Canyonlands Field Institute is an outdoor education nonprofit organization in Moab, Utah, established in 1984.

Connecting People and Nature: History, Education, Adventure
Looking Back

Looking back over the past three years, simply stated, CFI survived and thrived! We are particularly grateful to you, our loyal donors, staff, and trustees, for steering us through the pandemic. Thanks also to significant COVID-19 emergency funding from federal, state, and local entities, CFI proved resilient and ready to resume full services this spring.

With COVID-19 safety protocols in place in 2020, CFI launched a new series of summer day camps to help working families with funding from Utah Department of Workforce Services. Small group family and adult service projects and river trips kept us active too.

Grants funded AmeriCorps work on the trail to Rainbow Bridge, while targeted capacity gifts allowed us to staff Education and Development Director positions, and make curriculum and fleet upgrades. At Professor Valley Field Camp (PVFC) a drinking water cistern system was installed, and with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service, stream and native re-vegetation efforts took place.

As co-founder of CFI in 1984, I initially served as Program Director, then transitioned to Executive Director upon Robin Wilson’s death in 1991. My next major transition came last summer, as I stepped down from that role to work part-time as fundraiser, mentor, guide, and with a special focus on completing infrastructure at PVFC. I am proud of CFI’s accomplishments over 37 years, particularly the many people of all ages that found their time with CFI so positive, developing their skills and appreciation for the lands, rivers, and cultures of the Colorado Plateau. Nationally, the pandemic showed the importance of time outdoors for health and solace. This calls upon CFI to increase access to our impactful programs and create ways to educate newcomers.

Special thanks goes to Kate Niederehe for returning to CFI as Associate and then as Interim Director, assisting Board Chair Dee Garceau with the recruiting and hiring of a new leader. Jory Macomber started as Executive Director late in 2020 bringing his vast experience.

Thank you all for your steadfast support.

Karla VanderZanden
Founding Director

School Programs

CFI’s top priority is getting school groups outside. Working with schools to facilitate active, educational, and intentional outdoor experiences is what we do best. Through connection to place we strive to inspire the future generations of explorers, outdoor educators, and environmental stewards.

CFI hosts elementary through college level school groups from all over the country. Multi-day programs take place on the land and rivers of the Colorado Plateau. We connect students to the land by educating them about it in fun and engaging ways. These programs meet or exceed requirements for national and state science guidelines to ensure continuity between classrooms and our educational offerings.

Time outdoors awakens curiosity.
Locally, CFI partners with the public school system to provide opportunities for students to learn about their home landscape in the Outdoor Science School. Helen M. Knight Elementary School sixth graders have an overnight adventure at PVFC in a program that builds community and friendships in fun and accessible ways. Margaret L. Hopkin Middle School seventh graders raft the “Colorado Daily,” many for the first time. Eighth graders learn about riparian area restoration and plant native species with Rim To Rim Restoration.

This progression of programming supports our vision to instill reverence for the beauty and fragility of the landscape, and to take responsibility for the care of each other and the planet. Over and over we receive feedback about how CFI’s school trips positively impact students. Their curiosity grows as they learn about wild places and how to protect them. It is through these connections that we can help foster future environmental stewards and leaders.

In 2018 and 2019, we hosted 63 school groups which filled our spring and fall schedules. By the time March 2020 arrived, however, it was clear that we had to cancel school programs due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This contributed to a very challenging year, but allowed us to spend time setting new goals, growing our curriculum, and planning for a more robust 2021 school trip season. We look forward to hosting more schools from around the country as the pandemic becomes history. We especially look forward to watching the children of Moab grow up through our programs, and hope to see some of them in our apprentice program in the future.

“Such trips were utterly awe inspiring. Disconnecting from technology and connecting with the Earth, nature, and people, created an environment in which we could be creative, free, and relaxed.”

Participant – 2019 Student Program

“I appreciated the diverse lessons. The CFS calculations stretched their skills and cemented the ideas of practical math. The build your own creature and auction was VERY engaging and was a great chance to remember the vocabulary learned throughout the week. Petroglyphs were my personal favorite – I like to see history where it happened.”

Teacher – 2018 Bear River Charter School Program

Inspiring young people to connect with nature is at the heart of all we do.
Summer Youth Programs

Each summer CFI conducts several programs for local and native youth. **La Sal Mountains Explorer Base Camp** is offered with support from the **Summer Guide-in-Training** program where teens earn a stipend while learning leadership and outdoor skills. **Youth River Skills on the Colorado River** provides hands on experiences for young, active boaters. The **Native Teen Guide-in-Training** program, a multi-day experience for Native American youth, focuses on skill-building and mentorship as well as career opportunities. The program serves the Navajo Nation and includes youth from other tribes as well.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic challenged our summer 2020 programming, we were able to safely conduct a new program: **Adventure Day Camp**, to support the families of Moab and help local children feel connected to their backyard.

Youth Partnerships

CFI can do powerful things because of the support of an invested and caring business and nonprofit community. We are grateful for the many local Moab businesses and individuals who help us achieve our mission through their generosity, and extend our deep gratitude to our Youth Partners and Grantors that support our summer programs:

- BEACON Afterschool Program H.M.K. Elementary School
- Bureau of Land Management - Hands on the Land
- Grand Conservation District
- Grand County Education Foundation
- Grand County Recreation Special Service District
- Moab Valley Multicultural Center
- Moab Lodging
- Synergy/May Family Foundations
- Utah Department of Workforce Services
- WabiSabi
- Youth Garden Project

“**My favorite time was when I was helping my friend.”**

“**I love everything today except one thing…going home!”**

“**I learned more about people…I learned to be patient.”**

*Participants – 2020 Summer Adventure Day Camp*
In 2019, CFI engaged MHTN Architects to guide us through planning for near and long term development focusing on Professor Valley Field Camp and Castle Rock Ranch. Over a period of 18 months, stakeholder sessions were held and surveys of sister residential environmental learning centers were examined. A master plan was completed in December 2020, and identifies core values and aims, audiences, facility needs, and recommended phasing and costs.

Grants from the George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation, Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation, Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation, and generous individual gifts are aimed at broadening audiences served. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access, yurts for family programs, and more are included in planning.

Our newest site, Castle Rock Ranch, continues to be leased for agricultural purposes for the time being. Professor Valley Field Camp will remain rustic and seasonal in nature with weekdays devoted to schools. Weekends and the summer season are available for families, workshops, and nonprofits seeking a quiet setting with incredible views, supported camping, and learning experiences.

“CFI summer camp 2020 was incredible... Having a day camp during a pandemic was a heavy lift, but CFI staff did a great job following the CDC guidelines and created a safe space for the campers.”

Emily – 2020 Summer Camp Participant Parent

The river offers students a laboratory for exploration, service, and fun.
Young Professional Training

Inspiring, training, and mentoring the future generations of outdoor professionals is an essential service to our community, and we take it very seriously. Many young people who experience and advance through our Apprentice Educator/Guide program go on to work in the sciences and education, and a few of them have even stayed in Moab to continue their careers with us! It is a great privilege to help these young leaders learn and thrive, and to witness their growth throughout this and meaningful experience.

“Thank you for creating the opportunity for me and others to learn and teach about the Colorado Plateau. Through my apprenticeship, I’ve grown closer to understanding my place within the vast ecosystems and natural wonders of the canyon country. I’m excited to see where these roads take me and how my time at Canyonlands Field Institute can help renew the spirit of other people.”

Rob – 2018 Apprentice Educator/Guide

Diversity, Equality, and Inclusion

At CFI, we understand that the way we behave drives the ultimate success of our mission. As our world continues to experience the compounding effects of generations of systemic racism, gender inequity, and social injustice, CFI chose to engage. One of the first steps CFI took in July 2020 was to commit to signing the Outdoor Industry CEO Diversity Pledge. This pledge, as applicable to CFI, is focused on enhancing diverse representation across staff and executive teams, media, marketing, and ambassadors. By building relationships of support, empathy, and understanding, through reaching out, listening intently, and embracing the lived experience of minority communities, we aim to move Canyonlands Field Institute towards authentic inclusion. To read the Pledge see our Mission on our website.

The training of future outdoor educators is central to CFI’s mission.
Adult/Family Programs

CFI leads a variety of Adult Seminar programs yearly, ranging from guided cultural site excursions to birding floats on the Colorado River. Through these trips, we continue to make the wonders of the Colorado Plateau accessible to a wide range of participants as well as encourage membership and engagement.

This work is made possible by continued partnerships with our knowledgeable guest experts and support from professional outfitters who join us in fostering knowledge and appreciation for spectacular places. Trip fees also support our school and youth programs. For more information and schedule updates visit Adult and Family Programs on our website.

Stewardship

Enduring stewardship of the land is integrated into our daily practice through the implementation and education of the Leave No Trace Principles. As an organization we prioritize living lightly on the land, and work to give back when we can. Seven service projects were completed over the past three years, and we look forward to expanded service options in 2021.

Watch for the launch of our “Invest in Moab” series of volunteer events as well as our annual Forest Service Day and River Clean-up Day. In partnerships with other Moab nonprofits, a once-monthly volunteer event to invest in our community will take place. Stewardship projects with our local public schools will help strengthen the vital relationship between our children and this landscape. For more information visit Community Events on our website.

“...The entire experience was mind, heart and soul opening. It was a terrific group of people and... we really gelled as a group. I learned so much and, looking so far back into humanity, I feel a little less anxious about our fate...you do great work”

Anne – 2020 Adult Seminar Participant

Adult programs help provide funding for youth education and schools.
Greetings, CFI community. Since starting work at CFI on December 1, 2020, I have been very impressed by the staff: their skills, their energy, and their love for CFI’s programs. I’ve also enjoyed talking with many supporters and former staff over the first few months and hearing how CFI’s programs were their introduction to the beauty and mystery of the Colorado Plateau. I’ve met a dozen people who exclaim “CFI was my first job!” I’ve also spoken with many avid CFI supporters who had their first outdoor education experience with CFI ten, twenty, or thirty years ago. And then I’ve been overwhelmed by the impressive legacy of the Apprentice Educator/Guide program. So many great outdoor educators got their start with us.

I look forward to building upon this legacy. We plan to continue the growth of our programs at Professor Valley Field Camp and on the rivers. I love how we teach connection to nature and to each other. The world needs that lesson! And the future at Castle Rock Ranch is inspiring. One can’t walk onto that property and not think, “wow!” CFI has established beautiful roots; it’s branches will thrive.

Please stay in touch. Go on a trip. Give me a call. Stop by to visit. Our members have a key voice in our growth. I look forward to helping further develop quality outdoor programs that inspire care of wild places and renew the human spirit.

Jory Maycomber
Executive Director

We’re looking ahead to better days...with your continued support.

“Jory brings extensive experience in outdoor education, staff development, fund raising, and community relations. Equally important, Jory sees difficult challenges as opportunities for growth and innovation.”

Dee Garceau, CFI Board Chair
Thank you to our Board Officers and Trustees, past and present, for your invaluable service and continued support of CFI’s mission.

**Officers – as of 9/30/2018 and 9/30/2019**

- Sue Bellagamba, Chair
- Ryan Anderson, Vice Chair
- Robert Greenberg, Secretary
- John Groo, Treasurer
- Karla VanderZanden, Ex-Officio

**Trustees – 2018-2020**

- Ryan Anderson
- Sue Bellagamba
- David Brown
- Shawn Crawford
- Walt Dabney
- Dee Garceau
- Elaine Gilzer
- Robert Greenberg
- John Groo
- Diane Hanson
- Roslynn Brain-McCann
- Xandra Odland
- Tom Rees

*Trustees serving at any point in time between 2018-2020*

**Officers – as of 9/30/2020**

- Dee Garceau, Chair
- Xandra Odland, Vice Chair
- Tom Rees, Secretary
- Robert Greenberg, Treasurer
- Kate Niederehe, Ex-Officio

Thank you to our Plateau Society donors for continued sustaining support of our organization and its programs.

**Plateau Society Donors and Members**

- Morrison – $20,000+
  - Peter Q. Lawson & Anne Wilson
  - Jennifer Speers, Jennifer P. Speers Family Trust, and Palladium Foundation
  - Redoubt Restoration

- Entrada – $10,000+
  - David Bondoner & Laurie Michaels
  - Leon & Judith Jones, Jones Family Charitable Foundation
  - Linda Leckman

- Navajo – $5,000+
  - John and Laurie McBride, Aspen Business Center Foundation
  - Charla Brown & Robert Burnett, Ruth H. Brown Foundation
  - Darcey Brown & Ken Helfenbein, Ruth H. Brown Foundation
  - David Dietel & Betsy Longenecker
  - Catherine Hansen-Stamp & Barry John Stamp
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  - William “Hank” Rutter & Susan Fralick

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  - Dr. Ken Sassen
  - The Sloan Law Firm, PLLC
  - Koel Thomae
  - Bill & Nancy Topper
  - Bonnie & Corby Ward
  - Dr. Henry Whiteside & Cathy Hilkstep

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  - Dr. Ken Sassen
  - The Sloan Law Firm, PLLC
  - Koel Thomae
  - Bill & Nancy Topper
  - Bonnie & Corby Ward
  - Dr. Henry Whiteside & Karol kumpfer
  - Cara Dohrenwend, Wildland Scapes, LLC

Thank you to our guest faculty for your commitment to educating our participants with meaningful content.

**Seminar Guest Faculty – 2018-19-20**

- Rose Atene Families
- Lyle Balenquah
- Arnold Clifford
- Sally Cole
- John Foster
- Tim Graham
- Kevin Jones
- Pat Kearney
- Lupita Mclanahan
- Don Montoya
- Greg Nunn
- Steven Simms
- Jonathan Till
- Joel Tuhy

Thank you to our guest faculty for your commitment to educating our participants with meaningful content.

**Staff – as of 12/31/2020**

- Alison Anders
- Jory Macomber
- Alex De Moor
- Dave Montgomery
- Brennan Gillis
- Kate Niederehe
- Michele Johnson
- Karla VanderZanden

Thank you to all former CFI staff members who worked to support our mission from 2018 through 2020.
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100+ Women Who Care
Bruce and Barbara Browning, Val A. Browning Foundation
Bureau of Land Management Hands on Lands
Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation
Grand County Community and Economic Development
Grand Conservation District
Grand County Education Foundation
Grand County Recreation Special Service District
The William H and Mattie Wattis Harris Foundation
Hemingway Foundation
National Environmental Education Foundation
Maki Foundation
Synergy/May Family Foundations
USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service
Utah Department of Workforce Services
Utah Division of Arts and Museums
Utah Division of Finance
Utah Office of Economic Development
Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation
U.S. Small Business Administration

Thank you to our Grantors for continued support of our mission.

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Stacy Allan
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Bryn Morgan
Deborah & Lee Moss
Alicia Mozian
Alison Nagy
Service Reports

2018  793  2,751  Total: 3,544
2019  559  3,193  Total: 3,752
2020  370  470  Total: 840

= Adult/Family Participant Days  = Student/Youth Participant Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>James &amp; Pat Natseos</th>
<th>Diana Nevins</th>
<th>Thomas W. Newton</th>
<th>Kate Niederehe</th>
<th>Mary Niederehe</th>
<th>Susan Noah-Shrewsberry</th>
<th>Greg Nunn</th>
<th>Xandra Odland</th>
<th>Patricia Overbeck</th>
<th>Miriam Padilla &amp; Isaias Alavez Martinez</th>
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<th>Patricia &amp; Charles Plumbly Family Foundation</th>
<th>Barbara Pederson</th>
<th>Diana Pedley</th>
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Financial Reports

2018
Fiscal year ending September 30th

- 2% Investments & Other
- 5% Fundraising

- 23% Programs
- 75% Contributions & Grants
- 16% Management
- 79% Program Services

- 2018 Revenue $1,488,223
- 2018 Expenses $857,010

2019
Fiscal year ending September 30th

- 4% Investments & Other
- 9% Fundraising

- 59% Programs
- 37% Contributions & Grants
- 25% Management
- 66% Program Services

- 2019 Revenue $641,191
- 2019 Expenses $925,642

2020
Fiscal year ending September 30th

- 5% Investments & Other
- 13% Fundraising

- 14% Programs
- 81% Contributions & Grants
- 16% Management
- 71% Program Services

- 2020 Revenue $591,946
- 2020 Expense $704,930

Figures are from IRS 990 tax returns, available on cfimoab.org/accountability.
Expense figures DO include depreciation.
CFI’s Federal Identification Number is 87-0418027.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all who support CFI!
Please let us know of any errors or omissions.
Canyonlands Field Institute is a 501(c)3 not for profit outdoor education organization established in 1984.

Mission:
CFI provides quality outdoor education on the Colorado Plateau to inspire care of wild places and renew the human spirit.

Vision:
A world where the people, wildlife, plants, and waters of the Colorado Plateau are healthy and vibrant.

Values:
Respect: For each other and for the natural world.
Reciprocity: Awareness of our interdependence.
Experiential Education: Empowering children and adults.
Teamwork: Creating tomorrow’s leaders.
Reverence: For the beauty and mystery of the Colorado Plateau.
Responsibility: For each other and for the planet.
Diversity: Is essential to understanding.
Stewardship: Living lightly upon the land.