particular focus on serving youth living in neighborhoods surrounding Title 1 schools in the area. Thrive Outside Boulder-Denver is led by a steering committee, youth advisory board, and promoters of over 30 community partners that provide guidance and ensure work is community-driven.

Thorne Nature Experience, the backbone organization of Thrive Outside Boulder-Denver, served 15,027 participants in 2022. Programming included multiple-day and overnight summer camps; school field trips and after-school programs; day and overnight family outings such as hiking, camping, and stewardship projects; teen adventure programming; paid leadership and job opportunities for young adults; equine therapy; and a holiday bike giveaway.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Pre-K to high school, backyard to backcountry, and family-integrated environmental education and outdoor recreation programming

“[I enjoy] the times that we’ve done things where we were able to interact with the environment in our own community...and that was good because we were impacting the environment in our own community and improving it in ways that would be beneficial to people that lived around there.”

YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER

Career Pathway



Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside Chicago

COHORT THREE

Chicago

Thrive Outside Chicago is led by backbone organization The Nature Conservancy and a steering committee that meets on a quarterly basis to lead the overall strategy of the network, grantmaking, capacity-building training, and community engagement to strengthen partnerships. The steering committee is representative of diverse communities and works to promote access to the outdoors in the region. In its first year, Thrive Outside Chicago also worked to develop two funding mechanisms that will enable the network to support different types of groups in the region:

1. A small-grant program to support the work of 501(c)(3) nonprofits working deeply with communities
2. A fund that will directly purchase gear, materials, and supplies for established groups working to connect marginalized communities to the outdoors and support grassroots groups that are typically unable to access grant funds due to lack of formal nonprofit status (e.g., birding clubs, outdoor meet-ups, walking and running clubs, volunteer groups)

All funding mechanisms prioritize resources for groups working directly with BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and other historically excluded groups.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Community engagement, citizen science, outdoor activities in forest preserves and green spaces and on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan, health and wellness, and environmental justice

“Thrive Outside Chicago will strengthen grassroots partnerships and uplift existing networks in the south and west neighborhoods of Chicago to increase access to the outdoors for Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color as well as for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and +plus people. We are dedicated to supporting organizations that are working to ensure that nature can be enjoyed safely by all.”

BROOKE THURAU

The Nature Conservancy



Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside Detroit

COHORT THREE

Detroit

The goal of Thrive Outside Detroit is to increase access to the outdoors for youth in Detroit. The program has successfully trained dozens of teachers and youth workers as camping leaders for the youth they serve. In addition to the deeply rooted Detroit relationships, YMCA and Sierra Club engage statewide and national networks.

In its first year, Thrive Outside Detroit focused on operationalizing the relationships and functions of the steering committee that will lead to sustainable success in achieving the broader goals for the community and will strengthen the trust within its network relationships. Included in this move toward operationalization is the identification of shared goals so that the work it does individually and collaboratively can be part of the Thrive Outside Detroit collective impact work.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Connecting youth and families to nearby nature, closing the nature equity gap, gear libraries, and leadership training

“They (youth participants) can have this powerful experience and then want to come back to this park with their family. They might be the one that says, ‘Hey, let’s go down that trail. I actually know what’s down there. Let’s go see this beaver lodge that’s down there, because I did that when I was here last October.’ So they can become the leaders for their friends and family when they come to this park because they’ve got this relationship.”

GARRETT DEMPSEY

Program Director, Detroit Outdoors



COHORT THREE



The Thrive Outside Seattle vision is to connect the community through the outdoors and close the gap between different services and programs throughout the region. To realize this vision, they are bringing together outdoor-focused and non-outdoor-focused organizations, social services, and academic-based organizations to better serve Seattle youth and their families.

In 2022, planning and recruiting began for the creation of an Outdoor Recreation Action Team of outdoor recreation-affiliated community members and organizations who are representative of the youth populations they focus on. The action team will work to build peer-to-peer learning communities and foster member-to-member collaboration with the overall goal of increasing youth and family participation in the outdoors.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Cross-sector collaborations, youth and BIPOC leadership, and urban-to-nature pathways

“It seems so silly that those of us who work in outdoor recreation, serving the same youth and communities, don’t have opportunities to come together to vision and problem solve. The coalition, as a home for our equity work in outdoor recreation, provides the infrastructure for us to act collectively to solve the collective shortcomings of access in outdoor recreation. The best way we can support our youth and communities is to work together, which can provide a wide range of opportunities that are clear and accessible to all. Thrive Outside provides a framework with support that we can plug into to meet our goals. ”

MONIKA SHARMA

Program Manager for Bike Works



COHORT THREE

Washington, D.C.

The Thrive Outside Washington, D.C., approach leverages the insight of community partners, such as health, justice, and human service professionals, with the expertise of environmental partners focused on conservation, natural resources, and parks. Together, the network hosts intergenerational, respite-based, and trauma-informed outdoor experiences that address the mental, physical, and social well-being of stressed community members. These experiences happen through a series of “call-ins,” intentionally planned community and park events, programs, and workshops that present the opportunity for environmental, social, and justice partners to come together around nature-based and outdoor programs that address community needs and interests.

To celebrate Thrive Outside Day, Thrive Outside D.C. partnered to engage over 500 youth and families from Wards 7 and 8 in a day-long celebration of family, nature, and the harvest season. This event was co-planned with community input and included a pumpkin and turkey giveaway, a trunk-or-treat event, and live music featuring Bela Dona, an all-girl local favorite go-go band. Other activities included fishing, boating, skating, and seasonal craft-making. The overall goal of the day was to activate stressed D.C. residents in safe, meaningful outdoor engagement in Anacostia Park.

KEY FOCUS AREAS:

Social justice, health, employment, respite, and other issues impacting economically stressed communities

“This is an awesome way to end the season with the community. ”

THRIVE OUTSIDE DAY PARTICIPANT

“I am so happy I came down here, I did not even know this park was here.”

THRIVE OUTSIDE DAY PARTICIPANT

Thrive Outside Day 2022

National Thrive Outside Day is the Outdoor Foundation's signature event focused on bringing together entire communities to support, inspire, and make outdoor recreation an accessible lifestyle for all youth and families

In 2022, all 13 Thrive Outside Communities hosted regional events focused on addressing barriers that limit access to local outdoor spaces. More than 25 types of outdoor recreation activities were available for youth and their families. Thrive Outside Communities utilized various approaches to their events, including the following:

- Direct outreach to underserved communities to increase the depth of experiences for current program participants and greatly expand the number of children and families served beyond the current participants
- Education and resource development designed to give community members direct access to local outdoor recreation opportunities
- Instruction and equipment for outdoor activities, including mountain biking, paddling, climbing, and hiking
- Collective environmental stewardship projects



KEY FINDINGS FROM OUR 2022

Evaluation

- **The number of youth participants in Thrive Outside Communities increased to 40,842 in 2022, up 175% from 2021.**
- **In the Thrive Outside participant base**, 30% are white persons (alone, not also Hispanic), 43% are Hispanic persons, 12% are Black persons, 7% are two or more ethnicities or races, 3.5% are Native American persons, 4% are Asian persons.
- **Thrive Outside Communities are driving significant collective impact in their locations.** Cohort 1 communities have formalized strategies proven to drive collective impact, including convenings of nonprofits, governmental institutions, for-profit funders, and educators; gear and volunteer resource exchanges; coordinated (rather than competing) efforts to secure funding; and information exchange across the community. Cohort 2 communities are working to build collective impact by hosting convenings and exchanges. Cohort 3 communities are developing their efforts to drive and formalize systems that drive collective impact.
- **Thrive backbone organizations and program providers are satisfied with and promote the Thrive Outside program.** The Net Promoter Score (NPS) for Thrive Outside increased from a score of 51 in 2021 to 71 points in 2022. The Thrive Outside NPS is 20 points above the average of more than 100,000 organizations that measured NPS in 2022.



Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside San Diego



Research

The Outdoor Foundation research investigates the depth and effect of Americans' participation in outdoor recreation. Each year, the Outdoor Foundation produces the Outdoor Participation Trends Report—the largest, most comprehensive research report on outdoor recreation participation. The Outdoor Foundation also teams up with retailers and other organizations to produce reports on individual outdoor activities, like camping and fishing. The reports take a broad look at overall trends in participation, while providing detailed information on important demographics. Some reports also examine less tangible data, like perceptions and stereotypes. With dramatic demographic and lifestyle changes taking place in the U.S. and around the world, understanding these trends is more important than ever, informing and influencing critical outdoor programs, products, and public policy decisions.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2022

Outdoor Participation Trends Report

Outdoor participation continues to grow at record levels. More than half (54%) of Americans ages 6 and over participated in at least one outdoor activity in 2021, and the outdoor recreation participant base grew 2.2% in 2021 to 164.2M participants. Other key findings include:

- The outdoor participant base has increased 6.9% since the COVID pandemic began in early 2020.
- Youth participation is climbing, but the frequency of their participation is declining.
- New outdoor participants are more diverse than the overall outdoor participant base and are driving increasing diversity not only by ethnicity but also across age groups.
- High-frequency or “core” participation in outdoor recreation is declining.
- The outdoor recreation “core” participant, defined as someone who participates 51 times or more in outdoor recreation activities in the past 12 months, declined from 71.9% in 2007 to 58.7% of the participant base in 2021.
- The number of participants 55 years and older increased more than 14% since 2019, and senior participants ages 65 and over were in the fastest-growing age category with 16.9% growth.
- Despite increases in the number of participants, the number of outdoor outings is declining significantly.



Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside St. Louis

Thank you to our funders.

Our work would not be possible without the generous support of our funding partners.
Thank you for your commitment to our shared vision for the future of the outdoors.

THRIVE OUTSIDE COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP PARTNERS



THRIVE OUTSIDE COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS



Appendix

COHORT ONE

Atlanta

Backbone Organization: West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (formerly The Trust for Public Land)

Steering Committee Partners: YMCA, Boys & Girls Club of Metro Atlanta, Greening Youth Foundation, Chattahoochee Nature Center, and Chattahoochee Riverkeeper

Community Partners: Georgia Forestry Foundation, Nantahala Outdoor Center, Atlanta Camp Best Friends, Atlanta Dept. of Parks and Recreation, and Trees Atlanta

Grand Rapids

Backbone Organization: Our Community's Children

Steering Committee Partners: Grand Rapids Parks & Recreation, Grand Rapids Public Schools, and Grand Rapids Environmental Education Network

Community Partners: Blandford Nature Center, Boys & Girls Club of Grand Rapids Youth, Commonwealth, Camp Newaygo, Expanded Learning Opportunities Network, Friends of Grand Rapids Parks, Grand Rapids Audubon Club, Grand Rapids Children's Museum, Groundswell, John Ball Zoo, Latino Outdoors GR, Lower Grand River Organization of Watersheds, Outdoor Afro, Sierra Club Michigan Chapter, Switchback Gear Exchange, and West Michigan Environmental Action Council

Oklahoma City

Backbone Organization: RIVERSPORT Foundation

Steering Committee Partners: OKC Parks & Recreation, Oklahoma City Indian Clinic, YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City, Bike Club, OKC Public Schools Native American Student Services, University of Oklahoma Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, Oklahoma City Black Alumni Coalition, Boys and Girls Club of Oklahoma County

Community Partners: Boys Scouts of America- Last Frontier Council, National Park Service, Latino Community Development Agency, Course for Change, ReMerge, Sunbeam Family Services, EmpowerOKC, John Rex Charter School and OKC Public Schools

San Diego

Backbone Organization: San Diego Foundation

Steering Committee Partners: Outdoor Outreach, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, YMCA of San Diego, University of San Diego Nonprofit Institute, County of San Diego Parks and Recreation, and Parks California

Community Partners: Ocean Discovery Institute, San Diego Parks Foundation, Un Mar De Colores, Urban Surf 4 Kids, Coastal Roots Farm, Groundswell Community Project, City Heights Community Development Corporation, Earth Discovery Institute, Living Coast Discovery Center, Botanical Community Development Initiatives, Groundwork San Diego - Chollas Creek, Wildcoast, San Diego Canyonlands, SAY San Diego, San Diego Natural History Museum, BIPOC Support Foundation, Cabrillo National Monument Foundation (EcoLogik), Olivewood Gardens & Learning Center, Horn of Africa Community in N. America, La Maestra Foundation Inc., Little Saigon San Diego



Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside San Diego



Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside Philadelphia

COHORT TWO



Maine

Backbone Organization: Nature Based Education Consortium

Steering Committee Partners: Maine Environmental Education Association, Schoodic Institute, Maine Science Teachers Association, Maine Environmental Changemakers, Maine Dept. of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Maine Audubon, Maine Dept. of Education, University of Maine, Farmington Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance, University of Maine Cooperative Extension 4-H Camp and Learning Centers, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and Maine Land Trust Network

Community Partners: Adaptive Outdoor Education Center, Bryant Pond 4H, Chewonki Foundation, Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust, Friends of Acadia, Participant Gulf of Maine Research Institute, Kennebunk Climate Initiative, Lead with Nature, Maine Ag in the Classroom, Maine Audubon, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Environmental Education Association, Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance, Maine TREE Foundation/Project Learning, National Park Service, Rural Aspiration, Schoodic Institute, Tanglewood 4H Center, Teens to Trails, The Ecology School, The Nature Conservancy, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Wassookeag Learning Community, Regional School Unit 89, Maine Science Teachers, The Sierra Club Maine, and Maine Initiatives



Philadelphia

Backbone Organization: National Wildlife Federation

Steering Committee Partners: Pennsylvania Environmental Council, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Jersey Audubon, John Heniz National Wildlife Refuge, Berks Nature, Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed, and Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed

Community Partners: Alliance for Watershed Education (23 environmental and nature education centers), Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (150+ NGOs), and the Circuit Trails Coalition (50 NGOs and 15 agencies)



St. Louis

Backbone Organization: River City Outdoors Collaborative

Steering Committee Partners: Missouri Confluence Waterkeeper, Terrain Magazine, Mound City Foundation, Outdoor Afro, and Normalizing Black Women in Nature

Community Partners: Big Muddy Adventures, Great Rivers Greenway, St. Louis Public Schools, Maplewood Richmond Heights Public Schools, Boys & Girls Club, Earth’s Classroom, Trailnet, GO! St. Louis, St. Louis BWorks, Missouri Interscholastic Cycling League, Gateway to the Great Outdoors, Shaw Nature Reserve (Missouri Botanical Garden), Missouri Botanical Garden’s Outdoor Youth Corps, Missouri River Relief, and Upper Limits



Twin Cities

Backbone Organization: Wilderness Inquiry

Steering Committee Partners: MEO Collaborative Career Pathways, Mississippi River Activation, Affinity Travel, and Outdoor Credit Recovery

Community Partners: St. Paul Public Schools, Minneapolis Public Schools, Friends of the Mississippi River, Minnesota Environmental Partnership, Environmental Initiative, Center for Energy and Environment, Clean Water Action, Climate Generation, Great Plains Institute, Metro Blooms, The Nature Conservancy, Freshwater Society, Conservation Corps, Capitol Region Watershed, Mississippi Park Connection, Wilderness Inquiry, Minnesota Academy of Science, City of St. Paul, National Park Service, Girl Scouts River Valleys, Lee Vue Consulting, Great River Greening, Lower Phalen Creek Project

COHORT 3



Boulder-Denver

Backbone Organization: Thorne Nature Experience

Steering Committee Partners: City of Lafayette, City of Boulder, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, Cal-Wood Education Center, Cottonwood Institute, CU Science Discovery

Community Partners: Avid4Adventure, Boulder County Housing and Human Services, Boulder County Open Space, Boulder Valley School District, Boulder Housing Partners, Centaurus High School, City of Boulder Family Resource Schools, City of Boulder Parks and Recreation, Community Cycles, Dragon Discovery, EcoArts Connections, Eco-Cycle, Explorando Senderos, Garden to Table, Greenwood Wildlife Rehabilitation, I Have A Dream Boulder County, Jax, Keystone Science School, Medicine Horse, Rocky Mountain Conservancy, Safe Routes to Schools, St. Vrain State Park, St. Vrain Valley School District, Wildlands Restoration Volunteers, YMCA of Boulder Valley



Detroit

Backbone Organization: YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit and Detroit Outdoors

Steering Committee Partners: Black to the Land Coalition, Detroit Parks and Recreation, Detroit Public Schools Community District, Department of Natural Resources Outdoor Adventure Center, Project Play: Southeast Michigan, SEMIWILD, Sierra Club Outdoors for All

Community Partners: Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Association, Detroit Parks Coalition, Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge, Downriver Linked Greenways, Friends of Rouge Park, Jim Dandy Ski Club, Land of Outsiders, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Michigan Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry, National Park Trust, Outdoor Afro - Detroit, Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, SOS Outreach, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition (SEMIS), the Bus for Outdoor Access & Teaching, Thrive Outside Grand Rapids, U.S. Forest Service Youth Engagement Program, U.S. Forest Service Urban Connections, Univ. of Michigan-Dearborn Environmental Interpretive Center



Seattle

Backbone Organization: King County Play Equity Coalition

Steering Committee Partners: African Community Housing & Development, Bike Works, Sweetlines, The Nature Project, the Service Board, Washington Trails Association, Y.E.T.I.

Community Partners: Associated Recreation Council, Cascade Bicycle Club, First Five Years & Beyond, Girls on the Run, Outdoor Childhood Puget Sound, Outdoors for All Foundation, RAVE Foundation, SOS Outreach, Trust for Public Land, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, YMCA of Greater Seattle



Washington, D.C.

Backbone Organization: The Anacostia Park and Community Collaborative

Steering Committee Partners: Anacostia Coordinating Council, Family & Friends of Incarcerated People, Friends of Anacostia Park, Jobs Have Priority, Martha's Table

Community Partners: Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants, Friends of Kingman & Heritage Islands, Friends of Oxon Run Park, United Planning Office, Office of Gun Violence Prevention, DC Department of Behavioral Health



Photo courtesy of Thrive Outside Chicago