Dear Family of Colorado Youth Outdoors,

Please enjoy our year in review for calendar year 2021. I am encouraged to see our list of interested recipients of this annual report grow as more and more of our audience becomes closer to the organization and its Mission. The annual report is an important tool for communicating both what our year looked like and how your gifts made impact. We are very Grateful for your involvement in CYO and hope you continue to enjoy being an investor in the Mission of Relationship Building.

The year 2021 is truly a milestone year for CYO: 20 years of serving our community by building Relationships through traditional outdoor recreation. It’s been a Blessing to serve in this manner and watch our organization grow into what it is today. As I look through these 20 formative years the reason for our success is quite evident. It is the people who continue to be the heart and soul of this organization. From the instructors, who truly are the face and energy of the program to the Donor Base, Support Staff and Volunteers that make this Mission possible. From the first year through today, it’s the wonderful people involved in our organization that make it CYO.

How to celebrate 20 years of CYO came with many shared ideas. The reality that Covid was still a situation that needed to be respected we elected to celebrate with what we do best, serving our communities. Through expansion of our curriculum offering, CYO participation grew again in 2021. To support this expansion of programming, the instructor staff numbers also grew. As I reflect on this past year, I can’t think of a better way to celebrate our 20 year anniversary.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, The Staff and Volunteers, we say Thank you to the Family of CYO, you are and always have been the reason for our success.

Bob Hewson
President and CEO

Colorado Youth Outdoors Charitable Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that builds relationships through traditional outdoor recreation and time well spent, together.
In 2007, CYO received the very generous gift of Swift Ponds, 213 acres of conserved land from the late Louis Swift estate. CYO is honored to continue the legacy and interests of Mr. Swift through expanded outreach in Northern Colorado.

A request of the Swift Estate for the recipient of the ponds was to create an Oversight Committee to ensure the vision of Louis Swift. The goal: for Swift Ponds to be valued as a first class facility and a regional center for outdoor education and recreation.

While the Oversight Committees’ focus is often the governance of usage of the facility, the stewardship of the natural habitat has also become paramount. As the programming on the ponds continues to grow exponentially, the responsibility to maintain the beauty and health of the habitat becomes critical.

In 2021, CYO was fortunate to add an expert in agricultural and environmental stewardship: Rob Anderson, Facilities Manager. Rob spent much of 2021 in research, mitigation, and reclamation of the land and its assets. He also identified the opportunity to add another member to the facilities team: Wayne Brungardt, Facilities Coordinator. Together, along with a robust group of volunteers, they have tackled tasks the Oversight Committee has long awaited the chance to address.

These efforts have had an immediate impact on the health and well-being of wildlife, wetlands, native species, ponds, conserved land, and farmland. 2021 also witnessed the formulation of an informed plan to keep Swift Ponds a top tier natural space amidst the encroaching development. Rob and his team are attending to aquatic and terrestrial species, the revitalization of pollinator projects, and the beginning of a trail system.

“We are very excited about the Management Plan for 2022 (and beyond)!”

ROB ANDERSON, FACILITY MANAGER

CHRIS WOODWARD
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
With a mission to build relationships through traditional outdoor recreation, we believe time invested at CYO is time well spent!

Our **PACD** model is the pillar process we use to cultivate relationships across all curriculum and programs. Participate. Appreciate. Communicate. Dedicate.

**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 call these activities Ventures. Ventures included in CORE are fly tying, small bore, shotgun, camp survival, archery, spin fishing and fly fishing.

**YOUTH PEER-TO-PEER**  
WEEK-LONG DAY CAMPS, SUMMER  
For youth boys and girls, 4th–10th grade. Activities include archery, spin fishing, fly fishing, fly tying, shooting sports, canoeing, and camp survival.

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

**Adventure Series** | ADULT WITH YOUTH  
SPRING, SUMMER, FALL SEMESTERS
PARTNERS

ADULT PEER-TO-PEER | Corporate Relationships

We have been fortunate to build meaningful relationships with numerous corporations in our community, who support us in a variety of ways. It has become clear that our programs don’t just “work” with the youth, it applies to grown professionals as well! The use of our PACD model, traditional outdoor recreation activities, and beautiful facility create the perfect concoction to increase morale, teamwork, and overall culture! Our world runs on relationships, and we are excited our programs are tailored to just that. We hope our corporate partners would agree with one of our popular taglines, being at CYO is “Time Well Spent”!

YOUTH PEER-TO-PEER | Partner Programs

Our Partner Programs are a pinnacle offering to our community. Colorado Youth Outdoors serves more than 40 other non-profit partners every year. During 2020, that number declined, yet... the participation and enthusiasm of those groups able to visit CYO was as memorable as previous years and potentially more impactful than in previous contexts.

Facilities Usage 2021

PARTNER PROGRAMS
Groups that use our instruction and materials.

3 Hopeful Hearts
Bank of Colorado
Boys and Girls Clubs of Larimer and Weld County
Bill Reed Middle School
Centennial BOCES
Conrad Ball Middle School
Cooper Home
Fellowship of Christian Athletes
Fort Collins High School
Ferguson High School
Fort Collins Natural Areas
Fossil Ridge High School
Genesis Health Clubs
Greeley Central High School
Immanuel Lutheran School
Johnson Elementary School
Larimer County 4H
Larimer County Sheriff’s Department
Loveland High School
Mayfly Project (NoCo)
OtterCares
Outdoor Buddies
Polaris
Realities for Children
Respite Care
Resurrection Christian High School
River Deep Foundation
Rocky Mountain High School
Royal Family
Kids-Timberline
Severence High School
South Valley Middle School
Student Recovery Program
Greeley
Thompson Valley
High School
Timberline Church
Thompson Valley High School
School Football
Wells Concrete
Windsor High School

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS
Groups that use our facility, no instruction.

CYO Ambassadors
Ball Family Ranch
Blue Ocean Enterprises
Boy Scouts of America
Rocky Mountain Shooter Supply
Cargill
Catalyst
Fishful Thinker/
The Outdoor Channel
Connell Resources
Gallegos Sanitation/
Republic Services
HWY34 RV
Colorado Parks and Wildlife
JE Dunn
Legacy Project
LPR Contraction
Matthews House
Otterbox
I Belong Project
Scheels Product Knowledge
St. Peter’s Fly Shop
SummitStone Health Partners
Timberline Church Mens Group
Vino & Veritas
Vistage Group
Weld High School Rugby
Young Men’s Service League- Fort Collins
Young Men’s Service League- NOCO
BECAUSE OF YOU, OUR DONORS
“Cargill is very involved in the communities we work in. We have partnered with Colorado Youth Outdoors for many years as their Mission of Relationship building through outdoor curriculum is one we find healthy for the community and healthy for our Cargill associates. Our company being an agricultural based company enjoys finding programs that support connections to our natural resources and yes we too believe ‘It’s All About Relationships’.”

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“We’ve had the good fortune of volunteering in some capacity at each of the fundraisers for CYO. Greeting players at Holes & Hops, selling flowers at the Scoot, sharing time with shooters from around the country at the Maverick…but snowy weather, holiday tunes, and wishing Merry Christmas to hundreds of families at Winter Wonderland has fast become a beloved tradition.”

“CYO means everything to us. Never in our lives have we experienced the fun, comradery, love and support from everyone, I mean EVERYONE, at CYO.”
It has been an honor to not only serve on the board for CYO, but also the treasurer for the last few years. I truly believe CYO has one of the best teams around and includes all employees, board members, and volunteers. Everyone is engaged and helps promote the mission of “Building Relationships through Traditional Outdoor Recreation”.

2021 was a year in which COVID still left a mark on many of our lives, but CYO persevered and actually from a financial standpoint thrived! Overall revenue / giving in 2021 increased by over 40% from 2020 and 20% from 2019 (pre-COVID). This was realized through the efforts of many and is a testament to the passion many people and organizations have for CYO.

2021 marked the second year for Winter Wonderland, which has become a marquee light show in Northern Colorado! CYO maintains a very strong balance sheet and has been able to fund a reserve account over the last couple of years in the amount of $300,000. It is the goal in the next 24 months to increase this amount substantially while paying off all outstanding debt, which today totals over $750,000.

CHRISTIAN BORDEWICK
FINANCE COMMITTEE, CYO BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Revenue
TOTAL: $1,484,071

69.8% EVENTS
10.5% DONATIONS (INDIVIDUAL AND CORPORATE)
9.3% PROGRAMS
8.9% GRANTS
1.5% IN-KIND

Expenses
TOTAL: $1,182,927

71.5% PROGRAMMING
24% OPERATIONS
4.5% FUNDRAISING

Endowment Account
$1M

$65,000
Investing in time well spent and building relationships extends to our fundraisers. We rely on your participation in these events to serve the community each year.

**The Maverick | Sporting Clay Shoot**
Join us at our premiere sporting clays tournament that is held at Sylvan Dale Guest Ranch each May.

**Holes & Hops | Cornhole Tournament and Brewfest**
Taste some beer and throw bags at Swift Ponds. It’s our party to start the summer annually in June.

**The Scoot | Barn Dance**
Come cut a rug and enjoy some delicious eats at our annual barn dance in September.

**Winter Wonderland | Drive-Thru Light Experience**
NOCO’s most impressive holiday light experience! Don’t let December go by without joining us.

**The Big Gift | End-of-Year Giving**
We are grateful for all donations, big and small, as we work towards our campaign goal each year!
Volunteers are a significant strength of CYO. We had over 400 volunteers serving over 6,000 hours of needs.
Back in 2017, our elder son Marcus attended his first CYO summer camp. We vacationed in Glacier National Park shortly after. Marcus spent the entire vacation investigating every possible survival scenario and how his knotted paracord would save us all. He loved CYO camp!

Since then, Marcus (10th grade) has been through three summer camps and five semesters of CORE class. His younger brother Liam (7th) has seen three summer camps and three core programs. Both of us have attended CORE programs with both boys.

Why do we keep coming back? We connect more as a family when we’re involved in CORE than when we’re not involved in CORE.

So many factors go into this, we’re not even sure we can relay all of them. We decompress together when we drive through the gate. We turn our phones to silent. We are outside in nature. We are learning and honing skills together. We trash talk as a family based on who caught the most fish. We commiserate together when we fight through horrible weather.

We’ve found that, particularly with our 16 year old, CYO Core class is the only time we get to talk in-depth with our son. If we aren’t at Core, he’s doing homework, hanging out in his room, or doing high school sports. Our conversation starts on the drive to CYO: we review what we’ve learned so far and discuss what we might learn that evening. We continue talking well past class – the PACD model is a helpful tool we’ve incorporated at home; often when having tough conversations.

Being at CYO, doing the activities at CYO, helps the four of us individuals communicate better as a family. All of us together inside our house cannot produce the same results. So we have make a point to carve out time together at Colorado Youth Outdoors.

John and Kelli Carter
Staff

L–R  Sara Mickelson, Fund Development Manager; Bob Hewson, President; Chris Huff, Program Manager; Rob Anderson, Facility Manager; Chris Woodward, Director of Operations; Wayne Brungardt, Facility Coordinator; and Abigail Weston, Event and Office Administration.

Pro Staff

Zach Cooper (Colorado Springs), Jeff Neumeyer (Colorado Springs), Rich Wastler (Colorado Springs), Bri Aragon, Jason Godinez, Michael Harris, Robb Harris, Shawn Hines, Alexis Jaques, Jackson Rhoades, Nich Robertson, Matt Walter, Aaron Wurster, Jay Adams, Mike Adams, Ken Brink, Brian Chavet, Lance Guerin, Michelle Lechinsky, Alyson Brehm, Todd Bright, Ron Budzitowski, Doug Sloat, Chase Swift, Linn Young.

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