



YOUTH EXPERIENTIAL TRAINING INSTITUTE 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

15 years ago, a group of parents in South King County joined together under the leadership of John Nelson with a simple idea: that the young people in their community—not just their children, but all children—should spend quality time in nature. It was these adventures outside that would help them develop to their fullest potential and inspire them to care for our natural world. I am extremely proud of our staff, volunteers, and teachers this year, whose tireless work has helped us realize this vision more than ever before. With investments in equipment, transportation, and a larger program team, we've been able to expand our school-based and partnership programs to reach an new all-time record in the number of students served and trips taken outside.

Thank you for taking the time to look through our year and help us celebrate some of the accomplishments that have enabled us to unlock the potential of young people in our community. We know that time in nature means physical and mental health, deep connections to peers and caring adults, and helps foster a deep care for the natural world. I look forward to next year, where we will continue to connect more funders, educators, and volunteers to help in this journey to invite and resource more young people to a life outside.

WHO WE ARE

Y.E.T.I. hosts year-round outdoor adventures for students in South King County. We envision a future where all young people have the opportunity for outdoor adventure and time in nature.

Accessible Outdoors

We recognize that barriers like financial cost, experience, equipment, gender, and racial inequity limit access to our public lands, and we work with youth and families to break them down.

- **Pay What You Can:** Flexible payment options
- **Resources Included:** Providing necessary gear and transportation
- **Quality Instruction:** Professional and safe guidance from our trained staff

Core Values

Fun, Equity, Respect, Sense of Place, Flexibility

Strategic Priorities



Public Schools & Public Lands



Leverage Collaboration



Excellence In Delivery

YEAR IN REVIEW

This school year has been packed with adventure! Thanks to the support of our community, increased volunteer participation, upgraded gear, a growing staff, and new vehicles, we've had more adventures and offered more school-based programs than ever before.

Student Impact

154

Outdoor Adventures

1119

Student Days

3000+

Hours Outside

350+

Students

Growth Highlights

8

School Sites

12

Partner Programs

2x

Outdoor Gear

2

Additional Vehicles

Y.E.T.I. CLUBS

Y.E.T.I. clubs meet after school to plan and go on exciting adventures like hikes, rock climbing, kayaking, and more. Students lead the way in choosing activities, which builds leadership and teamwork skills. These clubs encourage students to visit local parks regularly and organize larger weekend trips to enjoy public lands.



8

School Sites

122

Outdoor Adventures

750

Student Days

Y.E.T.I. CLUBS



Big Picture



Glacier Middle



Highline High



Pacific Middle



Maritime High



Sylvester Middle



Cascade View



Foster High

PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

Y.E.T.I. leverages its outdoor expertise and resources to create impactful experiences for young people.

12

Partner Programs

19

Outdoor Adventures

262

Student Days

Our Partners



Game of Life Mentoring

You Grow Girl!



PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

Here are three examples that illustrate the impact of some of these programs.



Phenomenal She

For the third year in a row, Y.E.T.I. partnered with Phenomenal She, a girls mentoring program based in Federal Way. What began as a fishing club with support from Long Live the Kings has now blossomed into a monthly outing club. These young women have enjoyed activities such as biking, rock climbing, snowboarding, and much more. When Y.E.T.I. collaborates with other youth-serving organizations, it provides new opportunities for young people to develop leadership skills and foster connections with each other and the natural world.



Franklin High School

Y.E.T.I. collaborates with educators from various school systems to bring learning to life and create opportunities for young people and teachers to connect through outdoor adventures. One notable example from the past year is the snowshoeing trip with Franklin High School's English language learner students. Thanks to the Washington Trails Association and the dedicated efforts of Jonas, one of their teachers, we were able to take 30 students to Snoqualmie Pass to experience a winter wonderland—some who saw snowfall for the first time.



Seattle Housing Authority

Many local housing authorities have youth coordinators dedicated to supporting young people in their communities. Y.E.T.I. has partnered with several of these authorities to encourage young people to explore public lands near their homes and throughout the Cascades. One example of this program is our collaboration with the High Point Housing Community. This year, we organized hikes and other outdoor activities, sparking a ton of excitement for the upcoming year of adventures.

RECREATION

Weekend Trips

This year, Y.E.T.I. offered a variety of weekend trips, providing students with more opportunities to bike, climb, hike, kayak, and snowshoe.



9

Outdoor Adventures

84

Student Days

Overnight Trips

Our overnight trips to places like Vantage and Sequim Bay State Park offered longer adventures, fostering deep connections with nature and each other.

4

Outdoor Adventures

23

Student Days



YOUTH STORIES

Whether students are in Y.E.T.I. clubs, participating in partnership programs, or joining weekend trips and overnight adventures, we always keep these questions in mind: Did the participants have fun? Was there time for them to explore on their own? Did they get a taste of adventure? Were they involved in planning their experience?



1 Sophie at Highline High Y.E.T.I. Club

Sophie from Highline High School found her passion in Y.E.T.I. after struggling to connect with other activities. As a leader, she organized successful trips like a rock climbing and camping trip in Vantage, WA. Sophie's influence has made Y.E.T.I. a hit at her school, demonstrating the program's impact. We look forward to returning to Highline High School in 2024-2025. [Read the full story on our blog!](#)



2 Paris at Phenomenal She

Paris, a participant from Phenomenal She, regularly joins Y.E.T.I. trips with her brothers. Her adventurous spirit and leadership shine as she takes on challenges like hiking, kayaking, and rock climbing. Paris exemplifies the impact of our programs, inspiring others to push themselves. We're excited to continue these partnerships and see more young people rise to the occasion. [Read the full story on our blog!](#)

COMMUNITY & ADVOCACY



South King County Outdoor Coalition

Y.E.T.I. worked with other outdoor and environmental youth organizations to form the South King County Outdoor Coalition to promote environmental justice for young people in South King County. This coalition has greatly impacted the lives of young people in our community. This year we have met three times at Seahurst Park, Snoqualmie Pass, and paddling on Lake Washington.



Advocacy and Stories

Y.E.T.I. continues to work with the Wilderness Society, the Washington Trails Association (WTA), and other partners to share the impact of investing in youth programs and effective land management planning.

This year, our advocacy efforts included interviews about the No Child Left Inside program, a panel discussion at the State Trails Conference, public comments on the positive impact of the King County Parks Levy, collaboration on the DNR State Recreation Planning, and more.



Upgraded Exit 38 Climbing Structure

Y.E.T.I. partnered with the Washington Trails Association, Climbers of Color, the Department of Natural Resources, and others to upgrade the Exit 38 Gritscone climbing area. Larger belay pads and retaining walls were installed to protect surrounding trees, preserving one of the best outdoor rock-climbing classrooms.

TOOLS FOR SUCCESS

This year, we've made exciting progress in expanding our programs and resources to connect with even more young people.



1 Growing Staff Team

Our staff team has grown, allowing us to increase outdoor trips from 20 in 2018-2019 to over 150 this year. This growth is supported by 3 program coordinators and 8 part-time field instructors with expertise in various outdoor disciplines.



2 New Vehicles

We've expanded our fleet with a program truck for kayaking, biking, and overnight trips, along with a new 12-passenger van, allowing us to accommodate larger groups and run multiple trips simultaneously.



3 Upgraded Gear

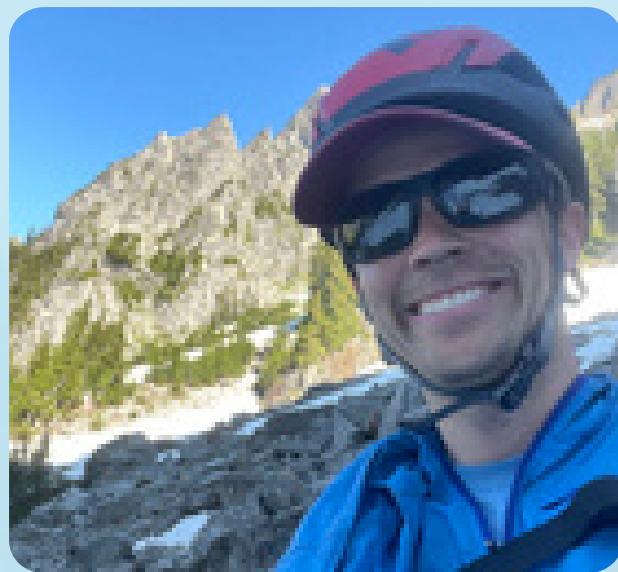
With Foundry 10's support, we secured cold water paddle gear. Now, we can paddle even later into the fall and start earlier in the spring. Plus, thanks to an anonymous donor and matching gifts from our campaign, we replaced 12 mountain bikes so more young people can enjoy biking adventures.



4 Improved Student Registration

We've invested significant effort in improving our student registration process, making it more efficient and user-friendly to facilitate smoother participation in our programs.

STAFF & VOLUNTEERS



David Dunphy
Executive Director



Sean McNally
Program Director



Amber Curtis
Development Manager

Program Coordinators



From left to right:

Teresa Kessenich-Chase
Sean Adler
Sam Sauerbrei

Field Instructors

Alex Binder, Eric Aker, Jb Magpantay, Jonathan Hyde, Wesley Wakai, Ellie Kravitz-Smith, Lee

Volunteers

Y.E.T.I. volunteers lead weekend trips, support weekly clubs, join fundraising events, handle gear repairs, and so much more!

65
Volunteers

5
Training Events

School Mentors



Westy



Rebecca



Judy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Our Board of Directors is a dedicated and diverse group committed to guiding Y.E.T.I. toward its mission. Here's a snapshot of our board members, highlighting their commitment and the collective strength they bring.



Noah Harper



Claire Heflin



Maxi Polihronakis



Isaac Prieto



John Nelson



Tonya Seaberry



John Millick



Jon Olivera



Sara Morales



Claire Symons



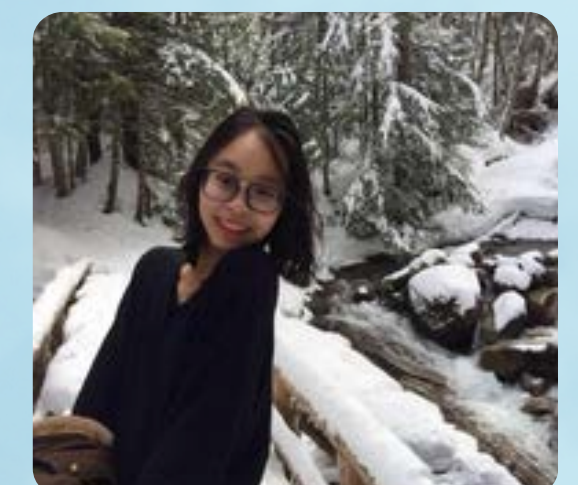
Chris Lowe



Meera Rajagopalan



Connor McCune



Kim Nguyen

Composition Stats

50%
Male and
Female

60%
Millennials or
Gen Z

60%
Identify as
BIPOC

70%
Parents

100%
Generous
Donors

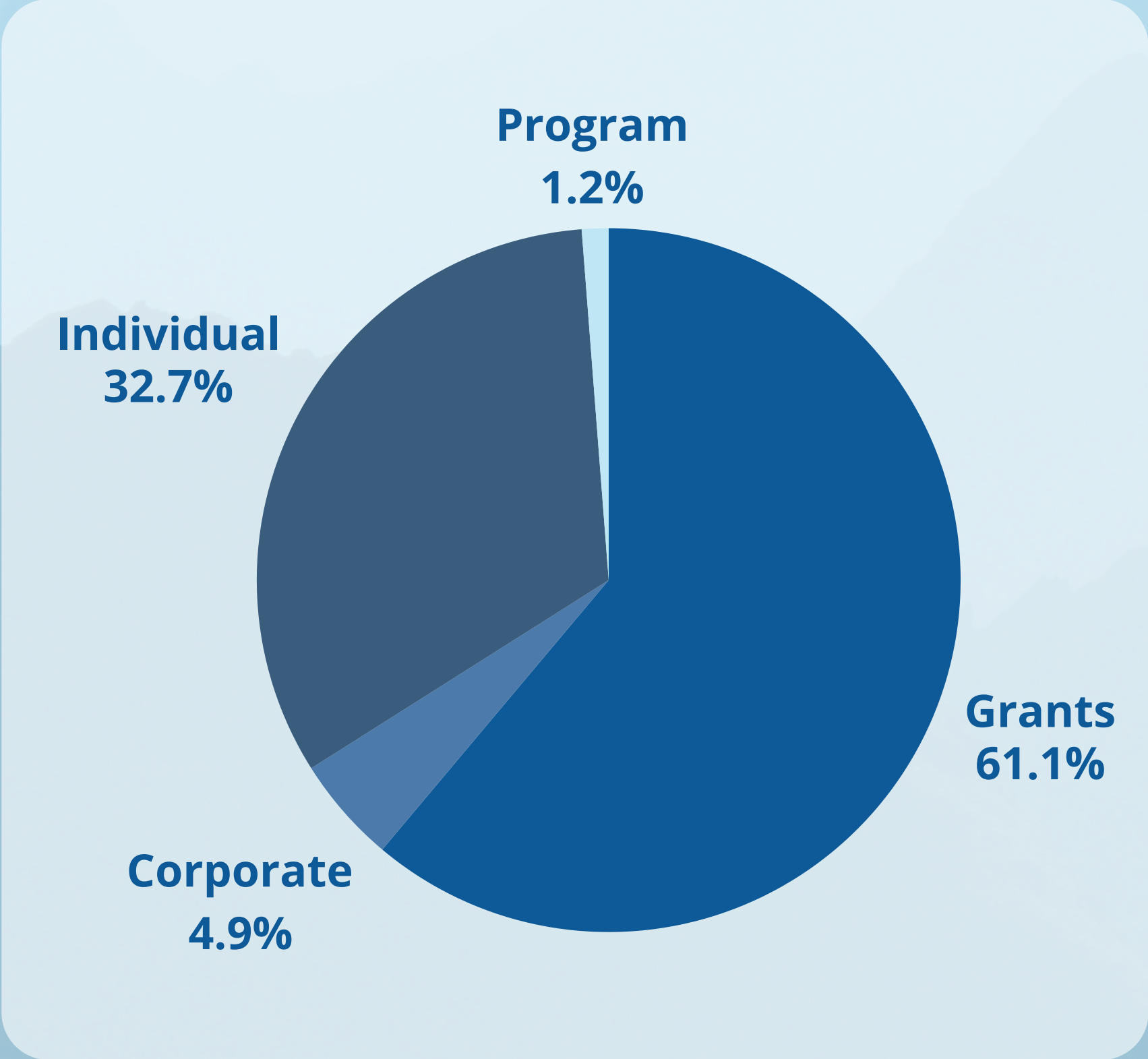
Includes leaders from Adobe, Microsoft, Cascade Designs, Clark Nuber, and others, spanning education, business, nonprofit, and more.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Y.E.T.I. is committed to our long-term sustainability. Surplus revenue is allocated for our capital needs and cash reserves, ensuring our growing organization remains stable and ready for future opportunities and challenges. Continued donations are essential to sustain our momentum, expand programs, and increase our community impact.

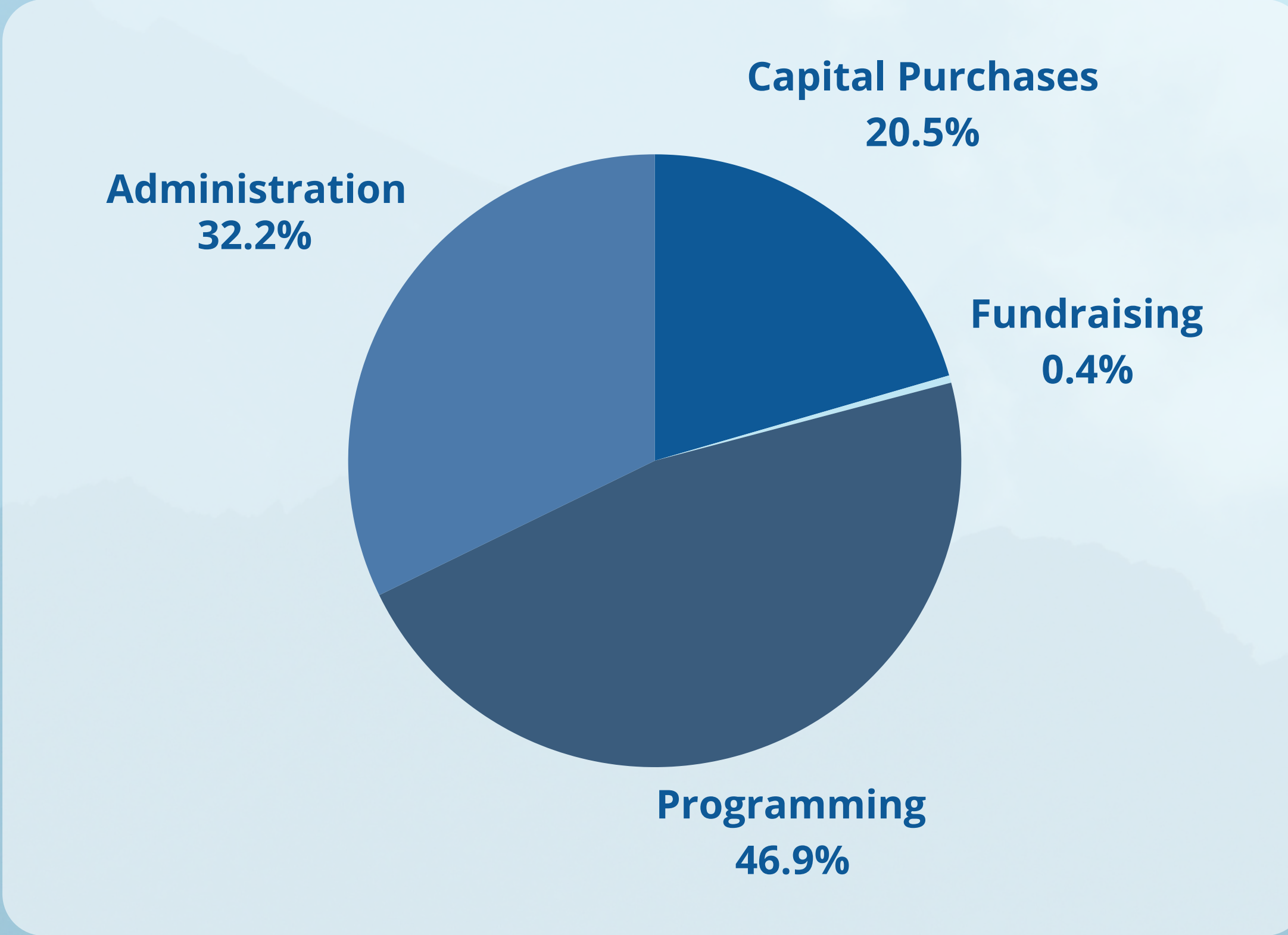
Total Revenue: \$571,000

- Individuals: \$187,000
- Corporate: \$28,000
- Grants: \$349,000
- Programs: \$7,000



Total Expenses: \$512,000

- Program: \$240,000
- Administration: \$165,000
- Fundraising: \$2,000
- Capital Purchases: \$105,000



*All financial figures have been rounded for simplicity

FUNDING OUR WORK

Guardians of Grit

Ben Riemenschnider
Betsy & Andy Boyer
Berry Family
Campbell Family
Charter Harrison
Claire Heflin
Dan Ramirez
Dan Wilk
David Dunphy
David Simons
Elliott Family
Gary Fallon
Grant Shaver
Grant Silvernale
Jeff Kerns
Jessica Westermeyer
Katherine McDaniel
Kristi Gwinn
Lisa & Justin
Lowe Family

Maxi Polihronakis
Meera Rajagopalan
Michelle Gutierrez
Nate Garberich
Nelson Family
Noah Harper
Patrick Perkins
Patty & Peter Dunphy
Perry Family
Rick Kellogg
Sue Ann Hoheimer
Tanya Strawn
Todd Harrison
Tonya Seaberry
Travis Merrigan
Trey & Val Danna
Woodland Family
Zennie Wey
Loughlin Family
Foundation

Technical Support

Washington Trails Association
Recreate Responsibly
Mountain to Sound Greenway
Highline Public School
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance
The Wilderness Society
Environmental Science Center
Heron's Nest

Grit Keepers

Allison Gilmore Brown
Alyssa Perry
Annie Grohovsky
Brenda Heflin
Brenda Ogdon
Burkhard Mackensen
Christine Walker
Daniel Galindo-Navarro
Jocelyn Leiske
Jon Sullivan
Josh Stellick
Judy Reed

Kathryn McClintic
Kevin Killeen
Leah Beckett
Lindsey Hochrine
Matthew Long
Mike Poutiatine
Nola Van Vugt
Paul Robertson
Rachel Shaffer
Sarah Fleming
Sophie DeRosa
Yuh Jann Wey

Equipment Sponsors



Corporate Donors



Grants and Foundations

Multi-Year Grantors

King County Parks Levy
Virginia Mason Franciscan Health Violence Prevention Grant
Pacific Hospital PDA Health Equity Grant
WA State - No Child Left Inside & Outdoor Learning Grant

Other Grantors

Des Moines Legacy Foundation
Foundry10
Grayl Water Filters
Joshua Green
Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation
Long Live the Kings
Lucky Seven Foundation
Muckleshoot
Norman Archibald Charitable Foundation
Rotary of Des Moines/Normandy Park
Safeco Insurance Fund
Snoqualmie Tribe
South King Fire Foundation
TEGNA Foundation
Wilderness Society
Wyman Youth Trust

Land Managers



OUR WISH LIST

Creating equal access to outdoor adventures is a continuous effort. Whether it's through providing equipment, supporting staff, or sustaining donations, every contribution helps us expand our reach to more young people.



Program Van

Enables more trips



Gear and Clothing

Ensures equipped adventures



Adopt a School Club

Sustains programs



Mountaineering Gear

Creates new capstone experiences



Volunteer Coordinator

Enhances volunteer management

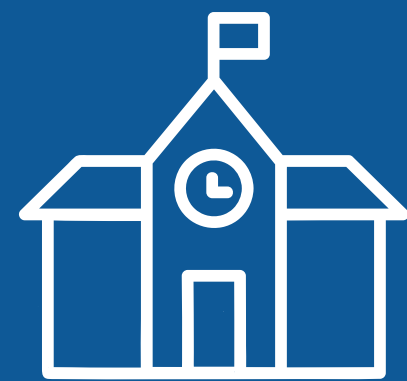


Teacher Stipends

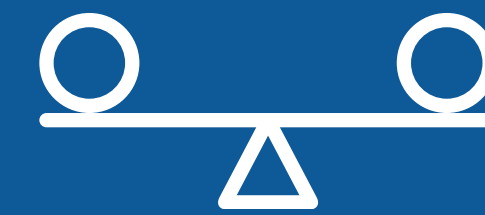
Compensates for teachers' time

TRAIL AHEAD

We continue to seek support and investments in our nonprofit's ability to serve more students.



**Expand to new schools
and districts**



**Ensure our long-term
sustainability**



**Expand
staff team**



**Enhance transportation and
equipment management**



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