



FRIENDS OF
CAMP COLTON

Annual Report | 2020-2021

Tradition and Innovation at Camp Colton

The COVID-19 pandemic changed nearly every facet of life, including how kids experience Camp Colton, but access to nature and social interaction was more important than ever for their mental wellness and continued growth.

Your generosity made new initiatives possible. We got creative, connecting with students in innovative ways, including our week-long STEM Environmental Enrichment and Discovery (SEED) Summer Experience, launched in June 2021. This program gave 35 teacher-nominated students entering seventh or eighth grade the opportunity to research local ecology, make friends and have fun during six days and five nights at Camp.

/// *At Camp Colton, I made new friends and memories, learned new things every day and saw things that I wouldn't normally see.* ///

– Ava, SEED Summer Experience 2021

Hiring a new Camp Colton Program Coordinator will make our programs even more exceptional and adaptable to ever-changing needs. As the world begins to re-open, we're excited to help even more kids from across Northern Arizona experience the wonders of Camp Colton.



Kids explore Northern Arizona's lush woodlands, hurdling over fallen aspen logs



Students in the SEED Program investigate soil quality in a burned section of the forest



Looking Back on 50 Incredible Years

Since 1971, Camp Colton has welcomed more than 44,000 students to Flagstaff's beautiful Hart Prairie. Going to camp has become a beloved community tradition and rite of passage. For the past 10 years, we have helped expand key programming, improve the camp experience and reach more children. Friends of Camp Colton's work is vital to ensuring future generations can enjoy Camp Colton. Thank you for being a Friend of Camp!



A group of students from the 1980s was immersed in an open-air lesson



Sometimes the best way to learn about wildlife is to imitate it, as this student from the mid-90s demonstrated

“I remember spending time journaling in the woods [at Camp Colton]. It was a first-time experience for me to sit down alone and think deeply about what I was learning. Today, when I'm trying to solve a problem or work through a difficult situation, I use the skills I learned all those years ago to write down my thoughts and impressions.”

— David Abeyta, '70s Camp Colton Alumnus

To honor 50 years of connecting Northern Arizona children with nature, Friends of Camp Colton launched a multi-faceted anniversary campaign reflecting on the progress we've made over the years, showcasing alumni stories and sharing how Camp Colton is an irreplaceable part of Flagstaff's history and culture.

- **Camp Colton Week:** The City of Flagstaff will declare Aug. 23 to 27 “Camp Colton Week.” We have numerous activities planned to drive more awareness and support.
- **Alumni Stories:** We are sharing Camp Colton alumni's most treasured memories of camp, spotlighting the indelible impression Camp Colton had on students from the 1970s to the 2010s.

“Camp is a lifechanging experience for any child! They learn so much about themselves and the world around them and it's an essential step on the way to becoming a well-rounded adult who cares about others and the environment. Northern Arizona's youth are lucky to have Camp Colton and I look forward to seeing its continued success for another 50 years!”

— Becky Daggett, Flagstaff Vice Mayor

2020-2021 Session Highlights

School Year

- 235 second graders from 3 schools learned about native plants and seeds
- 390 eighth graders from 2 local schools learned about the environmental impacts of uranium mining on the Navajo Nation
- 356 sixth graders explored Camp through day expeditions

Summer

- 35 middle school students participated in the new STEM Environmental Enrichment and Discovery (SEED) Summer Experience
- 37 students experienced the traditional 4-day, 3-night program at Camp



Students learn how to use an atlatl from Jason Nez, a fire archaeologist who works at Grand Canyon National Park



Northern Arizona University Professor Tad Theimer gives a sunset lecture on local animals



Reflecting on what they've learned, students journal at Viet Springs



Students and teachers hike to a research site

By the Numbers



Total Number of Students Reached:
1,053



Virtually:
625



Day Trips:
356



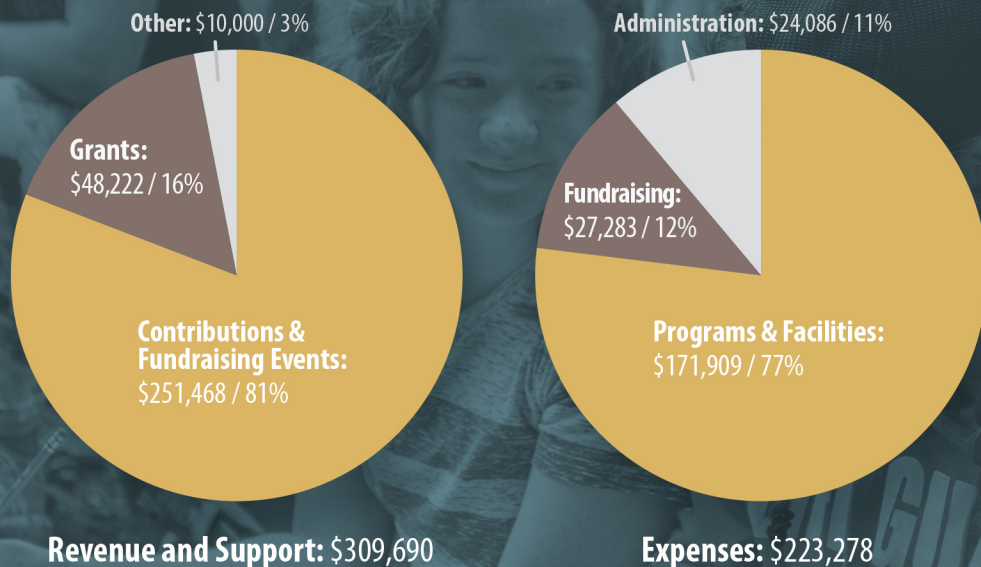
Residential Programs:
72



Student Tuition:
\$0

Financial Snapshot

Note: Financial reports will be audited in October 2021. Majority of excess income is from higher-than-anticipated returns from our endowment fund.



Thank You to Our Major Supporters and Partners



Stone Soup Fund

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Flagstaff Neurosurgery

Arizona Snowbowl

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