



Women's Wilderness

Share a path. Find your power.

2025 Impact Report





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Who We Are



Our Values

We believe **ACCESS TO NATURE IS A RIGHT** and being outdoors has transformative potential for us all.

We **WELCOME UNIQUE AND DIVERSE IDENTITIES**, experiences, and ideas, and rely on them to do our best work.

We **COLLABORATE CONTINUOUSLY** in partnership and community.

We **LEAD** from out front, from behind, but most importantly, from within.

We **EVOLVE AND ADAPT** individually and collectively in the face of our dynamic world.

Our Vision & Mission

Women's Wilderness envisions a socially just and environmentally sustainable society for all. Our mission is to create space for girls, women, and non-binary people of all ages and backgrounds to find their place, their voice, and their power in the outdoors.

Our Story

Women's Wilderness is a 501c3 nonprofit organization founded in 1998 in Boulder, Colorado. We remain one of the few organizations in the country applying a gender-informed, trauma-informed, and intersectional lens to direct outdoor experiences and adventures. We are also a licensed child care provider in the State of Colorado.

Why We Exist

Women's Wilderness was founded on the belief that access to nature is a right, not a privilege, and recent data show we are making progress. Nationally, Black and Hispanic/Latino outdoor participation grew significantly in 2024, and Women's Wilderness is proud to be part of that momentum. But the work isn't done. Outdoor participation among lower-income households declined last year, and only one in four low-income girls participates in sports at all. Race, income, and gender identity still shape who feels welcome outside. That's why we exist, and why this work matters now more than ever.

Our Approach

We intentionally design every course to be fun, empowering, and challenging for our participants, no matter their age or experience on the climbing wall, on the yoga mat, in the backcountry, or beyond. We do this by creating supportive environments where participants can grow stronger technically, physically, emotionally, and spiritually while also deepening their connection to themselves, to one another, and to the land. Our curricula are steeped in shared leadership, collaboration, emotional support, and conscious choices that honor you and your lived experience. This is the Women's Wilderness Way—a distinct approach to outdoor education and adventure that has guided our work for nearly three decades.

Our Approach to Outcomes

When we asked our participants what makes an outdoor experience truly transformative, they were clear: it isn't one-size-fits-all, and it isn't easily defined. For some, it's the breakthrough of learning how to build a fire or read a map, skills that build confidence and create greater agency in the outdoors. For others, it's the quiet power of learning to soften, slow down, let go, and appreciate time in nature alongside trusted guides and a joyful community of adventurous peers. Our courses offer both access to the outdoors and meaningful opportunities for growth through experience. It's what transformation feels like.

Because of You



Dear Friend,

Since the founding of Women’s Wilderness in 1998, one truth has guided us: this organization doesn’t thrive on its own. It is nurtured by a dedicated team, a deeply engaged community, committed partners, and participants who trust us with their stories, their growth, and their time. However you showed up last year, please know that your presence mattered. Because of your support, we are stronger, braver, and stepping into 2026 with renewed energy and vision. Our impact is possible because of you.

“Thank you for being a haven when the world feels hard.” — Women’s Adventures Participant

In 2025 your collective care opened doors in ways we couldn’t have predicted. We expanded youth programming into new schools, deepened partnerships with youth-serving organizations, piloted our first retreat for caregivers over 40, launched a fun-filled I Can 5k, hosted the inaugural Summit Stories Film Festival, strengthened our volunteer community, and advanced a strategic plan that positions us for bold, values-aligned growth.

Twenty-eight years in, Women’s Wilderness continues to embody the same spirit of inclusion, adventure, and belonging that sparked its founding. Thank you for believing in the healing power of time spent outdoors and in community. Every time you volunteer, donate, register, or share your experience, you reinforce the importance of our why, and you help extend our impact far beyond the trail. May you see your generosity reflected in these pages and feel resonance in the stories you’ve helped make possible.

With great heart,

Kriste Peoples
Executive Director

THANK YOU!
The work we do at Women’s Wilderness is, and has always been, fueled by a community of passionate supporters. Through the care and generosity of innumerable donors, businesses, and institutions, we’ve been able to create a positive, lasting impact in the lives of many.

OUR PARTNERS

3W Races, AARP Colorado, Adams 12 Five Star Schools, African Community Center, Altra, Aurora Public Schools, Backcountry Pulse, Bird Conservancy of the Rockies, Boulder County Social Venture Partners, Boulder Housing Partners, Boulder Open Space Mountain Parks, Boulder Valley School District, Branwyn, Bureau of Land Management, Cal-Wood Education Center, City of Boulder Health Equity Fund, Clif Family Foundation, Colorado Heath Foundation, Colorado Refugee Services Program, Colorado State Parks (Barr Lake State Park, Eldorado Canyon State Park, Staunton State Park, Golden Gate Canyon State Park, State Forest State Park), Community Foundation of Boulder, Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Public Schools, Denver Zoo Conservation Alliance, EB Outdoors, empowherOps, Englewood Middle School, Feral, International Rescue Committee, International Rescue Committee NoCo, Jefferson County Open Space, La Luz, Life’s 2 Short Fitness, Movement Gyms, Neptune Mountaineering, Outdoor Equity Program (Colorado Parks and Wildlife), Outdoor Research, PLAY Boulder Foundation, Purcell Mountain Lodge, reDirect, REI Cooperative Action Fund, Spring Institute, Swantz Family Foundation, Tony Grampsas Youth Services, U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Woods Family Ranch, Yellow Barn Farm, Yetman Farms



2025 at a Glance

633

People served

59%

of adult participants identified as BIPOC

36%

of adult participants identified as LGBTQIA+

349

Direct service days

12

Average age of youth participants

44

Average age of adult participants

76%

of adult participants rated their overall experience on their course as outstanding

89%

of adult participants reported feeling a strong connection to nature

87%

of adult participants reported experiencing a strong sense of community

81%

of adult participants reported a strong appreciation for what their body could do after their course

93%

of Girls Lead for Life and Outdoor G.I.R.L.S. participants reported an increased sense of belonging

92%

of Girls Lead for Life and Outdoor G.I.R.L.S. participants reported meeting a caring adult they can trust

75%

of Girls Lead for Life and Outdoor G.I.R.L.S. participants reported experiencing improved emotional regulation

Denver

Area served the most

DEEPENING OUR WORK

Donor Management

Thanks to our partners at [empowherOps](#), 2025 began with a bold plan to upgrade our back-end customer relations software. Their team helped us revamp the way we do everything from donor management, participant registrations, and tracking. These improvements will ensure an easier and more comprehensive experience for us all.

Strategic Planning

Social Venture Partners of Boulder County has played a key role in strengthening our

organizational capacity and guiding our growth. Our partnership began in 2024 with foundational organizational work and has since grown into a comprehensive strategic planning journey. We are deeply grateful for their support and are excited to continue this collaboration through 2026.

NEW INITIATIVES

Outdoor W.O.M.E.N.

You may already be familiar with Outdoor G.I.R.L.S., our signature program serving immigrant, refugee, and asylee youth since 2020. Because of its success, many of the mothers of participating youth shared a clear desire for programming designed for them, too!

Enter [Outdoor W.O.M.E.N.](#) (Women's Outdoor Mindful Empowerment for Newcomers)—a program for newcomer women focused on building community, fostering belonging, strengthening connections with the broader community, and deepening relationships with Colorado's public lands.

Internship with BVSD

In 2025, we partnered with Boulder Valley School District (BVSD) to work with one of their high school students for a month. From Excel spreadsheets to labeling gear, from food room storage to evaluation data, their support helped us run our programs more smoothly.

New Community & Fundraising Events

In 2024, we piloted a new friendraising event series called 'Summit Stories'. It's an evening dedicated to highlighting stories of program participants, Women's Wilderness community members, and other amazing women we want you to know about. Last year, we kicked it off with 'Summit Stories: Celebrating herSTORY' and rounded out the year with our inaugural 'Summit Stories: Film Festival.'

Keep reading and head to the "2025 Programs Overview" to learn more about these inspiring events.

2025 Programs Overview



"After Outdoor G.I.R.L.S. I learn new things and have more ideas. I have more confidence."

Outdoor G.I.R.L.S.

Outdoor G.I.R.L.S. (Girls Immigrant Refugee Leadership Series) launched in 2020. After five years of intentional growth and development, we delivered programming in six schools and served 118 youth in 2025.

Participants came from 16 countries—the most in the program's history—including Afghanistan, Venezuela, Ukraine, Guatemala, Mexico, Russia, Colombia, Congo, Haiti, Chuuk, the Central African Republic, Thailand/Burma, El Salvador, Honduras, South Sudan, and Eritrea. Languages represented include Dari, Pashto, Spanish, Ukrainian, Russian, French, Swahili, Thai, Burmese, Arabic, Tigre, and more.

This trauma-informed, culturally responsive program fosters connection and belonging among participants and within their new communities. Through guided conversations, games, and activities, youth explore identity, navigate life as third-culture kids, and share their experiences as newcomers to the United States in a safe, supportive space.



BY THE NUMBERS

88% of participants reported feeling accepted for who they are

94% of participants reported feeling proud of what their body can do

88% of participants reported feeling less stress

91% of participants reported learning something that will help them in their lives

88% of participants reported spending more time doing things that bring them joy

We served 118 participants

11 cohorts across 6 schools

Over 173 program days

18 field days | 250 direct service hours

16 countries

Afghanistan, Venezuela, Ukraine, Guatemala, Mexico, Russia, Colombia, Congo, Haiti, Chuuk, Central African Republic, Thailand/Burma, El Salvador, Honduras, South Sudan, Eritrea

8 languages

translated by interpreters

Outdoor W.O.M.E.N.

Outdoor W.O.M.E.N. (Women's Outdoor Mindful Empowerment for Newcomers) launched in 2025. In its first year, we facilitated four cohorts, with a fifth underway in partnership with the African Cultural Center, the Immigrant and Refugee Center of Northern Colorado, WISH, Aurora Public Schools, and the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants—all serving women from Afghanistan, Rwanda, and Ukraine.

Every community partner to date has responded with strong enthusiasm, and many have already expressed interest in hosting future cohorts for additional groups of women.

From equine experiences at Brown Family Ranch and Bluff Ranch to rock climbing at Gregory Canyon, participants have deepened their connections with one another while building relationships with the broader receiving community.

BY THE NUMBERS

42

participants served

50

direct service hours

7 countries

Afghanistan, Ukraine, Rwanda, Cuba, Venezuela, Congo, Central Africa Republic

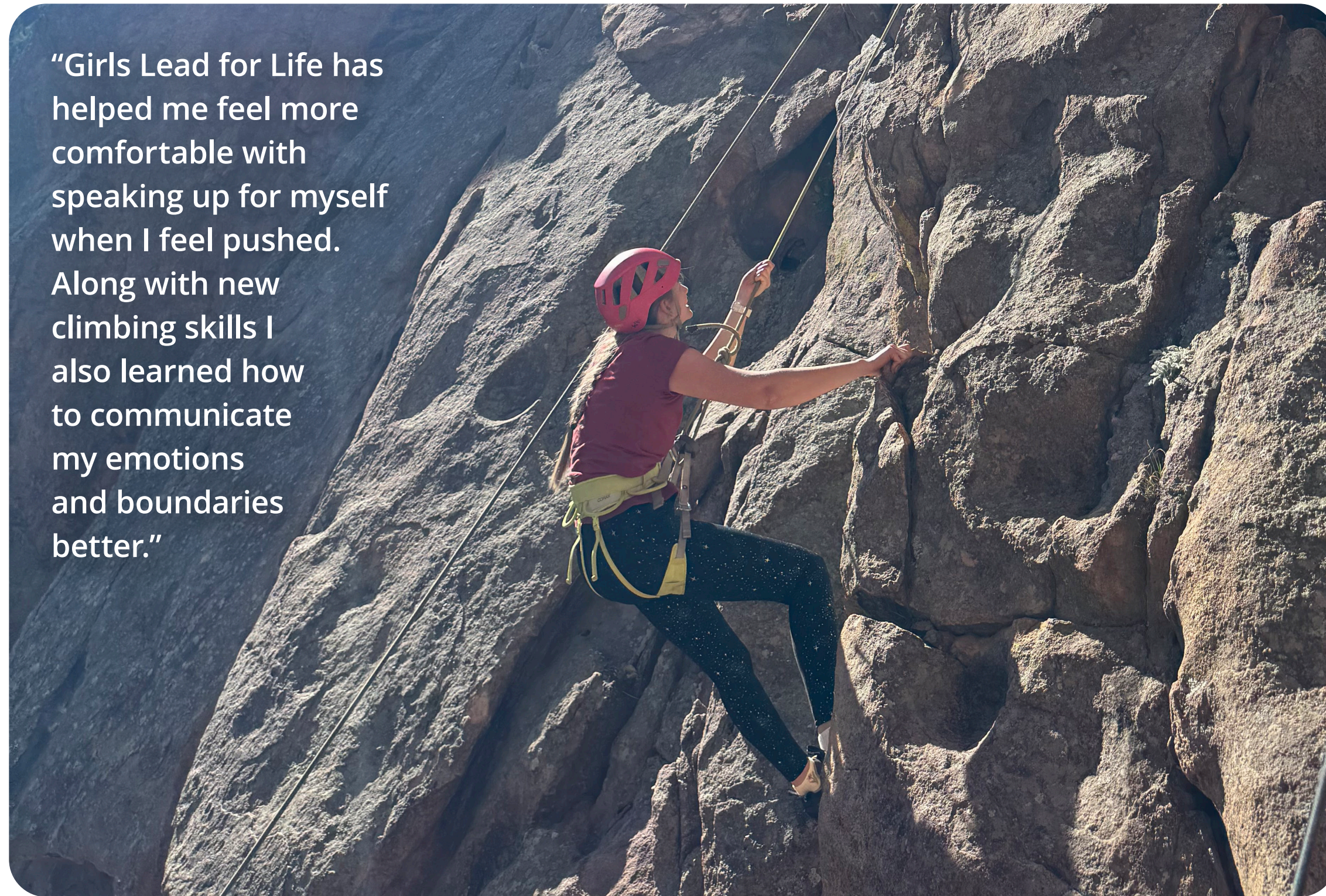
6 languages

translated by interpreters

“As women from Afghanistan, we learn here that sitting at home is not enough for us. We have to go out and learn from others.”



“Girls Lead for Life has helped me feel more comfortable with speaking up for myself when I feel pushed. Along with new climbing skills I also learned how to communicate my emotions and boundaries better.”



Girls Lead for Life

This semester-based program is delivered in 10 weekly sessions, where instructors use climbing as the vehicle to deliver a curriculum that opens access to social support, cultivates resilience, and addresses mental health challenges commonly faced by adolescent girls and nonbinary youth. This program is centered around providing a platform for meaningful conversations about communication, resilience, community building, and more—skills that are essential both on and off the climbing wall.

This program launched in 2017 and is still going strong. This fall, we’re delighted to be deepening our partnerships with La Luz, an independent lab school, as well as continuing our work with PLAY Pass (through PLAY Boulder), Boulder Housing Partners, and Englewood Middle School.

Big shoutout to Movement Gyms for helping to make this program possible with their partnership!

BY THE NUMBERS

74

participants served

135

direct service hours

2,480

walls climbed

100%

of participants reported meeting a caring adult they can trust

98%

of participants reported feeling accepted for who they are

80%

of participants reported feeling more confident in their ability to handle whatever comes their way



“All the adventures made up for a very memorable experience. The camp made me more confident, and when it ended, I felt accomplished and strong.”

Girls' Wilderness Adventures

From Front Range day camps to overnight backpacking adventures in Colorado and Wyoming, our Girls' Wilderness Adventures programming offers summer courses that invite youth into outdoor experiences that spark growth, wonder, joy, and connection. Each year, girls in grades 3–12 build confidence, self-awareness, and leadership, learning to trust themselves and the friendships they form along the way.

Every course is intentionally designed to cultivate safety and community, nurturing a sense of belonging, curiosity, and a lasting connection to the natural world.

BY THE NUMBERS

28 girls and non-binary youth served

22
direct service days

2 states
visited

innumerable yummy desserts



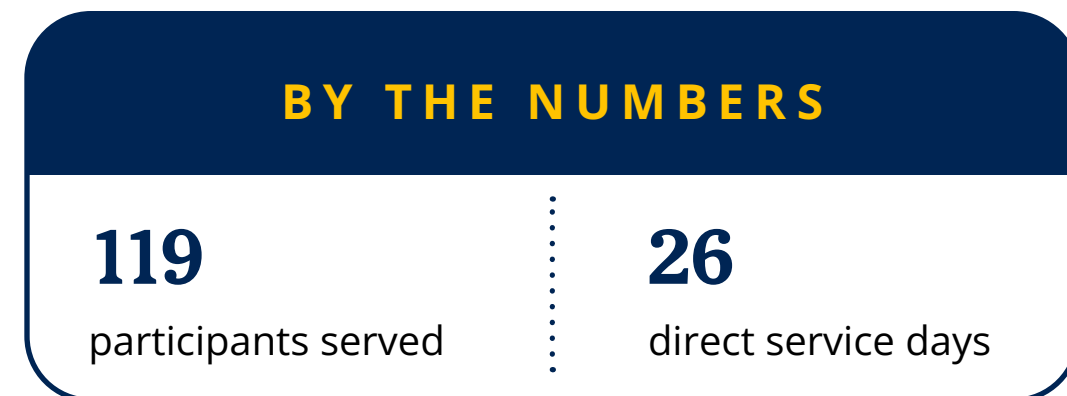
Women's Adventures

Women's Adventures are open to all adult women and intentionally designed as welcoming spaces to explore the outdoors together. Whether you're a seasoned adventurer or simply 'try-curious' and ready to learn something new, or return to a favorite activity, you'll find plenty of encouragement, connection, and joy in all that we do.

In 2025, we gathered on Shared Path hikes, supported a second cohort of bold women preparing to summit Kilimanjaro through our Peak Ready series, and explored the Snowy Range on an Intro to Backpacking trip that

bonded the women in ways they couldn't have expected. Each experience was rooted in community and collective care.

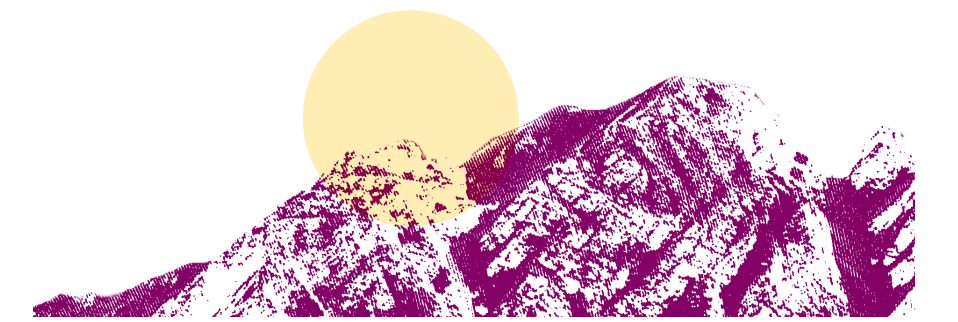
"This was a wonderful experience and exceeded my expectations. Everyone felt connected, felt authentic to themselves, and we learned how to backpack!"



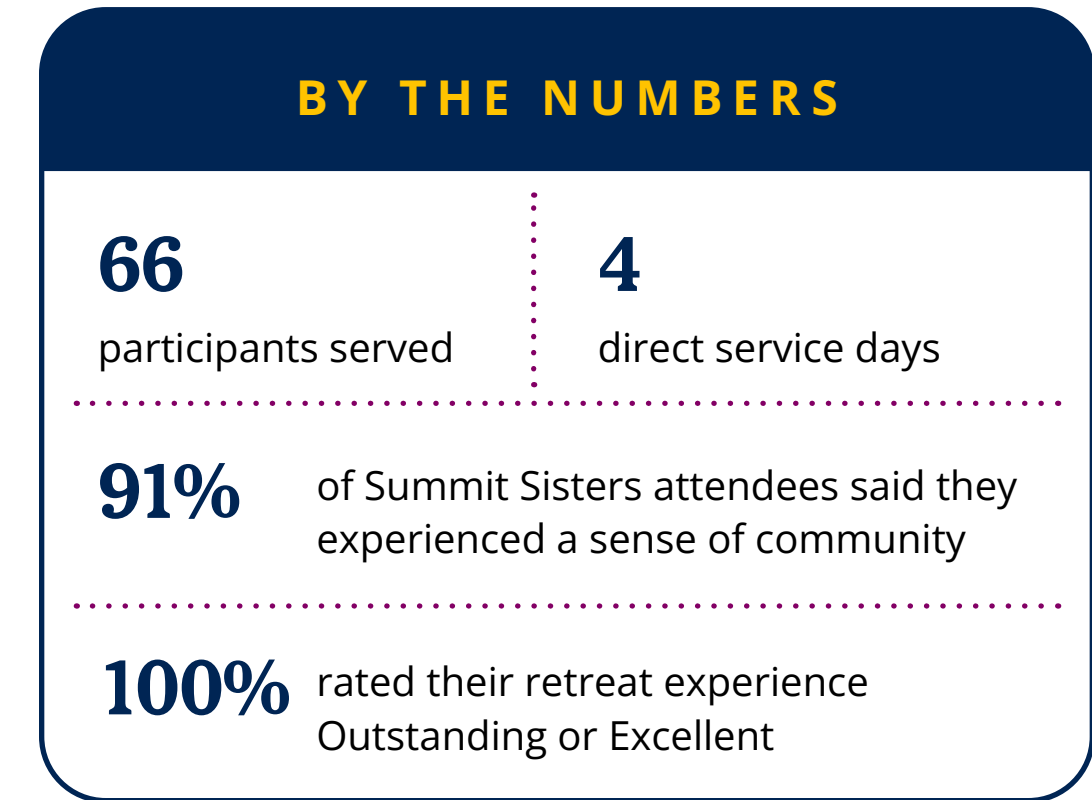
Summit Sisters

Summit Sisters is our largest community gathering of the year. In response to resounding participant feedback, we extended this retreat in 2025 by offering a four-day experience designed to strengthen both individual and collective resilience. Through engaging workshops, shared meals, meaningful conversations, outdoor adventure, and intentional rest, participants experienced deep connection and renewal.

Last year's theme, *Tending the Village: Rest, Renewal, and Rising Together*, provided the roadmap for our journey. Summit Sisters is always more than a retreat, and in 2025, we focused on care, beginning with ourselves and extending outward to the community we created together. Throughout the weekend, we celebrated belonging, practiced mutual support, and reaffirmed our shared commitment to deepening connection, creativity, and discovery.



"Before experiencing Summit Sisters, I didn't realize how much of a relief it is to allow myself to take up space, breathe loudly, and trust others to hold space for me."





Trailblazers

Established in 2017, Trailblazers is a community-centered program created by and for women of color, offering joyful, safe, and self-led opportunities to build outdoor skills, strengthen physical and mental well-being, and heal from collective traumas that have often resulted in overwhelming and adverse impacts on communities of color.

In 2025, Trailblazers expanded its reach through the fourth annual Goddess Retreat, the launch of *Summit Stories: the Film Festival*, a partnership with AARP for the first adult caregivers' Radiance Retreat, and shared outdoor experiences, including hiking, skiing, and horseback riding.

"I am leaving knowing that I am enough, I can do it. It's ok to be out of your comfort zone. I am also leaving with more peace and calmness."

BY THE NUMBERS

66

participants served

11

direct service days





Community Events & Fundraisers

Those of you who've been involved with Women's Wilderness for a while might be familiar with Gear & Cheer, our beloved annual fundraiser. And over the last two years, we've been coming together more often to share our stories, connect with each other, and raise funds for our programs.

Summit Stories: Celebrating herSTORY

This new fundraiser featured a month-long movement goal, peer-to-peer fundraising, culminating with an in-person celebration. This fundraiser was dedicated to Women's History Month, and we were delighted to gather with over 90 people who came to support women-owned businesses, learn stories of noteworthy women, and hear Florence Williams speak!

Summer Bash

The Summer Bash returned for its third year and really dialed up the fun! With delicious pies from Boss Lady Pizza and community partners like Colorado Alpenglow Frisbee, PLAY Boulder, Boulder Climbing Community, and an enchanting storytime led by Mrs. Colorado, Sunika Varner, our Harbeck Headquarters was buzzing with energy and excitement!

From basic wound care demos to yoga, story time, arts and crafts for kids of all ages, there was truly something fun to engage everyone. Families with kids of all ages gathered to kick off summer the Women's Wilderness way: with laughter, learning, and a whole lot of joy.

I Can 5K

5Ks happen all the time, and we might be biased, but this one was special. It was our first race event ever and we're excited to do it again

thanks to our hosts at 3W Races. We took the party to the pavement, walking, rolling, and running alongside our families, friends, and fur babies, too!

"This was my first 5K and I was very impressed by the organization of this race as well as the Women's Wilderness tent and staff. I will definitely be looking forward to doing another!!!"

Gear & Cheer: Dirty Boots Edition

Last year, we brought together the heart of our Women's Wilderness community, adventure, and celebration while spending an evening together listening to Back to the Mountain's all-female acoustic rockygrass music, enjoying farm-to-table food from Chef Ryan Turano, all the while taking in the fresh air at Yellow Barn Farm.

From our online auction overflowing with epic outdoor gear, amazing experiences, and lots of women-owned brands, to the inspiring stories our participants shared, this event was filled with feel-good vibes!

"It was so magical spending the night with people that share a vision for representation and equality in the outdoors. Especially in such turbulent times as we are in now, being surrounded by so much positivity and hope, and people willing to put their money where their mouth is to make small steps and impacts towards a brighter future was so inspiring. Also the food was absolutely delicious!"

Summit Stories: Film Festival

Our second annual Summit Stories dedicated to our Trailblazers program evolved into a film festival last year. This incredible evening of powerful short films and real-talk featured storytelling from women who turned obstacles into opportunities and claimed a place for themselves—and the rest of us!—in the outdoors.

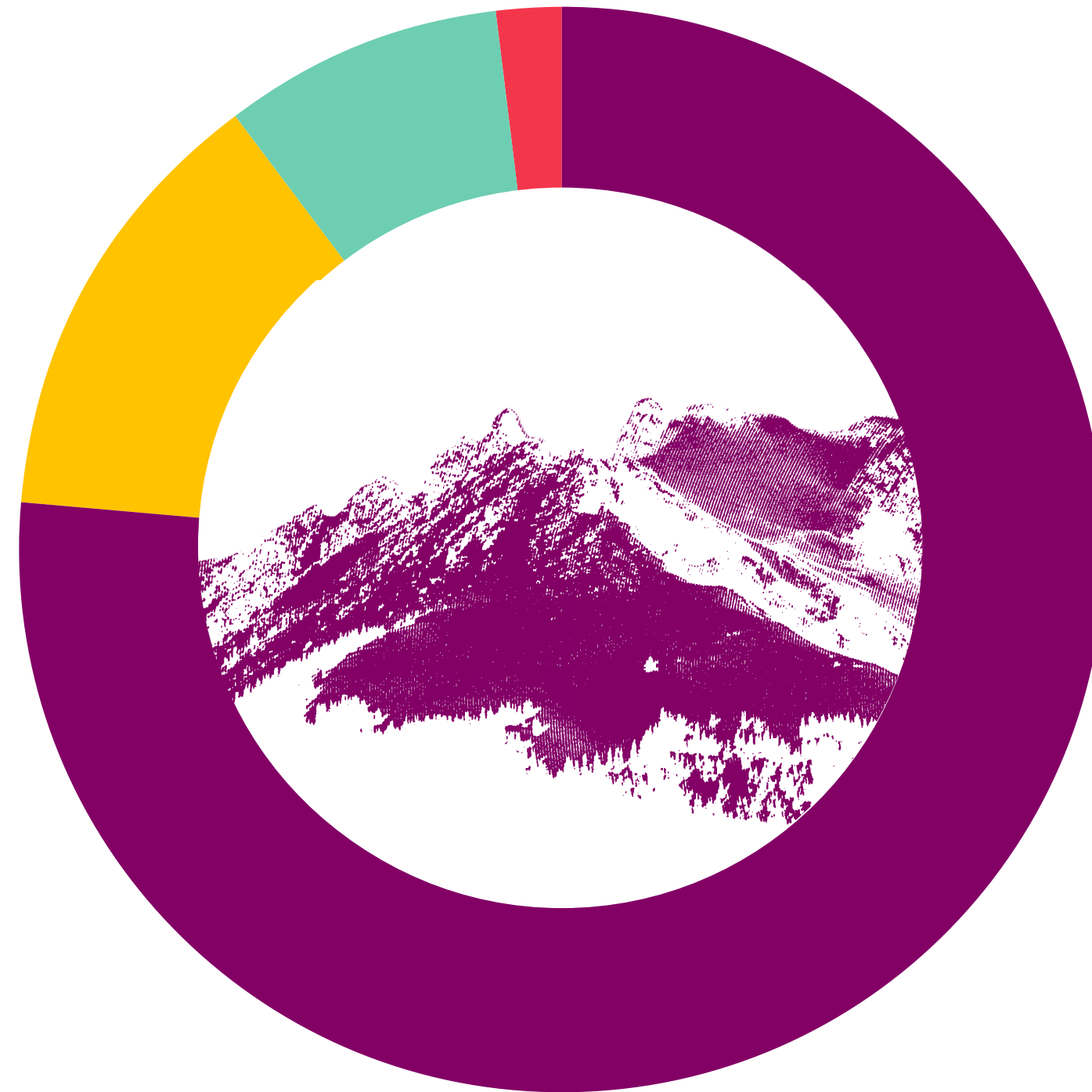
The evening ended with a live panel of BIPOC leaders who refused to wait for permission to belong. Panelists included one of the women featured in these films: Cheyenne Smith, along with Susan Yasuhara and our very own Kriste Peoples.

Financial Overview

The Year In Review

In 2025, Women's Wilderness closed the year in a position of strength, stability, and forward momentum. Our financial health reflects a thoughtful balance of growth and care, allowing us to invest deeply in the people, programs, and systems that make our work possible. The majority of our support came through a balanced array of private foundations, corporate sponsorships, unrestricted and local government grant funding alongside generous contributions from individual donors, community events, and earned program income—each a reflection of broad belief in our mission.

We directed the majority of our resources toward program delivery, ensuring that participants had access to our signature, high-quality experiences that foster growth, healing, and leadership in the outdoors. We also invested in the operational and fundraising capacity necessary to sustain and expand our impact with integrity. None of this would be possible without the steadfast support of our community. We are deeply grateful to the funders, donors, partners, and participants who walk alongside us and make this work not only sustainable, but full of possibility for the years ahead.



Revenue: \$1,295,932

- **Grants: \$991,598**
- **Donations & Events: \$175,030**
- **Programs: \$108,573**
- **Other: \$21,662**

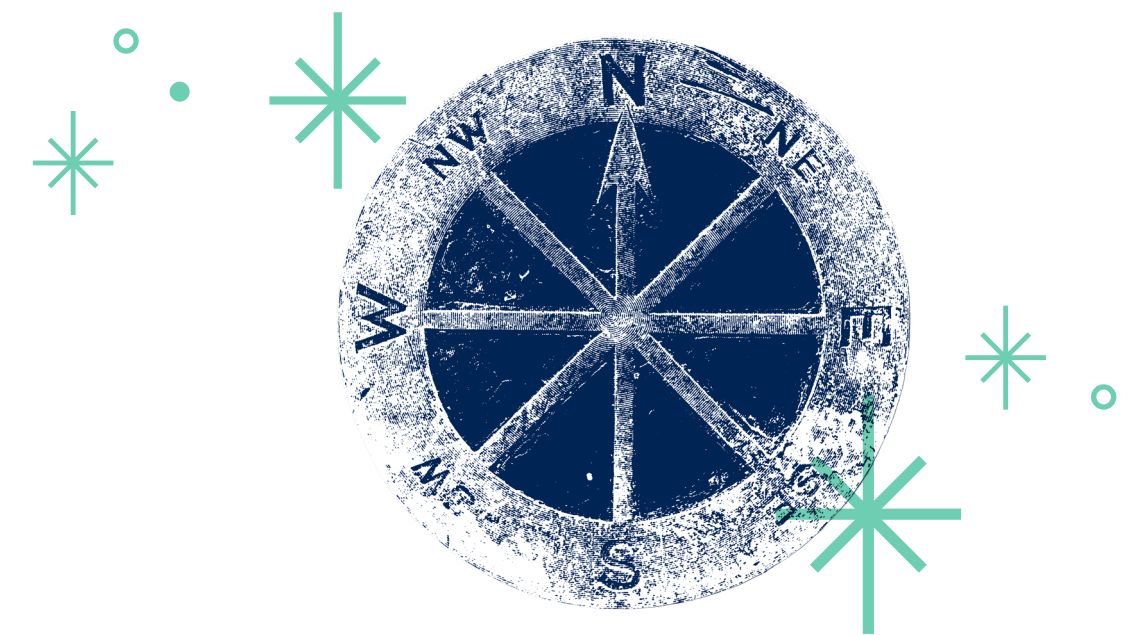


Expenses: \$946,295

- **Programs: \$609,088**
- **Administration & Operations: \$247,261**
- **Fundraising & Marketing: \$89,860**

*Unaudited as of 3/3/2026.

Where We're Headed



Charting a New Course

As we move deeper into 2026, our work continues to be guided by the collective wisdom of our incredible community. Over the past two years, that engagement has included close partnerships with trusted consultants and creative thinkers, as well as volunteers and course participants—all of whom have helped us streamline operations, invest in staff growth, and build the capacity we need to sustain and grow our impact for years to come.

This work isn't about sudden change. It's about honoring what we've learned through years of listening and reflection. We're responding to what our community has asked for: more opportunities to connect, grow, and explore together. We're also implementing a strategic plan designed to grow alongside an ever-changing world. This plan is intentionally alive, evolving, and strengthened as we go.

One participant captured it best: "Women's Wilderness creates programming that is culturally relevant, trauma-informed, empowering, and rooted in learning. They respond to the community they serve."

Our core remains unchanged. If anything, the path ahead allows us to bring even more of the Women's Wilderness magic forward. We're deeply grateful to be sharing this path with you.

What's Ahead in 2026

Our calendar's packed full of excitement, and we're just getting started! In addition to developing our new guiding strategy, here are some of the events and experiences we're looking forward to in 2026:

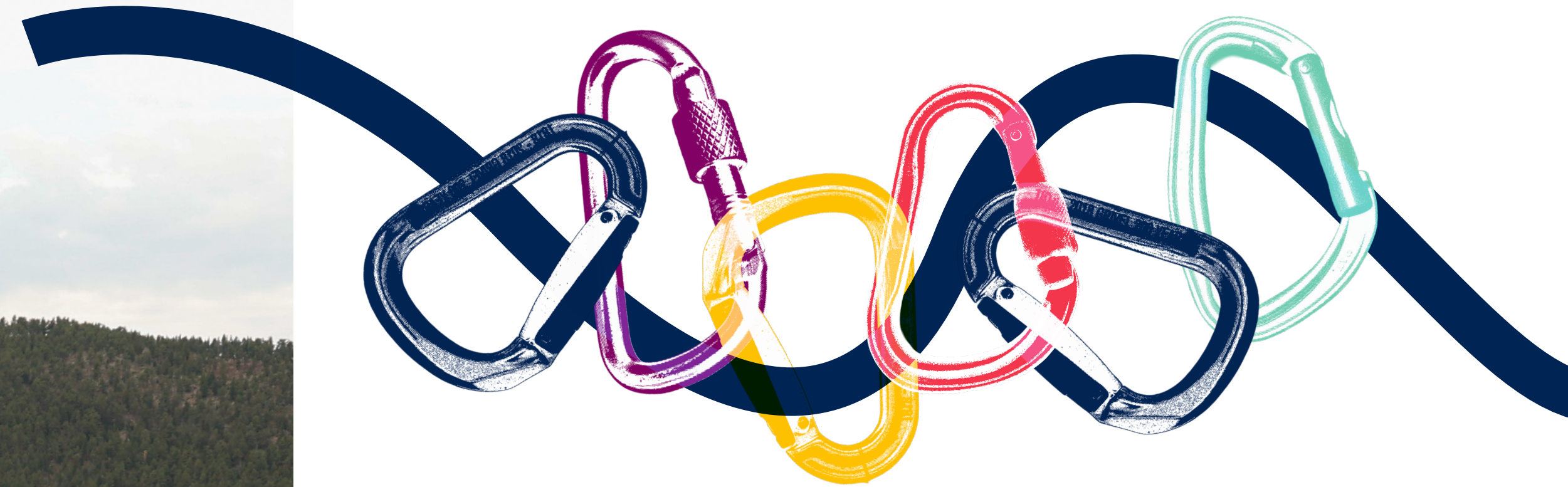
- **Strengthening partnership with Boulder Housing Partners**
- **Expanding the impact and excitement of Summit Sisters**
- **Celebrating on the pavement at the Colfax Marathon**
- **Establishing new leadership pathways for youth program alumns**
- **Building on the success of last year's inaugural I Can 5k**
- **Introducing a women's fall canoe trip in Western Colorado**
- **Unveiling summer youth courses at Cal-Wood Education Center**
- **Preparing a new cohort of 'Peak Ready' women for an international adventure**

The future's looking bright and full of possibility at Women's Wilderness.

STAY TUNED!

Want to know when these offerings go live? Sign up for our newsletter: [womenswilderness.kit.com/newsletter](https://www.womenswilderness.kit.com/newsletter)

You're a Part of the Movement



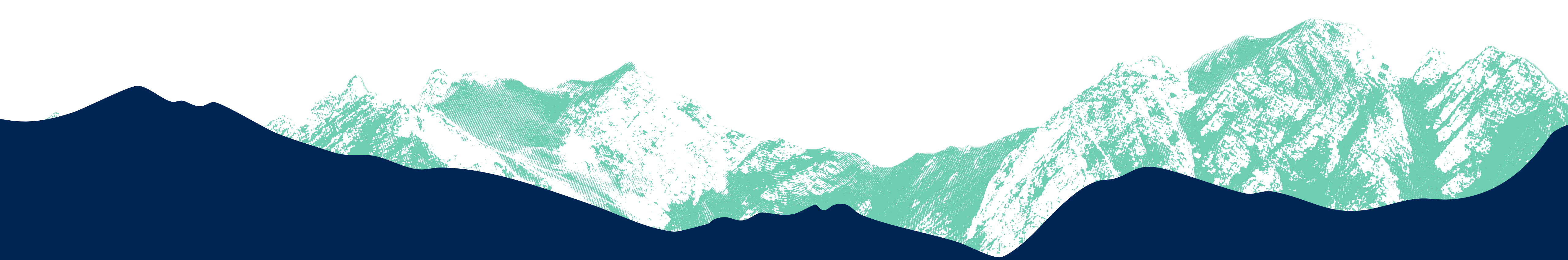
Your care and interest mean so much to us, and we're honored you chose to spend time with this report.

Your support can go even further by joining our monthly SustainHER Circle. Being a SustainHER means you're like a good friend who always has our back. In fact, your gift builds on our foundation of increased confidence to plan and dream into the future of Women's Wilderness.

[**DONATE HERE TODAY**](#)

Giving isn't limited to monthly donations! Donor Advised Funds (DAFs), corporate sponsorships, gifts of stock, matching your gift at your place of employment, designating a legacy gift, and in-kind donations of volunteering your time or services- any way that you choose to engage deeper with our work makes a difference.

Thank you for all the ways you support our work and mission!



Women's Wilderness

Share a path. Find your power.

WOMENSWILDERNESS.ORG