

A nonprofit 501(c)3 organization providing active, hands-on, nature-based outdoor education & promoting healthy lifestyles since 1996.

2020 COMMUNITY REPORT



RESILIENCE, CONNECTION, COMMUNITY, and FUN!



"The program was so great and especially needed with the current isolation happening. FIT implemented the safety standards in a way that made everyone comfortable while still being incredibly fun." - FIT parent



Successes in a Year of Challenges

Thanks to the support of our community of donors, families, and friends, we are able to continue to change children's lives during the pandemic. Though several programs and fundraising events were canceled, we are proud to have operated all year while meeting COVID-19 safety protocols. New challenges required adaptability and vigilance. We adapted nearly every aspect of our programmatic work due to the pandemic. Due to our Governor's mandate that youth programs serve children who live within a 50 mile radius, our focus was on providing opportunities to young people in our local community.

Since most children of Taos County have not been in school since March 2020, we were even more inspired by the need for children to play outside and connect with each other and with nature. We saw children absolutely thrive, playing and learning through active, hands-on explorations with peers outdoors.

Currently, the safest place to learn is outside. We worked hard in 2020 to create engaging summer and after school programming as well as to offer many options to support parents, teachers, and schools. Content has been presented in various formats including small group, in-person, outdoor adventures, live video, and asynchronous learning. We have also provided professional development for teachers with topics in outdoor teaching methods and COVID-safe practices working with children.

We saw many short-term positive outcomes: children who are happier and healthier; parents and teachers who feel supported. Giving children opportunities to connect, with other children as well as to be outdoors in nature, improves both physical and emotional health of the participants. By helping kids connect with each other and with nature in safe, meaningful, and fun ways, we see pure joy and feelings of a sense of normalcy.

2020 Programs

By carefully and continuously adapting to current health protocols, we were able to offer in-person summer Mountain Camps, new after "school" Letting Off STEAM programs, and the high school bike team as well as enhanced educator support and creative virtual community outreach. We also had the new opportunity to provide both virtual and in-person PE with a strong outdoor education twist at a local school serving K-8 graders. Our Little Free Library was converted into a Little Free Pantry (food) with the directions of, "Take what you need; Leave what you can." We successfully overcame the challenges of very small group sizes, mask wearing by staff and children, and rethinking activities to preserve required group size and social distancing mandates. With flexibility, determination, and positivity, we operated almost continuously all year while following all COVID-19 safety protocols. For this we are so grateful!

Scholarships



As always, all scholarships were a direct result of very generous donations.



THANK YOU To Our Donors, Board of Directors, and Volunteers!

Because of the support of so many individuals, businesses, families, and other organizations, we have been able to make a lasting, positive impact in our community for 25 years. 2020 was such a uniquely challenging year and we are incredibly grateful that the support was still there for our programs. Contributions came from many sources including individuals who have given annually for many years, new donors, and grants from Vermejo Park, Taos Ski Valley Foundation, and Taos Community Foundation. Thank you also to our Board of Directors that worked tirelessly in making critical decisions regarding our operations in 2020.

With most of our fundraising events canceled, the New Belgium Brewing Scavenger Hunt and Ride the Rift (open to high school team only this year) comprised all of our event income. Even with our strict COVID protocols, we were so happy to have some dedicated, talented volunteers assist us.

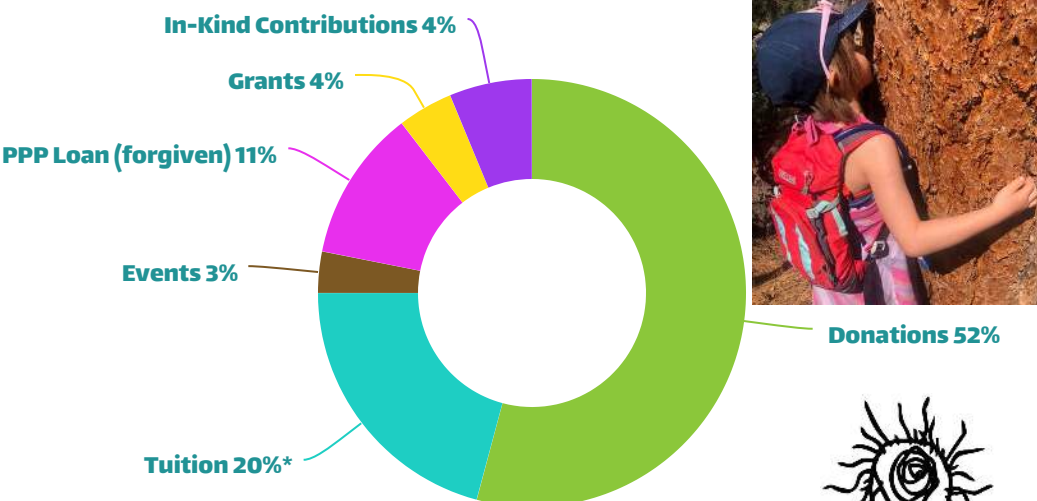
THANK YOU ALL and here's to the next 25 years!



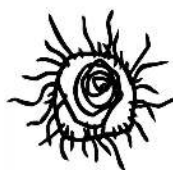
To see pictures of him smiling and playing out in the woods and at the river just melted me. I am SO incredibly grateful that you guys pulled off a summer season. - Mountain Camp parent



2020 Income Sources



Donations 52%



Where the Money Goes*



- Program Expenses 85%
- Fundraising 4%
- Management 11%

* 2019 percentages

*In 2019, tuition made up 62% of our income. This decrease was a direct result of the pandemic.



"You provided hope and social interaction with friends in a COVID-safe manner, outdoor activity, a fresh air antidote to all the screen time for school, and most importantly something to look forward to each week!" - Letting Off STEAM parent

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