2022 Report to Members

Connecting People and Nature: History, Education, Adventure

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

2022 was a year of growth where we developed important improvements in our guide training and in our inclusion, diversity, equity, and accessibility programs. We also created new community events and articulated an updated educational vision.

CFI continues to inspire care of wild spaces and renew the human spirit. As Donald Hicks writes: “Nature will teach us many lessons if we take the time to visit her classroom.”

Please read the updates in this report to learn more about our work over the past year. Thank you for your support!

Members are the oxygen of CFI.

Jory Macomber
Executive Director

Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility

Every month, our staff takes some time to talk about Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accessibility (IDEA). At the core of these conversations is the recognition that CFI operates in outdoor spaces that have traditionally excluded people of color, LGBTQIA+, and disabled communities. The hard work, vulnerability, and dedication of our staff shape new hiring practices, increase sense of belonging, and move us towards a new organizational structure of distributed leadership.

Currently, we are addressing barriers of entry into the Environmental Education world through two main internal initiatives: 1) creating culturally relevant opportunities for professional development within our administrative staff through Justice Outside and the Lawrence Hall of Science, and 2) increasing the accessibility of our First Year Naturalist Educator position by covering the full costs of the Wilderness First Responder and Swiftwater Rescue certifications, providing free housing in Moab, and creating a curriculum of professional development throughout the program.

Externally, we are increasing the number of programs that center on Indigenous youth, improving the accessibility of Professor Valley Field Camp, and dedicating funding to underwrite more Title I schools and local youth in our summer programs.

We are guided through this process by UC Berkeley’s Working Towards Racial Equity project. Insights from Indigenous educators, organizations like the National Ability Center and the MVMC, and tireless efforts from our staff; especially IDEA Coordinator Sara Hinck, all provide tools and accountability to navigate these challenging and uncomfortable conversations.

If you would like to know more about our IDEA initiatives, please read our annual diversity pledge on our Coyote’s Corner Blog.
Local Programs

CFI works hard to bring the Moab community together through outdoor educational programming for people of all ages in Moab. From summer camps to free community events, we have enjoyed connecting the people of Moab to the Colorado Plateau.

**Stewardship** – 2022 was a memorable and fun year of environmental stewardship and included trail work in the La Sals, trash pick-up along the Colorado River and Highway 128, restoration of the Mill Creek riparian zone with Grand County students, and invasive plant removal in Professor Valley. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped CFI give back to the human and ecological communities that sustain us.

**Summer Camps** – Building community among Moab youth through our subsidized summer camps is part of our mission. Whitewater Academy and Youth River Skills provide professional development to the young adults of our community.

**Adventure Day Camps** and **Explorer Base Camps** connect Moab youth to our backyard while creating new friendships and a deeper sense of place. Thanks to your membership, CFI can continue providing these enriching summer camp opportunities to local kids in 2023.

**New Program** – Our new, well-attended Mental Health Hikes were launched last year. At Oowah Lake, guest expert Elizabeth Bercel shared tools and resources on how to invest in our mental health. Our second Mental Health Hike explored Sand Flats Recreation Area, where we learned about self-care, communication skills, and practiced active listening. Both hikes featured discussions that inspired CFI to commit to prioritizing mental health in the outdoors. Keep an eye out for our schedule of community events in 2023.

**Thank you** – Our 2022 program partners helped enable CFI to create spaces to come together and build community:

- Grand County Public Schools
- Moab Astronomy Tours
- Moab Museum
- Moab Valley Multicultural Center
- Rim to Rim Restoration
- Seekhaven Family Crisis and Resource Center
- U.S. Forest Service
- Utah Department of Natural Resources
- Youth Garden Project

Local programs provide memorable outdoor education experiences for Moab-area youth.
Educational Vision Update

This was a busy season of learning outside. We connected with over 800 youth and 19 schools, and ran a total of 84 programs. Our Native Teen Guide in Training program has gained momentum, and we are grateful for our partnerships with Indigenous educators who make this program so impactful.

Last fall, the staff, board, and community stakeholders met to brainstorm the future of CFI’s educational programming. New goals were defined to provide empowering, accessible, and culturally relevant experiences to communities historically excluded from the outdoors. The next stage of CFI’s development will center on the following educational vision:

“Canyonlands Field Institute will unite self, people, and place by empowering youth and adults through transformative experiences with nature and one another on the Colorado Plateau, fostering increased climate change resilience, and bettering the health of our planet. We will serve as a hub for inclusive, holistic, community-centered, innovative, collaborative, place-based, joyful, and intergenerational outdoor education programming centering the cultural teachings of Indigenous communities, justice, diversity, equity, accessibility, and connectivity.”

As a community, CFI strives to continually evaluate and improve our curriculum and training program for educators, and are proud to inspire future leaders in outdoor education.

Adult Adventure Seminars

CFI led six seminars that explored the Colorado Plateau with inspiring guest experts. We took educational excursions to Ruby Horsethief Canyon, Cedar Mesa, Bears Ears, Range Creek, Book Cliffs, and the Moab area. About one of our trips, participant Glenna Hopper said:

“This trip was both educational, enlightening, and relaxing. I couldn’t have had a better time and it will stand out in my memories as one of the best group trips I’ve ever participated in.”

Adult Adventure Seminars for 2023 are filling quickly! Your membership includes a discount, so register soon on our website, or give us a call.
First Year Naturalist Educators

We are proud of our 2022 First Year Naturalist Educators (FYNE). Thank you to Alina Waldo, Heidi Shepard, Sasha Pereira, and Eliza Van Wetter for inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards. Soon, the 2022 class of FYNE will return as mentors and guides for the 2023 season.

“When I first started with CFI, I didn’t truly understand the power of the river. I had already fallen in love with the river after 5 summers of commercial guiding, as I was shaping a job around a recreation I personally enjoyed, however something was missing. CFI changed this for me. As soon as I found myself with a goal that centered around education instead of tour guiding, the whole experience changed. The river’s bends became a classroom full of potential for meaningful learning, growth, and immersive discovery.

This perspective shift gave me the opportunity to see the potential for student learning in any outdoor setting. The variety of new experiences and challenges I faced through the First Year Naturalist Educator program, allowed me to become the Naturalist Educator I am today.”

Eliza Van Wetter

Read more of Eliza’s reflections on our Coyote’s Corner Blog.

Site Updates

Professor Valley Field Camp (PVFC) is an outdoor classroom that brings students together. Numerous improvements were made to our facilities at PVFC during 2022 with support from the state of Utah, foundations, and several kind donors.

This year CFI expanded the reach of our ADA accessible pathways, added signage to our facilities, and continued with upgrades to our outdoor classroom spaces. In our welcome area, we celebrated the completion of a new bio-filtration toilet as well as a small shelter to protect arriving groups from the sun and rain. Thanks to these organizations and individuals that provided the means to bring our vision to life:

- Utah Office of Outdoor Recreation
- Hands on the Lands - Bureau of Land Management
- Dominion Energy Charitable Foundation
- George and Dolores Dore’ Eccles Foundation
- Palladium Foundation
- The William H. and Mattie Wattis Harris Foundation
- Dr. Linda Leckman
- Ms. Sandy Mailliard
- George Macomber Family Foundation
- Natural Resource Conservation Service - USDA
- Palladium Foundation
- Union Pacific Foundation
- Utah Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands
2022 Financial Statement
Fiscal year ending September 30th

Revenue: $967,772
Expenses: $877,028

- 59% Administration
- 28% Fundraising
- 13% Program
- 51% Contributions & Grants
- 12% Other

* Includes PPP loan forgiveness, sale of equipment, rental income. Expense figures include depreciation. CFI’s Federal Identification Number is 87-0418027.

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Thank you to our Board Officers and Trustees for your invaluable service and continued support of CFI’s mission.

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Contine Springer
Jonathan Till
Gry White
Valerye Woodruff
Nick Zachary

**Hopes and dreams** teambuilding activity, Native Teen Guide in Training.

**Thanks to the entire Team!**
Grants
City of Moab
David Calvin & Constance Page
Charitable Gift Fund
Enders Family Charitable Fund
Fanwood Foundation West
George Macomber Family
Charitable Gift Fund
Grace & Walter Bird Fund
Grand County Education Foundation
Grand County Recreation Special Service District
Hemmingway Foundation
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Maki Foundation
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Program Partners
Grand County Public Schools
Moab Astronomy Tours
Moab Museum
Moab Valley Multicultural Center
Rim to Rim Restoration
Seekhaven Family Crisis and Resource Center
U.S. Forest Service
Utah Department of Natural Resources
Youth Garden Project

Please let us know of any errors or omissions in our lists.

Our heartfelt thanks to all who support Canyonlands Field Institute.
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.

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