

Explore. Experience. Excel.

Karen and Nathan Sandler LEAD Programs

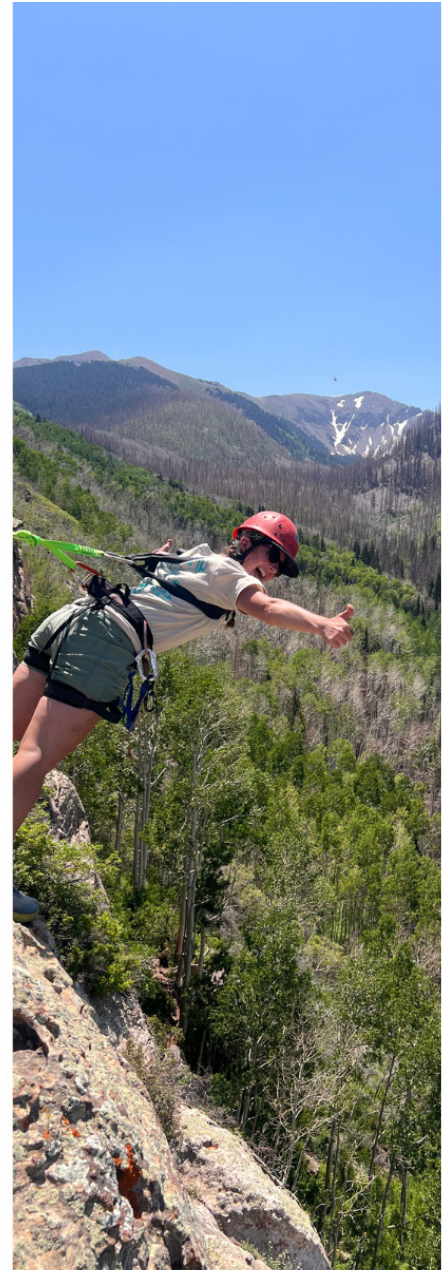
Leadership through Exploration, Action, and Discovery



2023-2024

Programs Update

buddy program





The Buddy Program empowers youth through mentoring experiences to achieve their full potential.

We are grateful for your support of the Buddy Program's Karen and Nathan Sandler LEAD Programs!

Our LEAD (Leadership through Exploration, Action, and Discovery) Programs help teens develop life skills while exploring hands-on activities alongside peers and caring adults. LEAD serves teens from Aspen to Glenwood Springs, and Rifle in a group setting where they achieve personal growth while supporting their peers to do the same. We prioritize serving youth who could benefit from extra support in their homes, communities, or school environments.

During the 2023-2024 school year, the LEAD Program served 171 unduplicated students in grades 6-12 with a combined total of **19,022** contact hours!

These students participated in a wide variety of programmatic offerings:

- Outdoor Leadership served a total of 122 students:
- Aspen Middle School, in its sixth year, enrolled 17 participants
- Basalt Middle School, in its eighth year, had 12 participants
- Basalt High School, in its ninth school year, enrolled 8 students
- Carbondale Middle School, in its eleventh year, had 14 participants
- Glenwood Springs Middle School, in its second year, had 14 participants
- Glenwood Springs High School, is in its first year, had 12 participants
- Riverview School, is in its first year, had 10 participants
- Rifle High School, in its sixth year, had 13 students
- Rifle Middle School, in its sixth year, had 12 participants
- Roaring Fork High School, in its eleventh school-year, enrolled 10 students
- Hosted 57 participants for monthly activities including a Youth Camp reunion, an evening of bowling, a Winter Celebration, ice skating, hiking, and swimming.
- Our annual Youth Camp in Moab, Utah, in June served 29 campers entering grades 9-12
- Our annual Dream Day Camp served 28 campers entering grades 6-8 in the Roaring Fork Valley in July
- 50 youth participated in more than one LEAD program

Without your generosity, these accomplishments would not be possible.

Programmatic Partners include: 10th Mountain Division Hut Association, Aspen Center for Environmental Studies, Aspen Middle School, Aspen School District, Aspen Skiing Company, Basalt Middle School, Basalt High School, BLM Moab, Carbondale Arts, Carbondale Middle School, Colorado Mountain College, Desert Mountain Medicine, EcoFlight, 5Point Film Festival, Garfield County Outdoors, Garfield Re-2 School District, Glenwood Springs High School, Glenwood Springs Middle School, Navtec, Rifle High School, Rifle Middle School, Riverview School Roaring Fork High School, Roaring Fork, Outdoor Volunteers, Roaring Fork School District, Town of Basalt; Basalt Pool, USFS Manti-La Sal, Whitewater Rafting LLC, and Wilderness Workshop.

Contributions equaled over \$65,000 combined toward these programs from individuals: Karen and Nathan Sandler, Jessica and John Fullerton, Tracy and King Grant

Additional grants for LEAD Programs totaled over \$79,500: Colorado Health Foundation, Western Colorado Community Foundation, Jonathan D and Mark C. Lewis Foundation, Aspen Community Foundation, Clough Family Foundation, Colorado Office of the State Controller, Rifle Community Foundation, Basalt Education Foundation

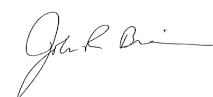
Thank you for your financial leadership within our LEAD programs. We hope that the enclosed materials give you a small glimpse into the incredible impact you make on the lives of the students we serve.

These moments of growth, skills gained for lifelong learning, and unforgettable memories would not be possible without your generosity.

Warm regards,



Ali Welch
Development Director



John Brasier
LEAD Program Director

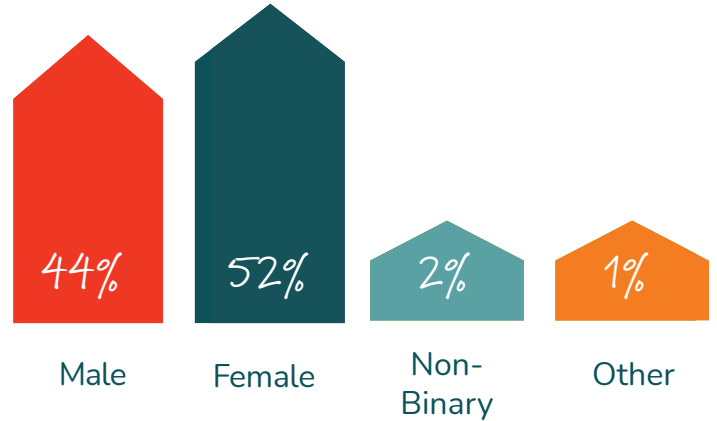
LEAD Snapshot

226 ➤ Total Students 


171 ➤ Unduplicated Students

50 ➤ Youth participated in more than one LEAD Program

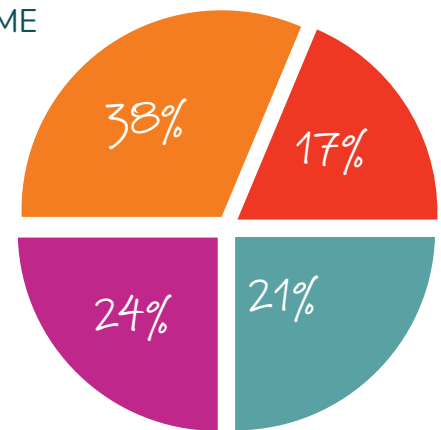
DEMOGRAPHICS



ATTENDANCE FROM SCHOOLS

Students	Schools	
8%	Aspen High School	
9%	Aspen Middle School	
13%	Basalt High School	
2%	Basalt Middle School	
1%	Bridges High School	
10%	Carbondale Middle School	
12%	Glenwood Springs High School	
9%	Glenwood Springs Middle School	
1%	Other	
13%	Rifle High School	
2%	Rifle Middle School	
5%	Riverview School	
14%	Roaring Fork High School	

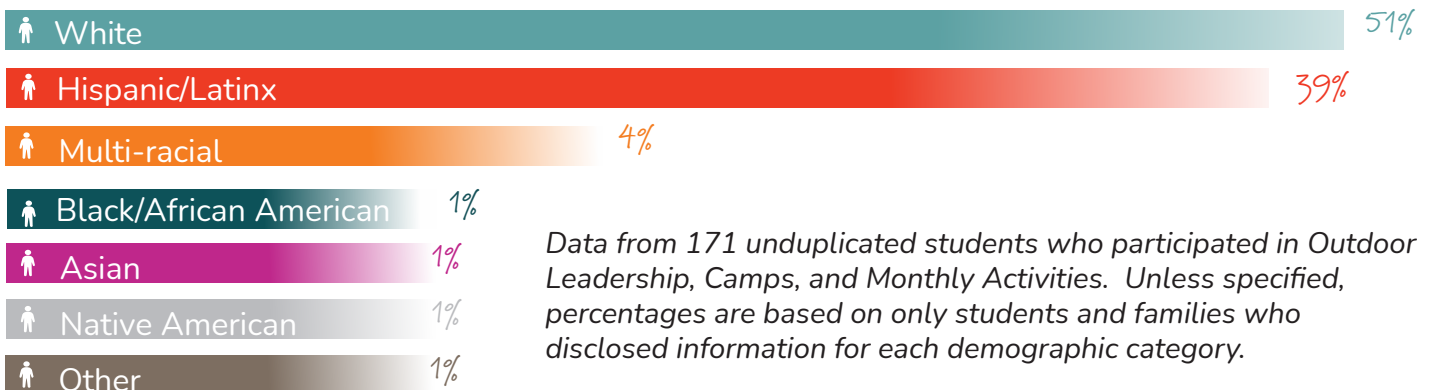
INCOME



** The self-sufficiency wage for a family of four in Pitkin County is \$72,408 – Colorado Center on Law and Policy

- Under \$25,000 - 17%
- \$25,000 - \$50,000 - 24%
- \$50,001 - \$75,000 - 21%
- \$75,001 and above - 38%

RACE/ETHNICITY



Data from 171 unduplicated students who participated in Outdoor Leadership, Camps, and Monthly Activities. Unless specified, percentages are based on only students and families who disclosed information for each demographic category.

LEAD serves youth through four components



Outdoor Leadership

Offered for the last 11 years, Outdoor Leadership is our signature LEAD program. It consists of a high school class designed, taught, and funded by the Buddy Program. In 2023-2024 we offered programming at four high schools-Basalt, Roaring Fork, Glenwood Springs, and Rifle, and six middle schools - Basalt, Carbondale, Aspen Riverview in, Glenwood Springs, Riverview and Rifle.



Youth Camp

Coordinated by the Buddy Program since 2010, Youth Camp gives teens the chance to spend 5 days camping in the wilderness of Moab, UT. They challenge their physical limits through hiking, canyoneering, rafting, rock climbing, and other adventurous activities. In the evenings around the campfire, they focus on emotional growth, sharing stories, dreams, and struggles while building lasting peer connections.



Dream Day Camp

Dream Day Camp, also in existence since 2010, provides middle school youth the opportunity to experience hands-on and team building activities for 5 days in late summer, including an overnight camp-out. Activities include arts, outdoor, and service adventures, and help prepare students to enroll in Youth Camp in high school.



Monthly Activities

Throughout the year, monthly activities and informal check-ins with our LEAD program staff enable students in grades 6 - 12 to stay in touch with their peers and continue to expand their horizons. Activities include art workshops, camp reunions, snowshoeing, hiking, and other fun and educational pursuits.

Outdoor Leadership

Outdoor Leadership, in its eleventh year of operation, served a total of 122 students at 10 schools. Our Outdoor Leadership curriculum is planned and taught by Buddy Program staff members.

Students develop skills for successful travel and exploration in the outdoors and give back to and connect with their community through service projects. They develop teamwork, communication, decision-making, leadership, and planning skills applied in and out of the classroom. At the high schools, where students earn high school Physical Education credit and Colorado Mountain College Outdoor Education credit for class participation, topics include Leave No Trace, Wilderness First Aid, trip planning, public lands management, map and compass use, group dynamics, and community service project development and execution.



Some highlights from Outdoor Leadership in 2023-2024:

At the High School level:

- We continued offering Outdoor Leadership at Basalt, Roaring Fork, and Rifle High Schools. We launched Outdoor Leadership at Glenwood Springs High School for the first time!
- Students enrolled in year-long classes participated in 300 hours of classroom learning and backcountry trips, including backpacking, trips to Fruita, Moab, and Dominguez Escalante, rafting, canyoneering, rock climbing, snowshoeing, hiking, and service projects.
- 38 high schoolers earned Colorado Mountain College credits for the courses of Non-Technical Mountaineering and Mountain Orientation.




At the Middle School level:



- We continued offering Outdoor Leadership at Aspen, Basalt, Carbondale, Glenwood Springs, and Rifle Middle Schools. We launched Outdoor Leadership at Riverview School for the first time!
- Participants took 3-day trips to the Colorado National Monument, Dinosaur National Monument, Moab, Sylvan Lake State Park, and Shrine Mountain Inn (backcountry hut).

LEAD Outdoor Leadership Evaluation Data



Outdoor Leadership students self-assess personal growth and improvement in relation to their participation in the LEAD Outdoor Leadership Program. The following data indicates the percentage of students self-identifying improvement in each category:

 Life Skill	 Percentage of High School Students Identifying Improvement	 Percentage of Middle School Students Identifying Improvement
Teamwork	100%	87%
Communications with students	94%	76%
Communications with adults	90%	76%
Decision making	81%	71%
Goal setting	74%	64%
Leadership	90%	80%
Confidence	84%	76%
Trust	84%	78%

 Hard Skill	 Percentage of High School Students Identifying Understanding
Leave no trace ethics	87%
Outdoor travel safety	90%
Outdoor planning logistics	97%
Winter backcountry travel	84%
Leadership and personal growth	94%
Public lands management	74%
Positive impact on community through service	62%
Map and compass reading	77%



Youth Camp

Youth Camp is perhaps the program our high school-aged youth anticipate the most each year. For 5 days each June, a staff of Buddy Program camp counselors and climbing guides head to the La Sal Mountains outside of Moab, Utah, with students entering grades 9-12. Our camp family spends their days rock climbing, canyoneering and rappelling, rafting the Colorado River, hiking, building a respectful camp community, and creating strong bonds and memories.

For our campers, Youth Camp is:

- A chance to make new friends and build peer networks from Aspen to Carbondale
- A healthy and constructive break from the pressures of everyday teen life at home and a place where they can be themselves

- A safe place to expand their individual comfort zones and try new things, taking the lessons learned with them to apply at home and school
- A time to set goals and work on achieving them
- An opportunity for our Peer Counselors (returning campers who help foster a strong camp community and give back) to gain leadership skills
- An environment where youth are surrounded by encouraging peers and positive adult role models

In 2024...

29 Buddy Program youth from Aspen to Rifle participated in our annual Moab Youth Camp for 5 days and 4 nights.

Challenges were met, fears were faced, friendships were formed, and memories were made!



Dream Day Camp

Dream Day Camp takes place annually in the Roaring Fork Valley in August, serving youth entering grades 6 – 8. This camp is one of the entry points into LEAD for new, young participants, and graduates frequently go on to Youth Camp upon completion.



At Dream Day Camp campers:

- Make new friends their age and build peer networks from Aspen to Carbondale
- Explore the amazing natural resources of the Roaring Fork Valley through activities such as art projects, rafting, service projects, hiking, and camping
- Build life skills such as communication, teamwork, positive attitude, participation, and trust
- Participate in a respectful camp community for a week during late July – a great way to re-engage in a structured environment prior to school starting, and a break from summer when many participants lack activities to keep themselves constructively busy

In 2024...

Youth experienced everything from arts and crafts with Carbondale Arts, to outdoor adventures with Elk Mountain Expeditions, the ropes course at Colorado Mountain College, fishing with the Roaring Fork Conservancy, and swimming at the Basalt pool. Additionally, the group had the opportunity to engage in meaningful community service with Roaring Fork Volunteers.

Monthly Activities and school visits help us keep in touch with our summer program participants throughout the school year:



LEAD

Leadership through Exploration, Action, and Discovery

EXPLORE. EXPERIENCE. EXCEL



WANT TO SIGN UP?

Students must have their own transportation to and from the program location.

For more information or to sign up, please contact

John

john@buddyprogram.org
970.205.9064

Or visit the Buddy Program at our offices in Aspen (Red Brick Center for the Arts) or Carbondale (3rd Street Center).

These programs are provided at no cost to participants.

Karen and Nathan Sandler LEAD Programs
Experiential Group Mentoring for students in grades 6-12

EVENTS

YOUTH CAMP REUNION - OCTOBER 3

Did you attend Moab Youth Camp with us this past summer? This evening is just for you! We will look at photos, share camp memories, eat dinner together, and catch up with friends.
Wednesday, October 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Third Street Center. 502 S. Third St, Carbondale, CO in the Calaway Room.

THE ART BASE! - NOVEMBER 8

Join your friends in our LEAD program for an evening of tapping into your creative side! Dinner will be served afterwards. Space is limited so RSVP ASAP!
Thursday, November 8th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Basalt Art Base located at 99 Midland Spur, Basalt, CO

WINTER CELEBRATION PARTY! - DECEMBER 4

Reunite with friends from Day Dream Camp, Moab Youth Camp, and Outdoor Leadership while participating in some fun winter traditions! We will have wintry treats and participate in a White Elephant Gift Exchange. For the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift- the gift should be something you do not spend money on, and should be something you think no one wants or is silly and funny but school/ Buddy Program appropriate!
Tuesday, December 4 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Third Street Center. 502 S. Third St, Carbondale, CO in the Calaway Room.



Thank You!

These experiences, made possible by supporters like YOU, offer youth the chance to explore the outdoors, challenge themselves, and grow in confidence.

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