



**KEYSTONE
SCIENCE SCHOOL**

2024

DONOR IMPACT REPORT





LETTER FROM
HOWARD CARVER
BOARD CHAIRMAN



Dear Friends and Supporters of KSS:

2024 was a year of challenge, change, opportunity and wonderful results for KSS.

Early in the year, registration for our programs and camps encountered extreme difficulties when the registration system, provided and operated by a third party, could not handle the significant increase in enrollment volume (roughly a 250% increase year over year in attempted enrollments the first hours enrollment was open). That problem was fixed and our camps were virtually 100% full with wait lists for most sessions.

The camping season was extremely successful serving nearly 2,500 students. Both the day camps and overnight camps received extremely good ratings and comments from students, parents and grandparents about the high quality of the programs along with indications from many campers that they are looking forward to returning in 2025.

The KSS board has implemented a Facilities Task Force to study our current campus and facilities and make recommendations to the board and senior staff regarding how we might best begin preparing KSS for the future and provide quality facilities for both our students and staff.

Our CEO for the last 15 months, Kim Krebs, has decided to move on, but in her time with KSS, Kim implemented many system changes and improvements and spearheaded strategic planning and branding initiatives which will serve KSS well in the coming years. The board and staff thank Kim for her many contributions.

KSS is financially sound but will have many calls on its resources in the relatively near future, including the need to build new facilities, improve old ones and provide newer vans for transporting our students. Thanks to those of you who have provided financial support in the past. We will need your continued support and that of new donors yet to be identified.

It has been my pleasure to serve as the Board Chair for the last two years and to have been on the KSS board and various committees since 2015. My board term ended in December 2024, and I want to take this time to thank the KSS staff and fellow board members as well as so many donors and volunteers for all your help and support. You made my time with KSS meaningful and enjoyable. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Howard Carver

Board Chairman, Keystone Science School





LETTER FROM
MICHELLE PERL
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Keystone Science School Community,

It has been a wonderful year. As I reflect on my time as Interim Executive Director, I can't help but feel incredibly grateful for the opportunity to help steward Keystone Science School during this period of transition. Though my time in this role has been short, it has been nothing if not inspiring—and let's be honest, an adventure! From the dedicated staff to the curious students and the passionate supporters, I have been constantly reminded of the magic that makes KSS so special.

This year, we doubled down on what we do best—connecting kids to the outdoors, sparking curiosity, and making learning an unforgettable experience. But we also took a big step forward by incorporating even more science into our summer programs. Whether talking about aquatic ecology while playing in a mountain stream, exploring geology while climbing a local ledge, or learning about ecosystems while hiking through them, our campers didn't just experience nature—they understood it in a deeper way. It was hands-on, messy, and full of “aha” moments, just the way learning should be.

At the same time, our other programs continued to thrive. We ignited a passion for STEM in girls, bringing science to life through immersive, hands-on experiences. Schools from across the country joined us to explore the outdoors as their classroom, where students investigated ecosystems, conducted field research, and discovered the power of science in the outdoors. Through it all, we remained true to our mission—empowering the next generation of curious, confident, and community-minded learners.

This year also brought big leadership changes. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Kim Krebs for her incredible leadership as Executive Director and her dedication to strengthening KSS. And now, I couldn't be more excited to pass the torch to our new Executive Director, Eric Rightor. Eric brings deep passion, energy, and a vision for the future of KSS, and I have no doubt he will continue to grow and strengthen this organization in amazing ways.

Looking ahead, KSS is poised for even greater impact—expanding our reach, enhancing our programs, and continuing to create transformative experiences for young learners. And, as always, none of this would be possible without you—our donors, families, and community partners. Your support keeps the campfires burning (literally and figuratively), and we couldn't do it without you!

So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you for your commitment to KSS. Whether you've donated, volunteered, sent a child to camp, or simply cheered us on, you are a vital part of this community. I'm excited to see what's next and know that the future of KSS is in great hands.

With gratitude (and maybe a little extra sunscreen),

Michelle Perl

Interim Executive Director, Keystone Science School





SUMMER CAMP

We celebrated another successful summer at Keystone Science School, where we served over 1,600 campers across 2,400 sessions. This year's "Summer of Stories" allowed campers to create, share, and live unforgettable adventures while fostering a love for discovery through outdoor and scientific exploration. Through physical challenges, leadership development, and personal growth, our campers created lasting memories that will shape their lives for years to come.

Thank you for your continued support in empowering youth and enriching our community.



2,458 enrollments



Over **\$22,000** in Camp Scholarships funded by donors!



218 Challenge Hikes and Earth Treks, where campers pushed themselves physically and mentally, conquering peaks like Quandary Peak at 14,000 feet

31 Campfires, where campers stepped outside of their comfort zones while learning it's ok to let loose, laugh, be silly and make friends!

52 Adventure Activities, where campers got out in nature and went horseback riding, rafting, rock climbing, backpacking, paddle boarding and more.



Impact Stories

"KSS might be the most wholesome place on planet Earth. The counselors are from all over the world and every one of them exudes positivity and compassion. My kids come back covered in dirt after being outdoors all day, and they almost have a glow about them. You can really see how humans were meant to be in nature." - **2024 Day Camp parent**



"My 8 year-old had an amazing time at his first-ever sleep away camp. He loved the supportive, fun atmosphere and terrific adventures and activities. - **2024 Discovery Camp parent**

"Its great that KSS can cultivate independence and push my camper beyond her comfort zone." - **2024 Discovery Camp parent**



"We LOVE how KSS is inclusive of all backgrounds and beliefs, focused on science- and adventure-based activities. This is our second year and we continue to be very impressed with the counselors; they radiate such positive high energy, are fun, and keep the kids engaged." - **2024 Discovery Camp parent**

SUMMIT SCHOOL DISTRICT PARTNERSHIP

SUMMIT DAY CAMP & PATHFINDERS

Our partnership with the Summit School District in 2024 was another tremendous success, highlighted by our Summit Day Camp for elementary students and Pathfinders Day Camp for middle schoolers.

Our mission remained steadfast: to provide a dependable and affordable childcare option for hardworking families in the county. Through a sliding fee scale, we were able to offer reduced registration fees to local families based on income, ensuring that camp was accessible to those in need.

194 Total Summit School District campers

\$298,394 Funded our sliding fee scale, with discount rates for families with financial need

Over 53% of our Summit Day Camp enrollments were from families that qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch or Child Health Plan +, receiving significantly reduced cost programming.

3RD GRADE MOUNTAIN ECOLOGY

Summit County elementary schools also joined us for our 3rd Grade Mountain Ecology program, designed to supplement the elementary school curriculum by taking students into their backyards to learn about our unique forest dynamics, climate change, and how to maintain forest health.

"It's been a pleasure to see the kids get outside, be creative, have fun with one another, interact socially, to apply their learning, with touch and feel rather than just sitting in a classroom." – **Melissa, Breckenridge teacher**

H2O OUTDOORS

Our annual H2O Outdoors program offers Colorado high school students a standards-based, hands-on educational experience focused on water science and conservation.

A heartfelt thank you to our sponsors and visiting experts whose support and expertise make this program possible and impactful!

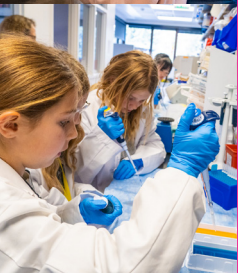
"Going to the waste water management plant really changed my perspective on how large scale these things are carried out at. Generally making more conscience about how I use my water." – **H2O Student**

– **H2O Outdoors student**

"I found it interesting that all these different people are coming from different ideals and different desires and it is just really fun coming up and working together to come up with a solution."

– **H2O Outdoors Student**





OUTDOOR EDUCATION

In 2024, KSS continued to provide schools from around Colorado and surrounding states outdoor education field trips that combined science, adventure, and fun for schools. Our programs provided hands-on learning in the forest, streams, and trails of Summit County. These trips incorporated environmental science, social-emotional learning, community building, and outdoor exploration. Students overcame challenges, built confidence, and collaborated, all while engaging with our skilled and passionate instructors, leaving a lasting impact on their growth and development.

52 Schools

2,457 Students

Nearly 50,000 Contact hours

"It was awesome to see them be scientists out in the field. Watching them overcome challenges and things that are hard. You guys always have top notch instructors which is why I love KSS - they have good knowledge of the curriculum and engaging with kids." - 2024 **School chaperone**

"Students develop in confidence, independence and working well with others." **2024 School chaperone**

GIRLS IN STEM

In 2024, KSS's Girls in STEM Program continued its mission to break down gender barriers in STEM fields, inspiring girls to embrace their authentic selves and empowering them to become confident leaders in their classrooms and communities.

We are deeply grateful to the participants, experts, and mentors whose contributions made this program a success. Your support is integral to the growth and impact of our Girls in STEM programs.

99 Girls Served

\$1,480 in funds subsidized to ensure more girls could join the fun!

2,772 Hours of exploration & learning

34 female mentors including film directors, ski patrollers, medical researchers, and more!

"My daughter loved her weekend and now thinks she wants to be a biologist." - **STEM parent**

"Keep inspiring more young women!" - **STEM mentor**

"I was inspired by Tika, Stella and their dog handlers, because my dream job is to be a dog handler for ski patrol!" - **STEM student**

HONORING PAUL & CAROLE WELLER

CHAMPIONS OF PHILANTHROPY



SUMMIT FOUNDATION'S 2024

OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPISTS OF THE YEAR

In 2024, Keystone Science School had the distinct pleasure of celebrating one of our own—Paul Weller—who, alongside his wife, Carole, was recognized as Outstanding Philanthropists of the Year by The Summit Foundation. While Paul may insist he was simply “muddling through,” his contributions were nothing short of transformative.

As a board member and dedicated volunteer, Paul brought his sharp mind, dry wit, and an almost alarming enthusiasm for databases to KSS. His leadership in implementing our database management systems revolutionized our ability to connect with supporters—though he would probably describe it as “just pressing a few buttons.” In reality, his work ensured our fundraising and outreach efforts ran smoothly.

But it wasn't just about the systems. Paul had a knack for making himself indispensable, whether that meant strategizing in meetings, lending a hand at events, or at times, being the sole driving force behind our facilities. His generosity wasn't just about time or expertise—it was about a deep, genuine belief in the power of education and the outdoors.

Of course, no celebration of Paul would be complete without recognizing Carole, his partner in philanthropy. Together, the Wellers have been an unstoppable force for good, not just at KSS but across the entire Summit County community. Their recognition from The Summit Foundation was well-earned—though if you ask Paul, he might claim they just happened to be in the right place at the right time.

We, however, know better. Paul and Carole's generosity, humor, and dedication left a lasting impact on KSS in 2024, and we are all the better for it.

2024

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

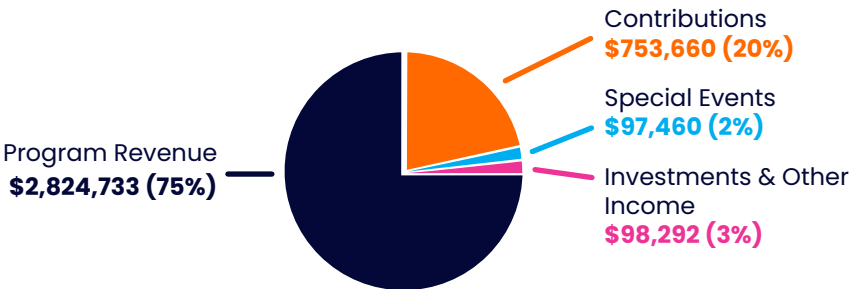
In 2024, thanks to our supporters, Keystone Science School provided transformative learning experiences to thousands of students, ensuring access to quality education for all. Despite some financial challenges this year, our commitment to our mission remains strong.

Why Your Support Matters

Your generosity enables us to provide scholarships, sustain vital programs, and expand access for students in need. In 2024:

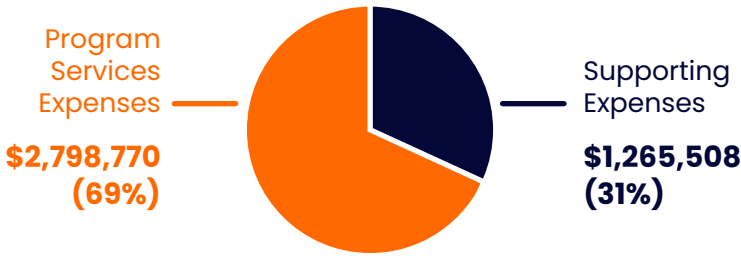
- We subsidized nearly **\$350,000** for local families through our sliding fee scale for our camp and outdoor education programs.
- We also awarded almost **\$30,000 in scholarships** for these programs, ensuring financial barriers did not prevent participation.

Revenue



Total Revenue **\$3,744,145**

Expenses



Total Expenses **\$4,064,278**

Looking Ahead

Join us in 2025 to ensure long-term financial sustainability, continue to expand access, and implement key initiatives:

- Enhanced Fundraising Strategy: We are engaging new donors and deepening relationships with existing supporters to build a more diverse funding base.
- Program Adaptation: We have adjusted program structures to maximize enrollment and tuition revenue while maintaining affordability.
- Cost Management and Investment: Through strategic planning and prioritization, we have identified cost-saving measures without compromising the student experience as well as key areas of investment to improve the sustainability of our program.

Your Impact

Every donation, no matter the size, makes a difference. Your support helps provide life-changing experiences for students, ensures financial barriers do not prevent participation, and strengthens our ability to offer high-quality programs. Join us in making 2025 a year of growth and greater accessibility for all students.

Keystone Science School remains dedicated to its mission, and with the continued support of our donors, partners, and community, we are confident in a strong and sustainable future.



Catalysts (\$1,000+)

Anonymous
 Marci and Andy Aerenson
 Jane and Gail Allaman
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 Richard Arsenault
 Dawn and Chris Banas
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 Martin Murphy
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Foundations

Xcel Energy Foundation
Rocky Mountain Health Foundation
United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley, Inc.
JP Innovation Project
Assurant Foundation
Colorado Gives Day Foundation
The Joanne Crull Tribute Fund
UK Online Giving Foundation
Copper Environmental Foundation
Slifer Smith & Frampton Foundation
Valley of the Sun United Way
Summit County Rotary Foundation
The Bobolink Foundation

Corporations

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Occidental Petroleum Corporation
Axis Sports Medicine
Pinnacle Mountain Homes, Inc
Freeport McMoRan Foundation
St. Anthony Summit Medical Center
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Starbucks Foundation
Copper Mountain Resort
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Breckenridge Film Festival
American Express Foundation
Country Boy Mine
Dillon Marina
Broken Compass Brewing
Breckenridge Mountain Massage
Stork & Bear Company
Iron Forest Building Company
Robbie's, Bird & Cow, The Canteen,
The Boot Saloon
Community First National Bank
Ready, Paint, Fire
Summit Cove Property Management
Alpine Bank
US Bank
FirstBank of Summit County
iFurnish
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Government

Denver Water
Town of Silverthorne
Town of Dillon

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Susan Strand
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Callison Strey
Leah and Tige Stromire
Gail Swisher
Mike Tabb
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Daphne Trammell
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Chad Wagoner
Megan and Patrick Walker
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2024
best
 of **SUMMIT**

2024 Winner
Best of Summit
Top Summer Camp Program



**KEYSTONE
 SCIENCE SCHOOL**

**THANK
 YOU!**



Help us continue our mission by donating today at keystonescienceschool.org