



KEYSTONE
SCIENCE SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT

2022



Dear KSS Community,

This year was our Year of Community—a fitting tribute to the Science School’s journey building past the impacts of the pandemic. Our successes would not have been possible without the support of everyone who makes up our community from our funders to our donors, to our staff and board, and the youth and families that continue to enjoy the KSS Magic.



It was a true honor to serve KSS throughout the greatest impacts of the pandemic as the School’s Board Chair. I became the Board Chair in 2020 just months before the pandemic reached Summit County. Over the last few years, our staff and board have worked tirelessly to offer our services and mission to our community in every way the pandemic would allow for.

This year we were proud to bring Camp back to its full capacity serving 1,200 youth. As part of a long-term dream our staff collaborated with Summit School District to merge our local camp – Summit Day Camp – with our traditional Day Camp on our beautiful 23-acre campus.

Several programs restarted after a hiatus due to the pandemic including H2O Outdoors, Girls in STEM, Third Grade Mountain Ecology, and our outdoor education field trips which serve students from schools across Colorado.

To forward our commitment to Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) we launched a JEDI Commission of board and staff to guide our strategic efforts. Together, we approved a JEDI Statement to honor all the ways we are different together.

I am proud to step down from my time on the Keystone Science School’s Board of Directors with the Science School in a position of programming strength and with a staff and board who are full of passion. I cannot wait to see what the next chapter at KSS entails.

Jeff Campeau
Board Chairman

HOWARD CARVER Incoming Board Chair



We are honored and grateful to have Howard Carver as Keystone Science School's Incoming Board Chair. Howard has been a part of the Science School's board since 2018. He led KSS through its most recent Capital Campaign, A Place to Inspire, as the Capital Campaign Committee's Chair. Thanks to his dedication and passion KSS secured the funding needed to build its administrative building, Ticken Place and its first instructor cabin, Alpine.

Throughout the pandemic, Howard was steadfast in providing insight and thoughtful questions for the Board to consider as our staff responded to the changing challenges. His thoughtful leadership style and compassionate guidance will certainly lift KSS's efforts in the coming years.

Howard shared that, "Keystone Science School's dedication to excellence at every level of programming and its community service is inspiring. As the incoming Board Chair I'm proud to be a part of sustaining and growing the School's efforts. I look forward to a future built on the growth and impact the School has had on youth and within our community."



OUR MISSION

With the outdoors as a backdrop for learning, Keystone Science School inspires curiosity and critical thinking through the lens of science to change lives & strengthen communities.

OUR VALUES

WE CHANGE LIVES.

WE FOSTER OPEN, HONEST RELATIONSHIPS.

WE ARE DIFFERENT TOGETHER.

WE STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE.

WE FIND JOY IN TEACHING AND LEARNING.

WE ASK QUESTIONS AND SEEK SOLUTIONS.

WE ARE ACCOUNTABLE.



OUR IMPACT

82% of Day Camper survey responses said they tried new things during programming

82% of Overnight Camper survey responses said they tried new things during programming

**"We love KSS. The growth
our kids have each summer
is priceless."**

**Discovery
Camp Parent**



Grant Funded Programs

Summit School District
After School Program

Park County Outdoor
Education

3rd Grade Mountain Ecology

In 2022 we re-established our 3rd Grade Mountain Ecology programs by providing it to 4th grade Summit School District Students that were unable to attend in the spring.

The support of Vail Resorts Epic Promise, Keystone Ski Resort and Breckenridge Ski Resort made this program possible.



SUMMER CAMP

In 2022, KSS served **4,830** campers, students, and other participants. Nearly **40% were returning** campers and students.

1,278 were campers and students from our Summer programs from almost **1,000 families** and attributing to **2,783 camp sessions**.



DAY CAMP

\$2,530 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Offered in week-long sessions, our KSS campus Day Camp utilizes our 23-acre campus and surrounding areas to instill an appreciation for nature and the outdoors. Each session follows the same core activities and adventures with a different science theme hidden in each week.



“We see camp as an opportunity for them to gain confidence, try new things and learn skills like leadership.”

Day Camp Parent



SUMMIT DAY CAMP

\$264,091 FUNDED OUR SLIDING FEE SCALE FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

Summit Day Camp is designed for local campers who attend school in the Summit School District. This program was fully integrated with our on campus day camp in 2022, and is offered on a sliding fee scale.

“This program encourages summer learning and peer interaction, as well as wonderful outdoor experiences.”

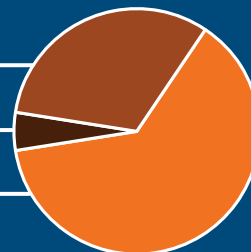
Summit Day Camp Parent

32% of campers qualified F&R Lunch

5% of campers qualified for CHP+

63% of campers were Full-Pay

Full pay rate is heavily subsidized also!



DISCOVERY OVERNIGHT CAMP

\$23,450 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Utilizing our 23 acre campus and the surrounding areas of the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, KSS offers a traditional camp experience with a mix of Science, Adventure, FUN!

"Everyone at camp is so friendly and it was easy to make friends and I felt better with the support of everyone."

Discovery Camper



ADVENTURES

\$20,765 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Our field-based Adventures are focused on the development of outdoor skills and leadership while exploring Colorado's stunning parks, monuments, and most scenic natural environments by foot, on rope, or watercraft.



PATHFINDERS

\$500 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Specifically designed for Middle School aged campers, Pathfinders is our adventure-focused day option. Campers travel around Summit County to enjoy outdoor recreational opportunities. Each session encourages collaboration, responsibility, and problem-solving.



GIRLS IN STEM

We believe in empowering girls by engaging them in hands-on, real-world activities to show STEM is relevant and fun in an ever-changing world. Female STEM professionals support each program and student by giving them guidance to navigate a male-dominated workforce.

In 2022 we relaunched our Girls in STEM Program with **Film Festival** and **Water in the West** for the first time after the pandemic. We had a total of 37 girls from a variety of grades attend the program.

"I enjoyed getting to talk to professionals about what I have been interested in for a very long time."

Girls in STEM Student



OUTDOOR EDUCATION

In 2022 we were able to provide quality Outdoor Education programming for 2,151 students across 62 programs and totaling 4,292 student nights.

**Schools came from 27 cities
throughout 3 different states.**

"I thought the activities really related to what we were learning about in class. It was neat to see kids make connections to their local environment."

**Outdoor Ed.
Participating Teacher**



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Beyond the Classroom is a 3-day professional development workshop for 4th-12th grade teachers and informal educators. Teachers will receive curriculum and training to explore local and regional issues using KSS's non-biased framework, along with a complete set of lesson plans to facilitate an issues-based curriculum in their classroom.

For this year's Beyond the Classroom we had a total of 15 participants from 8 schools across 3 states.

PARTICIPANT LOCATION

**Colorado 47% Missouri 47%
Indiana 7%**

"We will be following the framework model in my classroom using issues in our community."

Beyond the Classroom participant



H2O OUTDOORS

H2O Outdoors is a 3-day program teaching high school students about the many uses of water and the policy which surrounds how Colorado's water is managed. We had 33 total highschoolers enroll in our 2022 H2O Outdoors program that hailed from 13 cities around Colorado.

Grade Breakdown

9th: 18% **11th: 15%**
10th: 24% **12th: 42%**

Expert Panel

The expert panel is an opportunity for students to learn about issues within water quality and quantity directly from professionals working in the field of water management. The Panel provides students with a baseline of water management knowledge while exposing them to careers within the world of water.

Troy Wineland, Summit County Water Commissioner
Eric Detmer, Chief Environmental Engineer
Matt Bond & Melissa Botteicher, Denver Water
Mary Dawson & Sherry Meschko, Aurora Water
Kendra Fuller, Blue River Watershed Group

“Even high schoolers can make a difference to our state and decisions that Colorado citizens make.”

H2O Outdoors Student





SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Our Scholarship Fund arose from our belief that every child deserves a Keystone Science School experience, regardless of their family's financial ability to join us. Scholarships are offered through an application and evaluated with the help of a 3rd party scholarship committee. Scholarships are also distributed for select programs through a sliding fee scale.

Our scholarship application is brief to fill out to ensure it is accessible while including essential information to base a decision for an award on. Families may qualify for the sliding fee scale and still apply for an additional scholarship based on their unique situations and needs.

The financial investment of many individual donors and funders made these awards possible. These gifts to KSS are truly a gift of the KSS Magic for children.

"We see how truly happy at the core he is when attending - and we also see the benefits back home."

**Discovery
Camp parent**

KSS received **228 total scholarship applications**

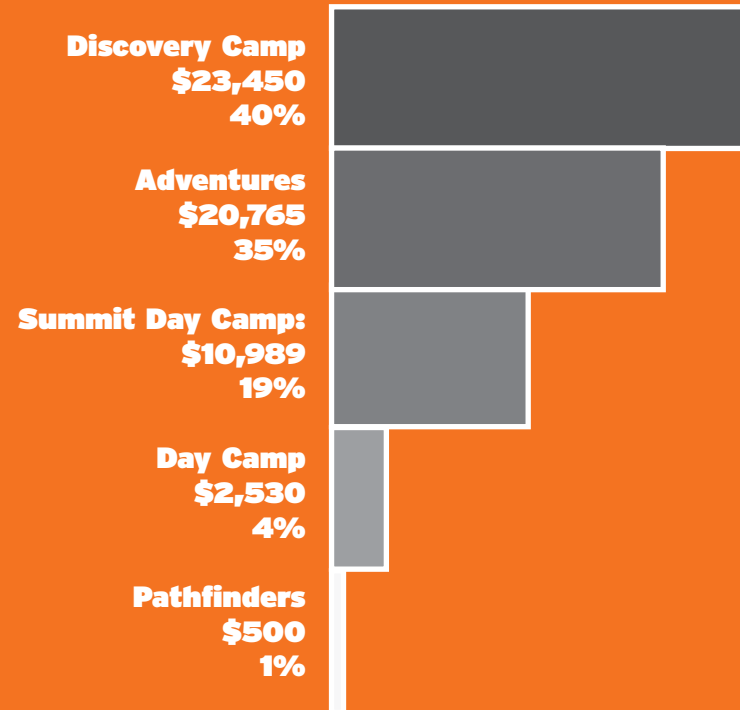
KSS awarded **\$58,696 in camp scholarships to **105** campers**

Through donor support, KSS provided **\$253,102 in subsidized Day Camp rates for local families**

Number of campers awarded scholarships by program area:

Summit Day Camp	Discovery Camp
38%	33%
Day Camp	Adventures
12%	14%
Pathfinders	
2%	

Camp Scholarships award distribution by program area



Discovery Camper

Everyone made it feel like home for me, I don't want to leave! KSS feels like a second home to me."

OUR TEAM





OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

We would like to thank our 2022 Board of Directors, KSS would not be able to impact so many lives without their support and guidance!

Jeff Campeau
Howard Carver
Ed Casias
Tim Crane

Geri Gasperut
Karmin Helland
Linsey Hempel
Harry Huft
Charles Maguire III

Robert Mathes
Yanitza Rivera-Garnier
Richard Sexton
Paul Weller
Douglas Sims (*Honorary Chair Emeritus - deceased*)

Doug Sims's Legacy



Doug-isms

"All hat and no cattle"

"Is the juice worth the squeeze"

"Look at the forest not the trees"

We said goodbye too soon to our Chair Emeritus, Doug Sims in October of 2022. He is deeply missed here at Keystone Science School and across so many communities. Doug was a pivotal adviser and leader for KSS in the 9 years he served as our Board Chair, starting in 2009.

The hours that Doug spent lending his time, talent, and treasure to Keystone Science School made the KSS Magic flourish to new heights. Doug was a part of many capital campaign projects including our most recent campaign to build our new administrative building Tieken Place and our first modern faculty cabin, Alpine. In fact, Doug and Nancy chose the name for the cabin reflecting on the mountain life zone they loved.

Other pivotal moments of KSS's history and Doug's legacy include:

- 2008 – Doug and his wife Nancy were asked to support the installment of a Yurt and Observatory on KSS's 23-acre campus. Although they had not stepped foot on our campus at that time our mission compelled their giving.
- 2009 – Doug became the first Board Chairman of a newly created Board of Directors at KSS.
- 2013 – Doug was critical in leading KSS to secure its independent 501c3 status and in purchasing our stunning 23-acre campus.

Doug's legacy at KSS is much more than what we can physically see as we enjoy our campus. He could summarize complicated problems with wise-phrases and thoughtful solutions—the 'Doug-isms'.

One such phrase coined by Doug happened only after he observed the impact our programs had on campers (some of whom were eventually his own grandchildren). He noticed there was something special that happened during programs and called it the 'magic' of KSS. To this day, we talk about "The KSS Magic" and Doug was just one of our beloved 'magicians' who helped to make it all possible.

Leadership Transition Farewell to Ellen Reid

In Ellen's initial years leading KSS she created a vision for the Science School as a place that had the potential to host thousands of youth a year through a wide array of outdoor education programs. Over the years these possibilities became reality thanks to Ellen's leadership and through a passionate and dedicated staff and board and a dedicated community of supporters.

In 2013, Ellen led a small group of advisors in fundraising \$2.3M to purchase our campus and to file the paperwork needed to become the independent 501c3 we are today. Outstandingly, this was accomplished in just two months—a testament to what is possible with leadership like Ellen's.

She led KSS through several more capital projects which renovated Rives Dining Hall, added a yurt and observatory to campus, and which moved our staff under one roof in 2019—Tieken Place. That capital campaign also gave our campus the first of what will be four modern instructor cabins. By 2018, the Science School had grown its programs from serving just over 3,000 youth a year to over 4,800.

Ellen led the Science School through a restructuring of its staff to create specialized departments where staff now have



focused responsibilities. As a result, the Girls in STEM Program expanded to several offerings a year, Adventure Programs reached new locations and served more highschoolers, and a modest surplus was secured each year under her leadership that resulted in a steady long-term reserve account.

What we will all remember most about Ellen's leadership is her genuine nature and ease in connecting with our KSS community. There are endless stories of her welcoming hugs that forged new friendships and longtime KSS ambassadors. There are nearly as many stories about her heartfelt tears when we shared KSS Mission Moments in staff meetings, when we moved into Tieken Place, and on her last day when we all stood outside to cheer her on to her next adventure.

To honor her legacy our community came together to create the Ellen Reid Scholarship Fund, an endowed fund, which has already raised \$80,000 toward a goal of \$100,000. To give to this fund please contact Kristin Williams, Development Director at KWilliams@KeystoneScienceSchool.org





2021 FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Keystone Science School's financials for 2022 showcase the resilience and dedication of the Board of Directors and staff team to maintain a strong financial position and bounce back from the impacts of the pandemic.

In 2022, total revenue increased to \$3.64 million, compared to \$3.08 million in 2021—largely thanks to restarting several key programs. As a pre-pandemic reference, total revenue was \$3.34 million at the close of 2019. The combination of donated funds and federal relief funding was essential in our ability to maximize our program offerings and outreach.

This year, 4,830 youth participated in our programs. We restarted the Girls in STEM, H2O Outdoors, and Beyond the Classroom Programs—serving 85 youth and educators. We are proud to have served 325 Summit School District students through our school-year programs, such as Third Grade Mountain Ecology. Over the summer, 1,278 youth joined us for the KSS Magic. Our Outdoor Education Programs served 2,338 students from across Colorado.

This year, we scheduled our 'Early Bird' registration for Summer Camp to open the week after Thanksgiving. In this week, we processed 1,838 registrations for 983 campers—more than doubling the record-breaking 765 registrations processed in the first week of 2022 summer enrollments. These enrollments resulted in approximately \$1.29 million in deferred revenue which is more than twice the deferred revenue of 2022 enrollment opening!

We are incredibly thankful for our donors, Board of Directors, staff, and the community for the impact they have made in helping us rebound to pre-pandemic performance. The future of KSS is bright and we look forward to maintaining a strong focus on financial sustainability to ensure an everlasting positive impact on those we serve.



FINANCIAL REPORT

2022



Revenue, Support & Gains

Program Revenue, net of Scholarships of \$57,320 and \$37,901	\$2,301,791
Contributions	\$857,015
Federal Relief Programs	\$410,745
Gross Special Event Revenue	\$131,075
Less cost of direct benefits to donors	(\$53,541)
Net special Event Revenue	\$40,264
Interest & Other Income	\$17,146
Change in value of beneficial interest in assets held by The Summit Foundation	\$32,326
Net assets released from restrictions	-
Total Revenue, Support and Gains	\$3,635,095

Expenses

Program Services Expense	\$2,198,929
Supporting Services Expense	
Administrative	\$1,135,392
Fundraising	\$169,326
Total Supporting Services Expense	\$1,304,718
Total Expenses	\$3,503,647

Change in Net Assets before Depreciation	\$131,448
Depreciation	(\$258,287)
Change in Net Assets	(\$126,839)
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$7,670,341
Net Assets, End of Year	\$7,543,502



OUR DONORS

We are honored to have a community of giving at Keystone Science School. Each hour spent, dollar contributed, and advice/talent lent contributes to our ability to change lives and strengthen communities through outdoor education. Thank you.

As a special thank you, we would like to recognize our Catalyst Members who give \$1,000 or more to Keystone Science School annually as well as Ignitors who give \$500 or more to our mission. We are incredibly grateful for your investment in our work.

Catalyst Donors (\$1,000+)

Mr. and Mrs. Gail Allaman

Mr. Dennis Blum

Ms. Mindy Bothel

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Bruns

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The Bobolink Foundation
The Steve and Trish Shapiro Family Foundation
The Summit Foundation
United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Inc.
Vail Resorts Epic Promise
Vineyards Foundation
Westerhoff Family Foundation, Inc.
Xcel Energy Foundation

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

View our upcoming programs here to view our plan for 2023 and ways to volunteer, donate and get involved!



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THANK YOU.