

# CAL WOOD EDUCATION CENTER

## 2022 PROGRAM REPORT





## 2022 NUMBERS

- 6,484 total served
- 4,562 youth participants
- 2,312 Latinx participants (50% of youth served)
- \$202,440 in scholarships
- 191,605 hours of nature immersion!

# MEMORIES THAT LAST A LIFETIME

Due to our wonderful community of supporters, we have come out of the most challenging years in Cal-Wood's history stronger than ever. Now we are moving to take our programs to the next level, increasing diversity in our programs and deepening our engagement with children, families, and the wider community.

Over 40 years, we have provided over a quarter million Coloradans, largely Boulder County residents, with transformational outdoor mountain experiences. We believe that early connection with the environment equips youth to make everyday decisions that improve their lives and the health of our planet.

We are currently developing a strategic plan to guide our growth over the next three years, and are excited to develop new ways to expand our impact on children and families. The following pages provide an overview of 2022 program results and 2023 goals. . Please let us know if you'd like any additional information or are able to come up for a visit.

We are so happy to have you as part of the Cal-Wood community!

Muchas gracias,

**RAFAEL SALGADO**

*Executive Director*

## 2023 GOALS

- Serve 7,685 total
- Engage 5,785 people through programs
- 5,185 youth participants
- 3,430 low-income participants
- **201,950 hours of nature immersion!**

**2023 SCHOLARSHIP NEED: \$199,500**

# SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Some of the best memories from school are from their trip to Cal-Wood. Upper elementary, primarily 5th Grade students, almost half of children of color, engage in science and environmental education during a 3-day, 2-night immersive outdoor experience at Cal-Wood. Our staff lead students through hands-on exploration of local plants, animals, snow science, weather, forestry, geology, and pond ecosystems. In response to a keen interest in our community, we continue to bolster our fire ecology and restoration curriculum and activities.



## 2022 NUMBERS

- 3,915 students
- 1,958 low-income students
- 1,468 Latinx students
- \$80,000 in scholarships
- 152,685 hours of nature immersion

In 2014, The State of Informal Environmental Education (EE) in Boulder County Schools reported that elementary schools with the highest percentage of students participating in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program received less informal EE than all other elementary school students. Since 2014, Cal-Wood has grown our percentage of low-income students served from 35% to 50%. Most receive scholarships supported by Cal-Wood donors.

## 2023 GOALS

- 4,500 total students
- 2,250 Low-income students
- 1,688 Latinx students
- 175,500 hours of nature immersion

**SCHOLARSHIP  
NEED:  
\$84,375**



# LATINO FAMILY CAMPS



## 2022 NUMBERS

- 604 family members
  - 60 families
  - 20 weekend events
  - \$36,240 in scholarships
- 12,080 hours of nature immersion!**

In 2014 Cal-Wood pioneered its Latino Family Camp programs to connect Latinos to outdoor recreation and the value of public lands. In Cal-Wood's Latino Family Camp program, families spend a weekend camping, hiking, fishing, mountain biking, and campfire cooking at Cal-Wood and State/National Parks, many for the first time. In 2022 Cal-Wood hosted 20 overnight Latino Family Camps, in five different locations, with 604 Latino toddlers, children, teens, parents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents participating.



## EXPANSION INITIATIVE

In 2019 Cal-Wood initiated a process of mentoring other organizations to run Latino Family Camps in their communities. In 2021 Cal-Wood restarted this process supporting the development a Leadville Latino Family Camp programs. In 2022 we added Colorado Springs and created a Spanish-language outdoor recreation guide for families, " Guia de Actividades Recreativas al Aire Libre." In 2023 we will continue mentoring organizations in other communities and draft a replicable process that can be shared to expand Latino Family Camps around Colorado.

## 2023 GOALS

- 1000 family members
- 100 families
- 25 camps at Cal-Wood, Rocky Mountain National Park plus
  - Expansion Camps in Leadville and in Colorado Springs
- 20,000 hours of nature immersion!

**SCHOLARSHIP  
NEED:  
\$60,000**

# SCHOOL-AGE FAMILY PROGRAM

Last year, diverse families spent six weekends during the school year learning about science, the outdoors, hiking, fishing, and singing around a campfire at Cal-Wood. They stayed in the cabins at our mountain property, learned about ecosystems from our educators, and created wonderful memories. Immersing in nature, they create magical memories that they often talk about for years. We expect 200 participants in 5 weekend events in 2023.

## 2022 NUMBERS

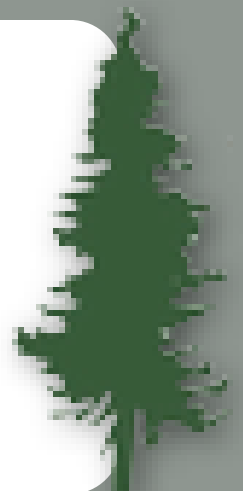
- 240 family members
- 144 from low-income families representing 60%
- 6 weekend events
- \$14,400 in scholarships
- 7,200 hours of nature immersion!



## 2023 GOALS

- 200 family members
- 120 from low-income families representing 60%
- 5 two-day events
- \$12,000 in scholarships
- 6,000 hours of nature immersion!

**SCHOLARSHIP NEED:  
\$12,000**



# HIGH SCHOOL RESEARCH PROGRAM

In the summer of 2022, Cal-Wood partnered with the CU Science Discovery Center to pilot a 5-day residential field course for 15 high school students, mainly teens of color, focused on mountain ecology and fire prevention. This camp allowed young scientists to learn and do authentic research facilitated in partnership with the University of Colorado and Colorado State University as well as other community partners including Boulder Fire, The Nature Conservancy and the Colorado Forest Restoration Institute. They learned about wildfire, their impacts, and strategies for restoring western forests in an era of climate change. The core of this program is hands-on, real-time scientific research. These experiences are designed to inspire our next generation to become environmental scientists, natural resource managers, and conservationists. In 2023 Cal-Wood plans to expand these field research programs to forty-five students.



## 2023 GOALS

- 45 high school students
- 80% low-income
- 450 hours of nature immersion

**SCHOLARSHIP  
NEED:  
\$28,125**

# VOLUNTEER & SERVICE LEARNING PROJECTS

Volunteers came for 2-10 hours to help Cal-Wood to care for our 1,200 forested facility. We offer lessons on invasive species, trail building, forest management, fire ecology, or other topics, tying the hands-on experiences to science topics. Last year 406 adults and 294 youth engaged in 194 hours of hands-on fire restoration projects with fire ecology lessons.

It was wonderful for volunteers to learn that wildfires don't have to be fatal. With proper management of forest fuel load before a fire, and effective restoration after a wildfire, biodiversity can be enhanced, and the ecosystems can heal. With TNC's support Cal-Wood provided hands-on experiences teaching teenagers that humans are vital parts of our ecosystem!

## 2022 NUMBERS

- 37 volunteer events with 33 partners
- 700 volunteers donated 2990 hours valued at \$77,500
- 42 acres of green forest land mitigated for wildfire
- Reforested 24 acres from wildfire with over 5,550 trees



Building erosion control structures



## WILDFIRE RESEARCH

Cal-Wood volunteers are supporting scientists to research wildfire restoration best practices.

### Research Partners

US Forest Service  
US Geological Service  
NRCS  
CSU Fort Collins  
CU Boulder  
The Nature Conservancy  
Left Hand Watershed Coalition  
Boulder County Parks & Open Space  
Colorado Forest Restoration Institute.

Leading forest researchers have partnered with Cal-Wood to study resilience and restoration strategies to identify best practices before and after wildfire. Cal-Wood volunteers have helped prepare plots, track species and growth patterns

### Research Studies

- Forest Recovery
- Reforestation
- Erosion
- Soil Infiltration
- Re-vegetation Ecology
- Seedling Tree Planting
- Seed Planting
- Tree Mortality