



**MONTANA
WILDERNESS
SCHOOL**

IMPACT REPORT 2023



GREETINGS FROM MONTANA WILDERNESS SCHOOL

Transitions can be challenging. There is inevitably some loss—of people, of knowledge, of ideas, even of structure. But transitions are also an opportunity to grow. To meet new people, engage new partners, consider new ideas, and even to adjust a path forward. 2023 was just such a year. MWS transitioned to a new executive director, new administrative staff, a mid-season change in operations, and a shift in interest among students across Montana and beyond. Yet, these challenges did not dissuade us from successfully running 17 courses, serving 158 students, and providing more than \$115,000 in financial assistance for under-resourced youth. As we read the student and parent evaluations, we are delighted to see another year of resoundingly positive feedback, which solidifies our belief that these experiences are constructive, impactful, and provide essential opportunities for personal growth.

Planning for 2024, we remain laser-focused on our commitment to make MWS more diverse, inclusive, and equitable, and to improve enrollment particularly in underserved urban, rural, and Native communities around Montana. As we reflect on three seasons of enormous pandemic-fueled growth, we also look forward to a stabilizing year in which we expand our program in a more calculated way to maintain its high quality.

Thank you for the many ways you've made a difference, this year and every year. The most important thing we do is ensure that immersive wilderness experiences are available to ALL young people who are interested, and that one's personal financial situation doesn't stand in the way of a transformative expedition in Montana's glorious backcountry.

We can't do this without your ideas, time, resources, partnership, and dollars. For all of that — and all of you — we are grateful.

STAY WILD,

Martha
Martha Sellers
Executive Director

Josh
Josh Olsen
Co-founder and Program Director



OUR MISSION

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

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

HELP US MAKE A DIFFERENCE — DONATE TODAY!
montanawildernessschool.org | Venmo @mws_staywild



158

STUDENTS
SERVED

22,464

PROGRAM HOURS

3 GRIZZLY
BEAR
SIGHTINGS

302 RIVER
MILES
PADDLED

936
PROGRAM DAYS

1,107
MILES HIKED

300

ELK OBSERVED
(ON JUST ONE COURSE!)

\$115,530






IN FINANCIAL AID AWARDS





FINANCIALS

INCOME

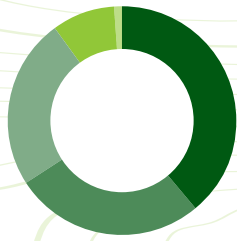
Individual Donations		39%	\$	349,833
Tuition		27%	\$	240,470
Grants		24%	\$	218,495
Business Donations		9%	\$	82,756
General Fundraising		1%	\$	11,182

TOTAL INCOME **\$ 902,736**

EXPENSES

Program		78%	\$	721,323
Fundraising		14%	\$	132,488
Administration		8%	\$	72,507

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$ 926,338**



CORPORATE SPONSORS

WOLVERINE \$5,000+

M|R MILLER | ROODELL
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PLONK
WINE

SITKA

SPITFIRE
SPARK CHANGE

WALL FAMILY ENTERPRISE

GRIZZLY BEAR \$2,500-\$4,999



AMERICAN BANK



FULL CIRCLE RECYCLING

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WOLVERINE \$10,000+

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Robert Duke
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GRIZZLY BEAR \$1,000-\$9,999

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BUSINESS SPONSORS

MOUNTAIN LION

\$1,000-\$2,499

Bridger Bowl
Kokopelli
Legends Studio
Mint Dental
Spark R&D

BISON \$500-\$999

Bozeman Fishing Lodge
Duckworth
First Security Bank
Montana Fishing Outfitters
North Bridger Bison SHEN
Spire Climbing Center
The Mountain Project
Yellowstone Cabins
Your Yoga
Yurtopia

BIGHORN SHEEP

<\$500

Aerie Backcountry Medicine
Alter Cycles
Amazon Smile
Apples + Anglers
Arturo Garcia Fine Art
Athleta
Aurora Bakery
Backcountry
Backcountry Burger Bar
Bagelworks
Balboa Winery
Bar 3 BBQ
Barefoot Campus Outfitters
Bella's Bones
Bend Beyond Yoga
Big Sky Structural Solutions
Blackbird Kitchen
Blacksmith Italian
Bob's Outdoor
Bozeman Brewing Co
Bozeman Community Food Co-op
Bozeman Cottage
Vacation Rentals
Bozeman Running Co

Bridger Brewing
Bronwen Jewelry
BVA Design
Cactus Blossom Collective
Cactus Records
Café Zydeco
Calamity's Boutique
Cosmic Pizza
Country Bookshelf
Cudaway Knives
Dan Bailey's Outdoor Co
Daniel's Gourmet Meats
Dave's Sushi
Deluxe Corp
Farmer's Daughters
Feast Bistro
Follow 'Yer Nose BBQ
Forge Fitness
Frame Garden
Furrow & Fly
Fus'd Glass Art
Ghost Town Coffee Roasters
Girls Outdoors
Great Rocky Mountain Toy Co
Heyday
High Trash Boutique
Hoffman Artworks
Hooked
Intermountain Opera Bozeman
Isenhower Cellars
Jam!
Kenyon Noble
Krae Artwork
La Cuisine
Les Schwab Tires
Little Star Diner
Livingston Home Outfitters
Livingston Kite Co
Logjam Presents
Mattress Mill
Mischa's
Montana Ale Works
Montana Burgers
Montana Ski & Boot
Montana Watch Co
Montana Whitewater
Murdoch's
Museum of the Rockies

Oboz Footwear
Old Chicago
Old Main Gallery
OnSite Energy
Out West Trading Co
Outlaw Brewing
Practice Power Yoga
Primal Meats
Pura Vida Salon & Spa
Rad Bikes
Rapid Clean Car Wash
REI Bozeman
Revolv'r
Revolv'r Menswear
Rib and Chop House
Ridgway Plastic Surgery & Med Spa
Rockford Coffee
Rocking R Bar
Rocky Mountain Car Wash
Roost
Rosauers
Rotie Cellars
Sacajawea Hotel
Salchicha
Schnee's
Second Street Bistro
Second Wind Sports
Seven Sushi
Sidewall Pizza
Sidewinders
American Grill
Sparrow Holistic Medicine
Stio
Tanglewood
The Murray Hotel
The Spur Line
Tori Pintar Photography
Town & Country Foods
Treeline Coffee Roasters
Valhalla Meadery
Vickie's Pierogies
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Wheatgrass Books
Whole Foods
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Anonymous
Anonymous
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ANTELOPE <\$100

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Anonymous
Anonymous
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The Wilderness Society

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SOAR Northwest
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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Yogesh Simpson Design
Yellowstone National Park





STAFF

Martha Sellers – *Executive Director*
Josh Olsen – *Co-founder and Program Director*
Kodee Cloninger – *Outreach & Admissions Director*
Andy Burns – *Outreach Coordinator*
Adam Kershner – *Outreach Coordinator*
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**MONTANA
WILDERNESS
SCHOOL**

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406.388.4610



*Happy Holidays from the MWS
team. May 2024 bring you many
opportunities to get outdoors!*