

**MONTANA
WILDERNESS
SCHOOL**
IMPACT REPORT 2022



Our Mission is to provide empowering expeditionary wilderness courses to youth that foster personal growth and cultivate a conservation ethic through connecting with remote landscapes and wild places.

Our Vision is to develop the highest quality expeditionary outdoor education program in the United States. We strive to serve diverse and motivated youth in communities throughout Montana. Through challenging and empowering experiences on our courses, youth will develop a deeper connection to the natural world, and will return to their communities as more skilled, confident, and compassionate leaders.

207

MWS STUDENTS

\$176,555

AWARDED IN SCHOLARSHIPS

1,750

PROGRAM DAYS

42,000

PROGRAM HOURS

1,582

USFS/BLM/NPS/USFWS
PUBLIC LAND USER DAYS

224

RIVER MILES PADDLED

907

MILES HIKED

3

GRIZZLY BEAR SIGHTINGS



Letter from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's an honor to once again say that we ran our busiest and most impactful season ever. With more than 200 students out in the backcountry this past season MWS has continued to thrive—educating, inspiring, and empowering more young people than ever before.

The highlights for me have continued to be about our inspiring staff who give so much; our incredible students who come back year after year more skilled, confident, and empowered; and our growing network of partners who collaborate with our team to build community and support the health and growth of so many incredible young people.

After 10 years building and growing this organization I moved on from my role as Executive Director at the end of 2022, passing the reins to my amazing colleague, Martha Sellers; someone I know will continue making MWS more successful and impactful in the years ahead.

As a founder of a nonprofit organization, the odds are not usually in our favor to not only survive, but to be successful in such a short amount of time. To witness the positive reputation MWS has, not only in Montana but around the country, is a wonderful feeling after so many years of hard work along with my co-founder, Josh Olsen, making MWS what it is today.

I continue to be extremely grateful for our amazing community. Our participants and their families, our staff and volunteer board members, our grant and business sponsors, and our network of givers. Without this incredible network of caring and generous people MWS simply would not exist—thank you!

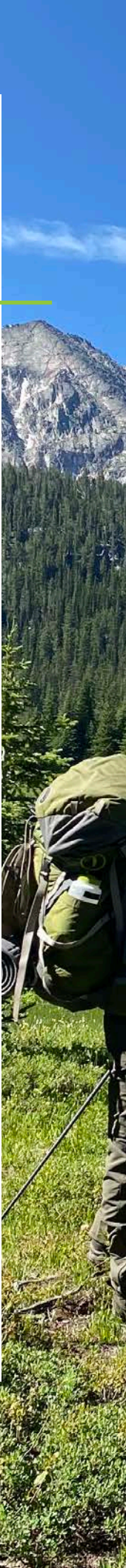
With my transition out of my Executive Director role, I want to especially thank my personal network of family and friends who have contributed over the years to ensure MWS would make it. I can't thank you all enough and hope that many of you continue to stay involved as important supporters to this organization; our youth need programs like MWS more than ever today and I look forward to the future when my son has this same opportunity to have his own empowering and impactful experiences in the wild backcountry settings of Montana.

Stay Wild,

Gar Duke

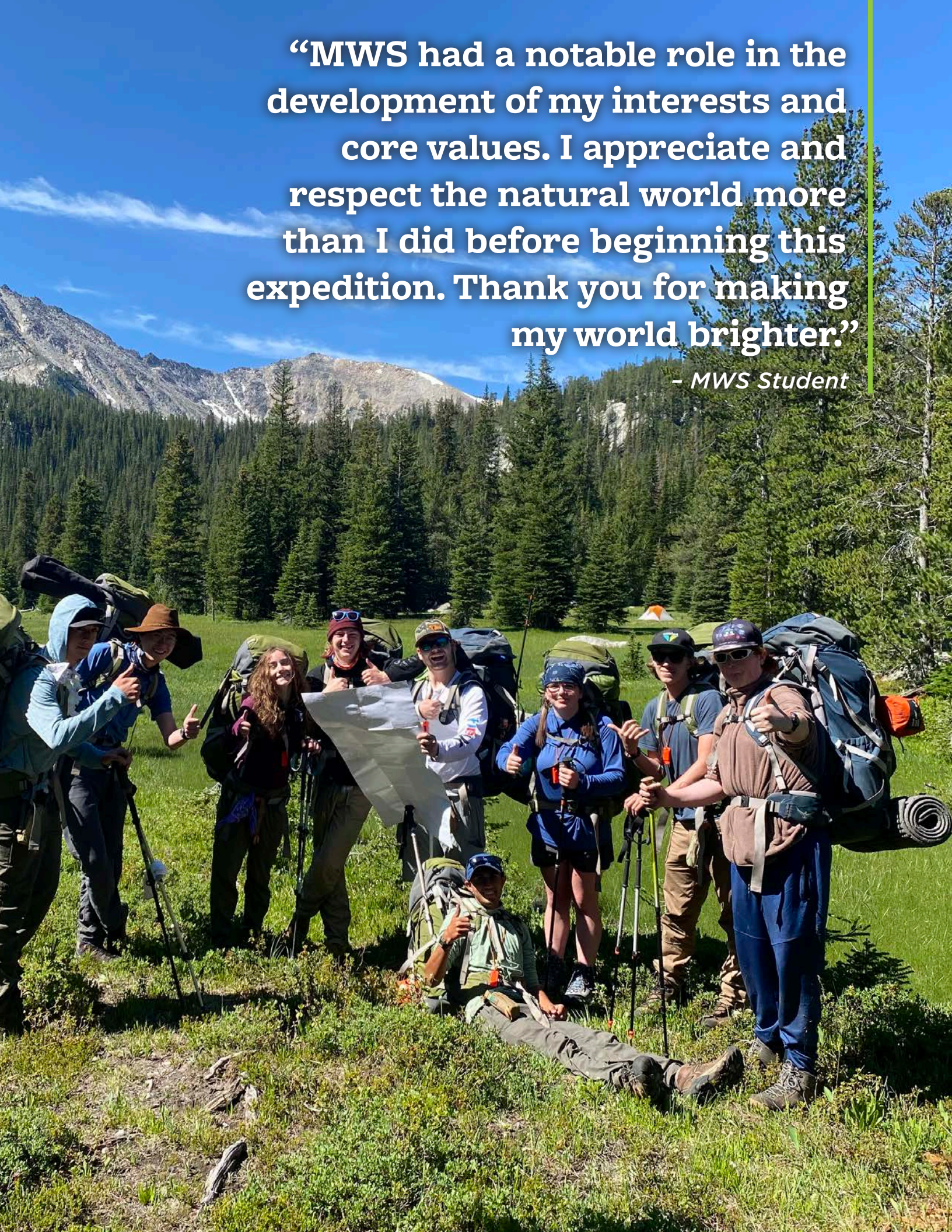
Co-founder and Executive Director

Because of a change in our Fiscal Year, this Impact Report covers January 1—September 30, 2022



“MWS had a notable role in the development of my interests and core values. I appreciate and respect the natural world more than I did before beginning this expedition. Thank you for making my world brighter.”

- MWS Student





2022 Youth Wilderness

PROGRAM REPORT

The 2022 season was another year of enormous growth for Montana Wilderness School. We successfully ran 13 open enrollment expeditions and 9 contract expeditions. I am happy to report that 207 students had fundamentally transformative experiences in the unique wild lands of Montana and Idaho. Students were immersed in wild places for 3-25 days and educated about wilderness self-care, camp craft, Leave No Trace, communication, mountaineering, rock climbing, canoeing, packrafting, horse packing, and backpacking. We increased the number of backpacking and canoeing expeditions, which provided more opportunities for students to participate in the program's most accessible courses. Feedback from parents and students was resoundingly positive, solidifying our belief that these experiences are constructive and impactful, and provide an opportunity for personal growth.

Enrollment was strong with our expanded course offerings, and the Outreach & Admissions team did an exceptional job with online and in-person recruiting. We grew student enrollment by 30%, serving 102 students in open-enrollment courses and 105 students in contract courses. We saw another increase in student diversity—MWS remains unwavering in our efforts to

enroll a more inclusive and equitable cohort, particularly from underserved urban, rural, and native communities around Montana. Due to our continued success raising financial aid funding, we were able to provide full or partial scholarships to 62% of our Montana students, and no participant was turned away from MWS for financial reasons.

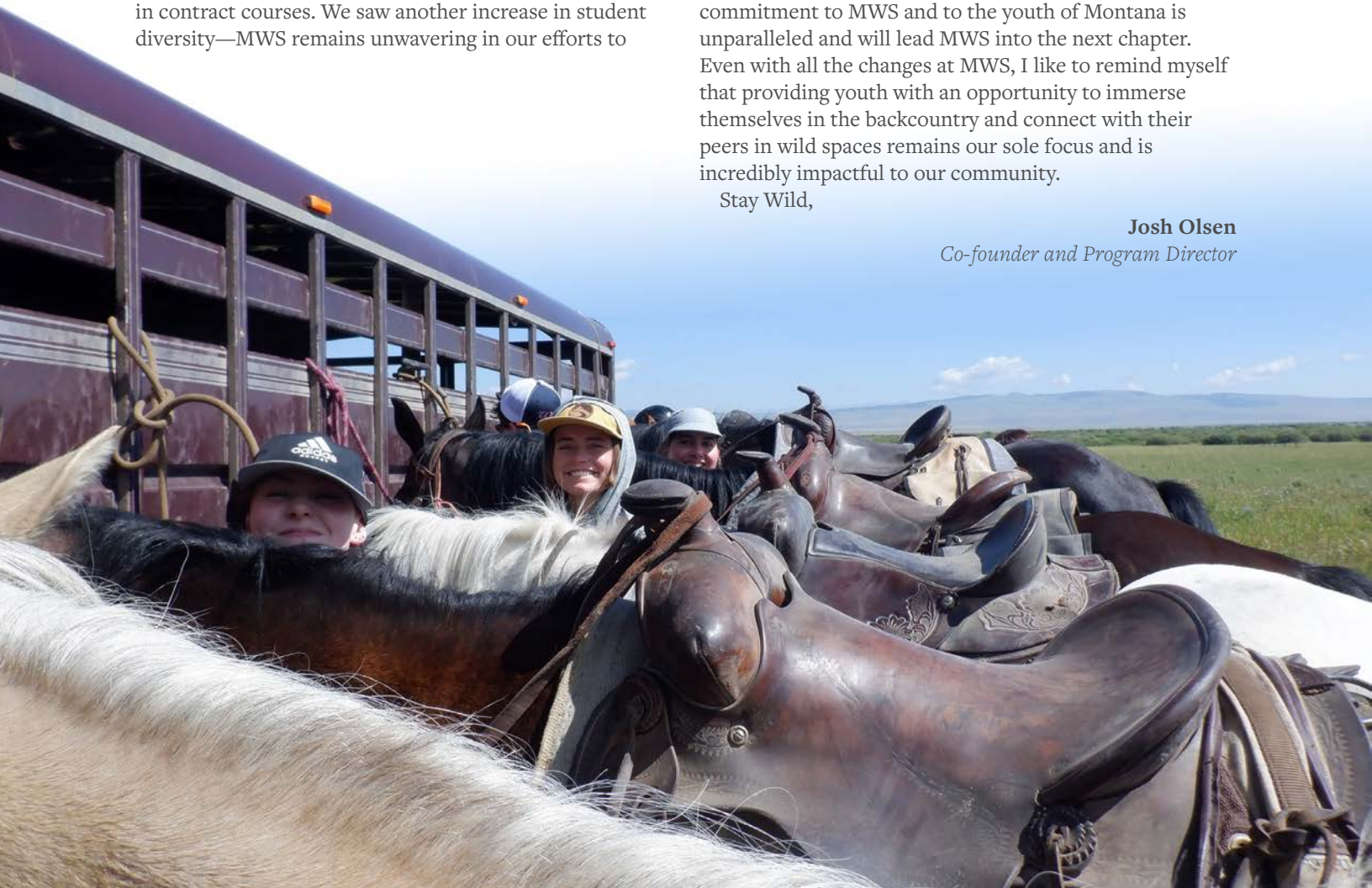
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gar Duke—Co-founder and driving force of MWS for the last 10 years—for all that he has done for this organization. Gar has transitioned away from Executive Director, but his belief in MWS's vision and his fortitude to make our youth program happen has laid a strong foundation for our future. His tireless dedication and steadfast commitment created a community of dedicated individuals working hard to create a lasting impact on the lives of our students. Gar is truly an incredible person with an inspiring commitment to making the future a bit wilder for Montana youth. We can't thank him enough for all that he has done for MWS and the youth we serve.

Let me also formally welcome Martha Sellers as the new Executive Director. Martha's uncompromising commitment to MWS and to the youth of Montana is unparalleled and will lead MWS into the next chapter. Even with all the changes at MWS, I like to remind myself that providing youth with an opportunity to immerse themselves in the backcountry and connect with their peers in wild spaces remains our sole focus and is incredibly impactful to our community.

Stay Wild,

Josh Olsen

Co-founder and Program Director





CONTRACT EXPEDITIONS

Big Sky Youth Empowerment, Bozeman, MT

- 6 Days canoeing the Missouri River
- 6 students + 2 BYEP staff

Headwaters Academy, Bozeman, MT

- Four 3-day Backpacking trips, in the Taylor Fork Area
- 57 Students + 8 Headwaters staff

SEO Scholars, NYC

- 12 days canoeing the Missouri River
- 9 students

Sussex School, Missoula, MT

- 5 days canoeing the Missouri River
- 13 students + 1 Sussex staff

The Traveling School, Bozeman, MT (2 courses)

- 6 days on the Dearborn River
- 8 students + 3 TTS instructors
- 12 days canoeing the Missouri River
- 12 students + 3 TTS instructors

Staff

Gar Duke

Co-founder and Executive Director

Josh Olsen

Co-founder and Program Director

Martha Sellers

Development Director

Kodee Cloninger

Outreach and Admissions Director

Claire Kleese

Design Production and Technology Manager

Hannah Karn

Operations Manager

Ryan Peters

Wilderness Program Manager

Sarah Ebright

Paddling Program Manager + Student Outreach Coordinator

Ross Lesslie

Mountain Program Manager + Outreach & Admissions Assistant

Kelley Jazdzewski

Digital Marketing Coordinator

Board of Directors

Chris Bunting

Board Chair

Justin Short

Treasurer

Jon Christensen

Deborah Love

Bill Stoddart

Jessie Wiese

Mike Wolfe

Gar Duke

Advisor Team

Robert Campbell

Shane Doyle

Mike Fiebig

Dr. Steve Halvorson

Dave McEvoy

Whitney Milhoan

Kestrel Neathawk

Damien Powledge

Steve Smith

Ashton Snyder

Kate Burnaby Wright

Wranglers + Field Instructors

Jordan Allen

Adam Bavier

Colin Burdsall

Katie Colson

Megan Compton

Brian Curnutte

Logan Daughetee

Eliza Donahue

Eric Falconer

Ardyn Ford

Lexi Kyro

Kevin Mack

Eliza Maleski

Jacob Northcutt

Shannon Regan

Wyatt Stevens

Kayla Wales

Volunteers

Steven Drake

Dr. Steve Halvorson

Claire Kleese

Ashton Snyder

Greg Smith

Yogesh Simpson

Field Intern

Hannah Blum

Ops Support

Ben Wright

FINANCIALS

Income

3%	General Fundraising: \$25,862
7%	Business Donations: \$55,315
23%	Grants: \$182,340
30%	Individual Donations: \$241,028
37%	Student Tuition Fees: \$302,213
\$806,758	

Expenses

84%	Programs: \$597,656
11%	Fundraising: \$80,400
5%	Management & Administration: \$33,227
\$711,283	

PARTNERS

ORGANIZATION PARTNERSHIPS

Abby McMillen
Aerie Backcountry Medicine
Big Sky Youth Empowerment
Centennial Outfitters, Inc.
Crosscut - Lightning Creek Ranch
Experiential Consulting, Inc.
Headwaters Academy
Mountain Sky Guest Ranch
Mystery Ranch
SEO Scholars, NYC
Shane Doyle - Native Nexus Consulting
SITKA
SOAR Northwest
Sussex School, Missoula
The Traveling School
Yogesh Simpson Design

PUBLIC LAND AGENCIES

Beaverhead Deerlodge National Forest
Bureau of Land Management - Butte Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Sand Creek Station
U.S. Government - West Fork Ranger District
U.S. Government - UMRBNM Management Station
U.S. Government - Yellowstone National Park
U.S. National Forest Service - Bitterroot National Forest
United States of America - Beartooth Ranger District

FALL GALA SPONSORS

Spitfire Strategies \$10,000
Miller Roodell Architects \$7,500
Altitude Real Estate \$5,000
Mystery Ranch \$2,500

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

WOLVERINE LEVEL (\$5,000+)



GRIZZLY BEAR LEVEL (\$2,500-\$4,999)



MOUNTAIN LION LEVEL (\$1,000-\$2,499)

Evergoods
Highline Partners
Kokopelli
MeatEater
Off the Beaten Path
ScentsationalK9s
Schnees

BISON LEVEL (UNDER \$1,000)

Absaroka Pain & Rehab	Folk Dog Art	Owenhouse Ace
Abundant Health	FreeFall Brewery	Hardware
Aerie Backcountry	Furrow & Fly	Parlour
Medicine	Gallatin Alpine Sports	Patagonia
Alara Jewelry	Genuine Ice Cream	Perpetual Motion NW
Alter Cycles	Geshundheit!	PhD Skis
Arts on Fire	Girls Outdoors	Pizza Campania
Ashley's Furniture	Glacier Raft Co	Practice Power Yoga
B Bar Ranch	GSI Outdoors	Rapid Clean Car Wash
Bagelworks	Hoffman Artworks	Red Tractor Pizza
Bar 3 BBQ	Hooked on Sushi	REI Bozeman
Barefoot Campus	Hop Lounge	Revelry
Outfitters	I-Ho's Korean Grill	Rib and Chop House
Bend Beyond Yoga	Intermountain Opera	Rocking R Bar
Beringia	Bozeman	Rocky Mountain Rug
Big Sky Resort	Intrinsik Architecture	Gallery
Blackbird Kitchen	Jam on Main	Roly-Poly Coffee Co
Blend Bozeman	Lary's Fly and Supply	Roost
Bodywork	Last Best Place Brewing	Rosauers
Bourbon	Laurel Hatch Studio	RSVP Motel
Bozeman Brewing Co	Little Star Diner	Sageborn
Bozeman Running Co	Lone Mountain Land Co	Seven Sushi
Bozeman Taproom &	Map Brewing Co	SHEN
Spirits	Meridian Boutique	Simms Fishing
Bridger Bowl	Mint Dental	Sparrow Holistic
Bridger Brewing Co	Mischa's	Medicine
Brome Design Build	Moka Boutique	Spire Climbing Center
Bronwen Jewelry	Montana Ale Works	Stix Yarn
Bunkhouse Brewery	Montana Fishing	StretchLab
Cactus Records	Outfitters	Stronghold Fabrication
Clean Juice	Montana Whitewater	Thai Basil
Copper	Mountains Walking	The LARK
Cosmic Pizza	Brewery	The Mint
Country Bookshelf	Museum of the Rockies	The Mountain Project
Crosscut Mountain Sports	Nordic Brew Works	Tori Pintar Photography
Dave's Sushi	Norris Hot Springs	Trail Stitching Co
Duckworth	North Bridger Bison	Trailine Coffee Roasters
Ebb & Flow	Old Chicago	UDAP Industries
Ekam Yoga	Old Main Gallery &	Voormi
Enso Natural Medicine	Framing	Vortex Optics
Evolv	Olivelle	Wild Crumb
Excel Physical Therapy	OnSite Energy	Wild Idea Buffalo Co
Feast Bistro	OnX Maps	Wine Gallery
First Security Bank	Outlaw Brewing	Your Yoga

2022 DONORS

DONATIONS REFLECT OUR SHORTENED
FISCAL YEAR OF 1/1/22-9/30/22

WOLVERINE LEVEL

(\$10,000+)

Chris & Rebekah Bunting
Robert Duke
Michelle & Robert Friend
Friend Family Philanthropic Fund
Gar Duke & Nicole Friend

GRIZZLY BEAR LEVEL

(\$1000-\$9,999)

Andrew & Victoria Field
Endowment Fund
Anonymous
Anonymous
Chuck & Jana Arnold
Janine Bellenger-Tebay
Jon & Elizabeth Christensen
Sarah & Bo Ewald
Peter Harned
Robert Helm
Chad & Melissa Herst
Philip Hess
Michael Jenkins
Patricia & Craig Jilk
Deb Love
Colleen & Andrew McCreary
Mr. Bernard Osher
Jennifer Peters
Martha Sellers
Justin Short

MOUNTAIN LION LEVEL

(\$500-\$999)

Doug & Jeanie Badenoch
Robert Bell
Don & Caroline Bitz
Susan Bridges
Anne & George Bunting
Anne Butter
Jerry & Sue Campana
Patty Ceglie
Daniel & Mary Draper
Patricia Gehman
Jenny Grossenbacher
Emily Jencso
Chris & Michael Kleese
Krista Kroll
Angie Kujala
Mark & Dawn Lewis
Tim & MaryAnne Mayeda
Erin McCleary
Louise Mercier & Mark Lehman
Naomi & Peter Moore
Josh Olsen & Bina Peters
Lisa & Robert Pertzborn
David & Deborah Peters
Luke Rice
Dash Rodman
Aaron & Lynelle Schuerr
Kelly Sharples
Bill Stoddart
Matt & Betsy Tadvick
Sas & Stuart Weber
Michael & Stephanie Wolfe

BISON LEVEL

(\$250-\$499)

Ethan Barlow
Diana & Larry Cloninger
Deidre Combs
Neil & Jamie Cornish
Peter Donahue
Thomas Donovan
Simone Durney
Paul Ebright
Susan & Cal Fraser
LeeAnn Galusha
Mary Gamache
Kristen Grimm
Gretchen Grogan
Colleen Kelly
Charlotte Knighton
Michael Kozicki
Karen & Terry Kreitzberg
Anders Larsson
Chris & Kelly Livingston
Patrick Lupton
Kristie McDowell-Karn
Susan & Josh Miller Mollenkamp
Kristofer & Allison Olsen
Allie Poalino
Travis & Alex Svensrud
Wendy Wilson

BIGHORN SHEEP LEVEL

(\$100-\$249)

Carolyn & Steven Albrecht
Scott & Ivaly Alexander
Peter Anderson
Anonymous
Bruce Barrett
Kaitlin Bear
Suzanne & Eric Bendick
Kate Brantley
Daphne, Michael, & Allie Braun
Laura Brin
Matt Bushue
Theresa Corelli
Jess Devant
Tory Dille
Christopher Donahue
Dean Drenzek
Gia Duke & Justin Tassone
Max Fancher
Laura Fedro
Karen Filipovich
Judith Gregory & Alan Goldin
Stephanie Grogan
Janae Hagen
Dr. Stephen Halvorson
Jeff & Sarah Ho
Holly Hoxeng
Daniel Hunter
Mary Ingebrand & Lori Fisher
Kelley Jazdzewski
Jenny Johnson & Jen Rademacher
Kayte Kaminski & Adam Johnson
Michelle Kendziorski
Lindsey Ketterer
Claire Kleese
Tara & Sven Krauss
Hilary LaFoley

Maggie Lesslie
Whitney Lonsdale
Sue MacGrath
Jake Maenpa
Brenda Martin
Ivy Merriot
Whitney Millhoan
Heather Milovina
John Neathawk
Mary O'Rourke
Roslyn Owens
Brittany Peters
Molly Pickall
Sandra Prusiner
Justin Rawls
Debra & Michael Redburn
Tracy Revoir
Meghan Sherman
Cynthia Slater
Greg Smith
Ben Stanistreet
Heather Waterous
David Weinstein
Jessie Wiese
Aaron Yost

ANTELOPE LEVEL

(UNDER \$100)

Mark Albrecht
Anonymous
Anonymous
Caroline Artime
Clare Berkey
Bill Blackburn
Jimmy Blackburn
Scott Bosse
Tim Burdsall
Andy Burns
Heidi Buzzetti
Dan Center
Adam Chenoweth
Kodee Cloninger
Kari & Brian Cornell
Cary Costello
Tammy & Greg Dalling
Mia D'Amico
Gabe Doherty
Charles & Shana Drimal
Nikole Drummond
Diane Eagleson
Luke Elliott
Cheryl & Jeff Eshbaugh
Thomas Flynn
Sue Frederickson
Katrina Geist
Britney Gitch
Kurt & Jen Gummer
Ryan Gummer
Aidan Gustin
Christina Hayes
Hannah Karn
Lauren Karn
Ginger Kurtz
Kari LaPierre
Lyra Leigh-Nedbor
Theresa Lindenau
Sarah Lord

Joseph Loviska
Kevin Mack
Elizabeth Martin
Jono & Laurie McKinney
David McWethy
Lauren Miller
Andrew Morehouse
Stacey Neve
Nathan Norby
Eric & Juliette Noyes
Jane & Christopher Olley
Connor Onyett
Alexander Pawling
Nathan & Jessie Perius
Allison Phillips
Nancy Planalp
Chery Popiel
Sherilyn Renner
Douglas Richmond
Jordan Riddick
Delaney Rixford
Jory Ruggiero
Katie Ruiz
Trevor Schumacher
John Shoff
Phoenix Smcyn
Jessica Smolenske
Griffin Stevens
Jessica Stillman
Madison Stockton
Kathryn Sullivan
Jake TeSelle
Jim Todd
Lydia & Jeff Trom
Amanda Weber
Patricia Wiederer
Lauren Wilcox
Kate Wright
Ben Yeomans & Kristin Jordan
Matt Zia
Dave Zinn & Amy Pakula

GIFTS MADE IN HONOR/ MEMORY OF

Tony Barlow
Robert Friend
Martha Sellers
Justin Short

FOUNDATION GRANTS

AMB West Philanthropies
American Rivers
BNSF Railway Foundation
Billings Community Foundation
Bunting Family Foundation
First Interstate Bancsystem
Foundation
Fred Maytag Family Foundation
Friend Family Foundation
M.J. LaFoley Foundation
Montana Community Foundation
The Kendeda Fund
The Otto Bremer Trust
The Sample Foundation
The Wilderness Society
Walmart Community Fund
Yellowstone Club Community
Foundation



**MONTANA
WILDERNESS
SCHOOL**

P.O.Box 1183 | Bozeman, MT 59771
info@montanawildernessschool.org
406.388.4610

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



Begin the adventure at
montanawildernessschool.org

“Every child should have the opportunity to be in nature and learn to rely on and find joy in themselves, the earth, animals, and others. I’m pretty sure our planet depends on youth having these experiences.” — MWS Parent