

ANNUAL REPORT  
2023



Where **RELATIONSHIPS** Grow



Back in 2001, my brother and I had a vision: families (especially ours) reconnecting by spending time outside together, creating memories and building relationships. It was the way we were raised – but we found as times changed it wasn't as easy to raise our own kids that way.

23 years down the road. . . Colorado Youth Outdoors hosts our participants at Swift Ponds, a beautiful 220-acre oasis between Larimer and Weld counties. We have a 12-person administrative staff, 40 part time instructors, and hundreds of volunteers all working to build relationships through outdoor recreation in Northern Colorado. In 2023, Swift Ponds served over 8,000 folks. The road has been long, but also incredible!

While there are still a few good years on this CEO's tires, succession plan discussions are becoming more frequent. A step towards sharing the leadership is our new organizational pillar structure. Our pillar directors manage their own department – programming, facilities, and development. To fill out our leadership team, we will add an executive director within a year or so.

Another exciting part of this journey is the rise of “planned giving”. Back in 2016, Roger Kenney made plans to donate his downtown Loveland building to CYO. The 2023 sale of that building generated just shy of a million dollars. The funds, alongside our annual fundraising efforts, equate to a promise that thousands more relationships in our community will be improved. Of course, not all of us have buildings to donate. But planned gifts of all kinds have been a boon for CYO's growth. If you're interested in learning more, I'd be honored to sit down with you!

Enough from us – this report is chock full of news we're proud and humbled to share. CYO's financial numbers are strong, and we're excited about future growth.

The consistent factor on this road of mine -- from our family vision through 23 years of CYO's growth -- is your support.

Thank you,



**BOB HEWSON**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO  
COLORADO YOUTH OUTDOORS



**AJ MACDONALD**  
CYO BOARD CHAIR  
PRESIDENT, MACDONALD FINANCIAL SERVICES

WELCOME



**At Colorado Youth Outdoors,  
we build relationships through  
traditional outdoor recreation.**

YOU'LL FIND THAT TIME HERE IS TIME WELL SPENT



*“Good job, this was worth every second.”*

ANONYMOUS, POST-CORE YOUTH SURVEY

Colorado Youth Outdoors teaches archery, fishing and shooting sports - but that's not why we're here. Our teaching toolkit (PACD - Participate, Appreciate, Communicate & Dedicate) is our method to get folks talking to one another. Creating a space for meaningful conversation and time spent together are the keys to fulfilling our mission.



## CORE

### ADULT WITH YOUTH

SPRING, SUMMER, FALL SEMESTERS

Created for parents/mentors and teens/pre-teens to build their relationship while learning traditional outdoor activities. We teach fly tying, small bore, shotgun, camp survival, archery, spin fishing and fly fishing.

### YOUTH PEER-TO-PEER WEEK-LONG DAY CAMPS, SUMMER

## Summer Camp

A week-long adventure for youth 4th - 10th grade. Activities include archery, spin fishing, fly fishing, fly tying, shooting sports, canoeing, and camp survival. Parent attendance is required on Friday afternoon, when each camper teaches their adult what he/she learned all week.



## Adventure Series

### ADULT WITH YOUTH

SPRING, SUMMER, FALL SEMESTERS

An opportunity for CORE program participants to further their skills. Our Adventure Series opportunities include destination fishing trips and hunting excursions.

### PEER-TO-PEER YEAR-ROUND

## Partner Programs

School field trips, corporate trainings and events, hosting other nonprofits - CYO's partner programming is a great way to spend quality time with peers while learning a new skill.





*“Fly fishing was great. Also, just seeing my child learning and becoming confident with different skills was so rewarding.”*

ANONYMOUS, POST-CORE ADULT SURVEY

# Facilities Usage 2023

## PARTNER PROGRAMS

Groups that use our instruction and materials

4 Rivers Equipment  
American Adventure Sports Club  
Ascent Classical Academy  
Ascent Classical Academy Homeschool  
Aspire NoCo  
Bank of Colorado  
Big Thompson Elementary School  
Bill Reed Middle School  
Brinkman Construction  
Carlisle Alternative Middle School  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Cooper Home, Poudre School District  
Erwin Middle School  
Fort Collins Youth Police Academy  
Fortress Development Solutions  
Fossil Ridge High School  
Harold Ferguson High School  
Genesis Health Club  
Immanuel Lutheran School  
Kinard Middle School  
Little Pines Preschool  
McGraw Elementary School  
Mead High School  
Mountain View High School  
New Vision Charter School  
North Valley Middle School  
Outdoor Buddies  
Preston Middle School  
Realities for Children  
Respite Care, Inc.  
Resurrection Christian School  
River Deep Foundation  
Rocky Mountain High School  
Severance High School  
South Valley Middle School  
Thompson Valley High School  
Thompson Valley Middle School  
Turner Middle School  
Uplift Colorado  
Walt Clark Middle School  
Weld RE 1 School District  
Weld RE 4 School District  
City of Windsor  
Windsor High School  
Windsor High School Ag Science  
Church of Latter-Day Saints Young Men's Group  
Student Recovery Program – Greeley Schools  
Outdoor Equity Group

## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Groups that use our facility, no instruction.

Bank of Colorado  
Big Thompson Bow Hunters  
Boy Scouts  
Cargill  
Centennial Bass Club of Northern Colorado  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife  
Colorado Parks and Wildlife Hunter's Education  
Connell Resources  
Dayspring Christian Academy  
Flood and Peterson  
Fraternal Order of Police  
Platte River Veterans Fly Fishing Club  
Pheasants Forever  
Poudre Wilderness Volunteers  
Scheels Johnstown  
St. James Properties  
St. Peter's Fly Shop  
Thompson School District  
Western Midstream  
Young Presidents Organization of Colorado

## STORIES OF IMPACT

*We reconnected, experienced new things, communicated and collaborated with each other, built confidence & laughed joyously!*

ANONYMOUS, CORE PARTICIPANT

“I am a dad who works too much. I work late nights and random weekends. I love nature, hunting, shooting sports . . . but I haven’t made time to do those things with my kids. I needed to reignite my passion and get my son George interested. CYO absolutely nails that!

Once we started spending one-on-one time, our conversations and friendship naturally flourished.

My favorite part of CORE class was watching my son engage and really enjoy the activities. It is great to see him find a passion and have him realize this is something he can do long-term.

The staff and facilities at CYO exceeded my expectations. I have a better relationship and friendship with my son. George found a new passion in archery and fly fishing. These are things we can do together for the rest of our lives.”

**JAKE WALDEN**  
CORE PARTICIPANT



I have a daughter with a mild intellectual disability. Jade is very shy and uncomfortable in most social situations. She also has some severe sensory issues.

We had no idea how impactful CORE would be on Jade.

The first few weeks were uncomfortable, as Jade struggled to engage & participate. The CYO staff were super helpful in jumping in when needed.

Archery really helped her self-confidence. She loved hitting the 3D targets! Lessons in survival skills helped her communicate and participate with others. Last was shotguns. Due to the loud noise and her sensory issues, Jade was scared and intimidated. CYO staff put her in charge of pushing the button to launch clays. She got a real kick out of that, but most of all she felt useful and important. We are now in our 2nd season of CORE and she is shooting the .22 rifle like a pro!

This is a perfect program for our family. It complements the values we instill in our kids. It has helped Jade come out of her shell and learn some amazing lifelong skills. CORE is a highlight of our week; we always look forward to spending this time together.

**TODD SARGENT**  
CORE PARTICIPANT



## Support CYO

### SIGN UP FOR OUR EMAIL NEWSLETTER

We publish on the 28th of each month.

[COLORADOYO.ORG/CONTACT-US/CYO-NEWSLETTER](https://coloradoyo.org/contact-us/cyo-newsletter)

### CORE CLASSES, SUMMER CAMPS, SCHEDULING A FIELD TRIP - IT'S ALL HERE.

[COLORADOYO.ORG/PROGRAMS](https://coloradoyo.org/programs)

### VOLUNTEER AT CYO

From corporate work projects to events -- we're thankful to everyone who invests time with CYO!

[COLORADOYO.ORG/VOLUNTEER](https://coloradoyo.org/volunteer)

- **Sportsmen**

Retirees meet at CYO every Tuesday at 9am for coffee, socializing, and some volunteer work. Women are welcome - we just haven't had any yet!

[COLORADOYO.ORG/SPORTSMEN](https://coloradoyo.org/sportsmen)

- **CYO Ambassadors**

Support the Mission by sharing your time, talent or treasure alongside working professionals with similar passions.

[COLORADOYO.ORG/AMBASSADORS](https://coloradoyo.org/ambassadors)

### BUY A TICKET TO OUR EVENTS!

- **The Maverick**

[COLORADOYO.ORG/OUR-EVENTS/THE-MAVERICK](https://coloradoyo.org/our-events/the-maverick)

- **3D Archery Shoot**

[COLORADOYO.ORG/OUR-EVENTS/THE-SCOOT](https://coloradoyo.org/our-events/the-scoot)

- **Fishing Derby**

[COLORADOYO.ORG/CYO-FISHING-DERBY](https://coloradoyo.org/cyo-fishing-derby)

- **3D Archery Shoot**

[COLORADOYO.ORG/3D-ARCHERY-SHOOT](https://coloradoyo.org/3d-archery-shoot)

- **The Scoot**

[COLORADOYO.ORG/OUR-EVENTS/THE-SCOOT](https://coloradoyo.org/our-events/the-scoot)

- **NoCo Winter Wonderland**

[NOCOWINTERWONDERLAND.COM](https://nocowinterwonderland.com)

### DONATE

[COLORADOYO.ORG/DONATE](https://coloradoyo.org/donate)

## Board of Trustees

### AJ MacDonald

President of Macdonald Financial Services

### Bob Hewson

President/CEO of Colorado Youth Outdoors

### Christian Bordewick

Market President of Bank of Colorado

### Aaron Eide

Vice President of Flood and Peterson

### Mark Knudson

Store Leader of Scheels, Johnstown

### Susan Aldridge

Legal Counsel, HUWA Enterprises

### Rick Tucker

Executive Vice President of Hensel Phelps

### Linc Turner

President of LPR Construction

### Holly Hutch-Osborn

Vice President and Director of Programming of Coach Training Alliance

### Michael Blair

Legal Counsel, Prologis

### Hodge Walker

Vice President of Chevron, Rockies Division

### Ben Galyardt

Owner, Functional Medicine Center of Fort Collins



# OUR COMMUNITY

We're humbled by the support from the CYO community. 2023 was another great year for CYO fundraising events!



## The Maverick

Sporting Clay Shoot

GROSS \$749,775

NET \$421,810

PARTICIPANTS 564

VOLUNTEERS 384  
(2,714 HOURS)



## Holes & Hops

Cornhole Tournament and Brewfest

GROSS \$57,858

NET \$41,376

PARTICIPANTS 396

VOLUNTEERS 42  
(120 HOURS)



## The Scoot

Country Shin-dig

GROSS \$232,220

NET \$103,389

PARTICIPANTS 670

VOLUNTEERS 58  
(186 HOURS)



## The Big Gift

End-of-year Giving

NET \$86,715



## Winter Wonderland

Drive-thru Light Experience

GROSS \$260,391

NET \$169,260

PARTICIPANTS 9,170 CARS  
(AVERAGE OF 3 PEOPLE PER CAR-AROUND 26K PEOPLE)

VOLUNTEERS 352  
(1,068 HOURS)

## Volunteers By The Numbers

**1,487**  
TOTAL  
VOLUNTEERS

**10,779**  
TOTAL VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

**\$327,889.80**

TOTAL MONETARY VALUE OF  
CYO VOLUNTEERS IN 2023



**\$71,404**

CORPORATE  
DONATIONS

**4,520**

FISH STOCKED  
(TROUT, BLUEGILL, PERCH)



**358**

NEW DONORS



**\$747,271**

PLANNED GIFT  
(BUILDING SALE DONATION)



**3,000**

PUMPKINS PICKED



**4,500**

TREES PLANTED



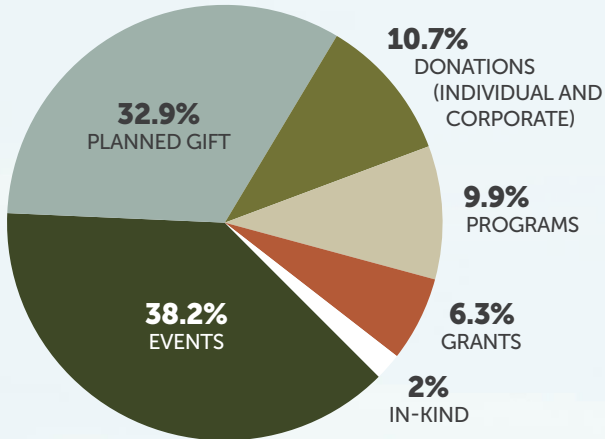
**\$195,972**

387 INDIVIDUAL DONORS  
(INCLUDING BIG GIFT)

# FINANCIALS

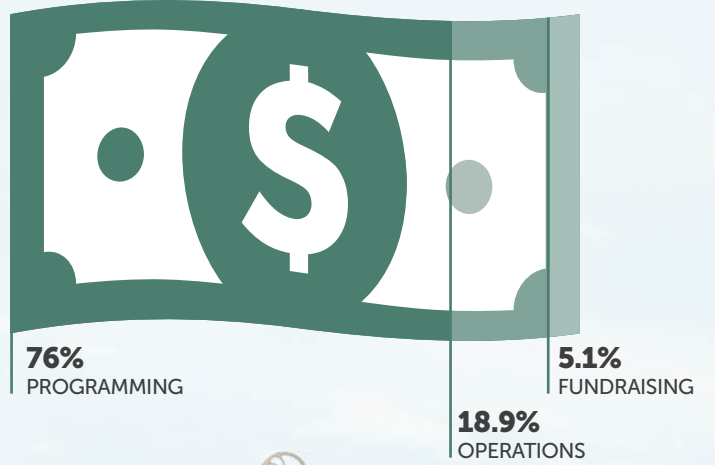
## Revenue

TOTAL: \$2,269,277



## Expenses

TOTAL: \$1,599,845



2023 was another year to celebrate at Colorado Youth Outdoors from a financial standpoint.

CYO received one of its largest gifts ever from a longtime friend and supporter. The Loveland building donation allowed CYO to build our reserve fund to over \$750,000 while providing capital to expand our presence in Colorado Springs. This gift accounted for 38% of CYO's total income.

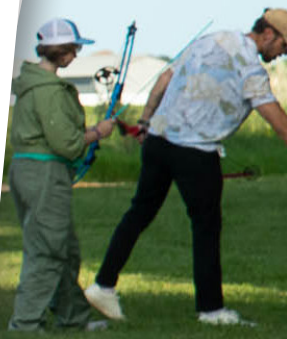
2023 marked another strong year for our fundraising events. Fundraising accounted for 45% of total income and is a big part of CYO's ability to continue to provide programming that touches so many lives in the region.

CYO's balance sheet is as strong as I've seen it. As of fiscal year end 2023, CYO has over \$1,000,000 in cash balances of which \$400,000 has been committed to Colorado Springs.

It is one of the most exciting times in CYO's history and it continues to be a pleasure to serve on the Board of Trustees. On behalf of the staff, board members, and volunteers, thank you for making CYO an amazing organization. The commitment to "Build relationships through traditional outdoor recreation" is stronger than ever!



**CHRISTIAN BORDEWICK**  
FINANCE COMMITTEE,  
CYO BOARD OF TRUSTEES





Where **RELATIONSHIPS** Grow

4927 E. County Road 36, Fort Collins, CO 80528  
 (970) 663-0800 | [www.coloradoyo.org](http://www.coloradoyo.org)



## Don't miss our upcoming events!



**JUNE 29**



**Holes & Hops**  
 Cornhole tournament  
 and brewfest



**AUGUST 10**



**3D Archery Shoot**  
 All abilities welcome on  
 our family-friendly course



**SEPTEMBER 27**



**The Scoot**  
 Live band, dinner and drinks –  
 it's CYO's country shin-dig



**NOV 28–DEC 25**



**Winter Wonderland**  
 Drive-thru  
 holiday light show