



FRIENDS OF
CAMP COLTON

Creating *Campfire Memories*

The Next **50 Years**
of Camp Colton



Camp Colton is a treasured rite of passage for local children. Kids benefit from time in nature, connecting with each other and their environment, and disconnecting from technology. We believe that Camp programs are vital for the health of our children and our planet.

For Camp Colton to continue, the facilities need a significant upgrade. Most Camp buildings remain in their original state, dating back more than 50 years. More importantly, Camp programs are at capacity, and we are unable to meet increasing demand. In this day and age, schools are expected to address a wide range of student needs and this requires facilities that are up to the task.

The nonprofit Friends of Camp Colton exists to support Camp Colton. For the past several years, we have invested in a collaborative and community-based master planning process to create a site plan that will support existing and new programs. The ultimate goal of this plan is to ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to live, learn, and play at Camp.

Now, Friends of Camp Colton is launching a capital campaign to put this plan into action. You're invited to read on to learn more about our efforts to revitalize Camp facilities and how to get involved. We hope you will be a part of creating campfire memories for the next 50 years for more than 50,000 kids.

“Camp Colton is a wonderful place. We learned new things and made new friends. After Camp, I was a new person. I respected wildlife more than ever and I had more confidence in myself.”

—AVERY, 6TH GRADE CAM



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History of Camp Colton

Teachers at Flagstaff Unified School District (FUSD) created Project LIFE (Life in the Flagstaff Environment) in 1971 to introduce children to their local environment. From 1971-1975, FUSD's Project LIFE took place at Mormon Lake. In 1976, Dick and Jean Wilson donated a 33-acre off-grid property, surrounded by the Coconino National Forest, to FUSD for the purpose of outdoor education. Upon receiving the Camp property from the Wilsons, FUSD renamed Project LIFE "Camp Colton."



Why Camp Colton?

Camp Colton is celebrating more than 50 years of discovery, exploration, and adventure. Through Camp programs, kids are immersed in nature and inspired to learn about themselves and their world. Operated by Flagstaff Unified School District in partnership with Friends of Camp Colton, this off-grid residential outdoor environmental education center on the slopes of the San Francisco Peaks is an integral part of what it means to grow up in our community.

Although Flagstaff and the surrounding areas have plentiful outdoor activities, not every child has the opportunity to get outside and go camping. For the last five decades, the residential 6th grade program has introduced more than 47,000 students to the wonders of the natural world. For many, this is their first time camping, sleeping away from home, and practicing self-reliance. Campers continuously engage with their environment and each other and ultimately grow in confidence while developing an affinity for nature.

Camp Colton is committed to educating the next generation of environmental stewards. As Arizona and the world face growing

challenges, it is essential that our community members have the skills to make decisions about water use, forest management, climate change, and the preservation of natural places. Building STEM understandings and environmental literacy is the heart of all educational programs at Camp.



Why Camp Colton?

Place-based and hands-on learning inspires students to discover their world and extends into the classroom and, often, throughout the rest of their lives.

“The Camp Colton trip was by far my favorite middle school experience. It took me out of my comfort zone and made me feel connected with nature in a way that I hadn’t been before. I learned tons of new information and made friends with people I didn’t think I would ever become friends with. Camp is an experience that I will remember for a lifetime.”

—MOLLEIGH, 2012 CAMP ALUMNA



At Camp Colton, students learn about local environmental issues related to ecology, forest health, wildfire ecology, hydrology, geology, and more. First and 2nd graders learn about drought and the power of the sun through day expeditions, and 6th graders explore ecology, natural water sources, and forest health through the lens of climate change.

Camp Colton acknowledges the sacred nature of the space where we learn, teach, and build community. Stewarded by Indigenous people from time immemorial, this land is revered by more than 14 tribes including Diné, Hopi, Zuni, Tewa, Hualapai, Havasupai, Yavapai-Apache, Yavapai-Prescott, Tonto Apache, White Mountain Apache, San Carlos Apache, San Juan Southern Paiute, Fort McDowell Mohave Apache, and Acoma. We extend our respect to the past, present, and emerging tribal members. Being at Camp is a special experience, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to connect with nature and each other on this sacred land. More than 1,000 kids learn, play, explore, and build positive relationships at Camp each year.

Why Camp Colton?

In the summer, 7th and 8th graders lead their own research projects through the weeklong STEM Environmental Enrichment and Discovery Experience (SEED) and 4th and 5th graders discover local history, geology, and ecology through the Colton Adventure Camp.

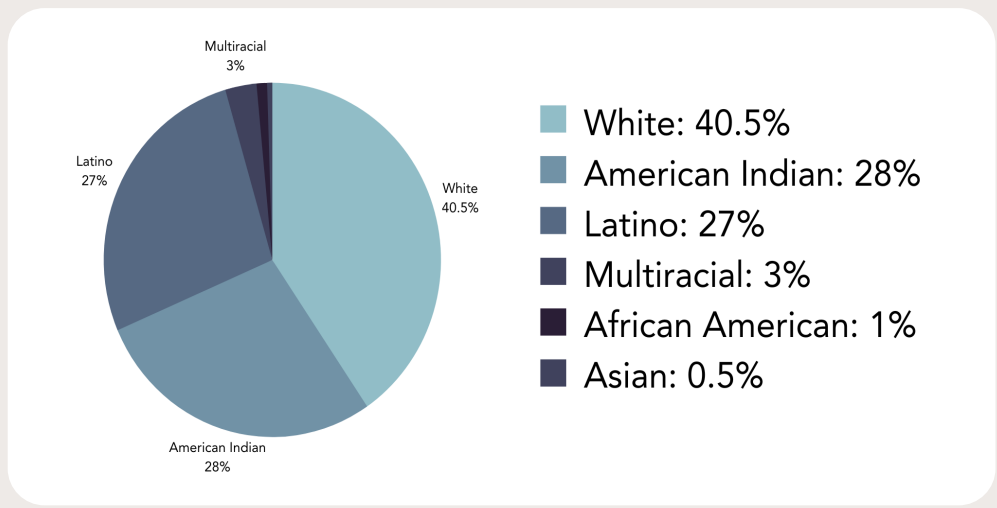
By engaging in real-world problem solving, students are primed to pursue environmental careers and become actively engaged citizens. Now more than ever, our children need opportunities to connect with nature and understand their place in the world.

“My time at Camp influenced my interests throughout school and into adulthood. I just got so curious about nature, in learning how all of earth’s biological systems work together and in understanding how we, as humans, impact the natural environment.”

—DAVID, 1977 CAMP ALUMNUS



Programs at Camp Colton strive to be inclusive and accessible to all students, including those with diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds and special needs. Data varies from year to year but we typically serve more than 1,200 students and more than 50% qualify for free and reduced lunch.



What is the status of Camp Colton today?



Camp Colton facilities are outdated and lack capacity. Our community has grown, and Camp programs are in more demand than ever. During the school year, the available weeks for our residential 6th grade program are full and we are forced to turn away interested schools.

Current Structures and Limitations

- **The Wilson Lodge**

- › Kitchen: Meals are cooked on a wood-burning stove. Finding a cook to prepare three meals a day for more than 100 students, staff, and teachers with a myriad of dietary restrictions in an antiquated space is difficult.
- › Interior space: This historic lodge seats around 60 people and many weeks have more than 100 students in attendance. Due to the lack of interior space, kids must rotate through indoor activities like eating and dancing.

- **Bathhouses**

- › The current bathhouses are in a constant state of disrepair. Not only are they inadequate for the number of students at Camp each week but the plumbing, including sinks, showers, and toilets, and the structures themselves require daily attention.



- **Platform tents and cabins**

- › Most students sleep in canvas platform tents. In addition to the extensive hours required to take the tents down and put them back up each season, the canvas does not hold up in the elements. Camp closes for the season around the end of September because it becomes too cold for students to sleep in the tents.
- › The only major addition to the historic Camp property is two accessible student cabins. These cabins make the Camp experience possible for more kids and have minimal upkeep and maintenance.
- › Teachers and staff also sleep in tents. There are no dedicated structures for staff and teacher housing.

- **Site Systems**

- › This site is completely off-grid and the existing systems are insufficient for the current number of students. The water, renewable energy, and septic systems are all old, struggling, and inadequate.



Camp Colton is overdue for a major building and systems update. Without facilities with improved functionality, we will not be able to continue to provide the current Camp experience.

What is the future vision for Camp Colton?

To ensure that existing programs flourish and new programs can take root, Camp Colton needs updated facilities. We envision spaces that will inspire students to better understand their world and their place in it. By supporting significant accessibility and sustainability improvements, kids will live together and have countless opportunities to learn and grow. The images below are conceptual and do not represent the final designs.

Investments and Upgrades

- Lodge with a functional kitchen, enough space for all students and staff to gather inside at once, nurse's office, and staff sleeping quarters
 - › Remodel the existing Wilson Lodge for 1st and 2nd grade day expeditions



- Bathhouse with personal privacy options and an emphasis on water conservation
 - › Remove existing bathhouses
- Sleeping cabins for students and teachers, having cabins will extend the fall season and make it possible to serve 20% more Campers
 - › Keep existing accessible cabins and remove platform tents

What is the future vision for Camp Colton?

- Upgraded and teachable site systems including water, renewable energy, septic system, recycling, and food preparation, so that students can experience and understand sustainable living
- Outdoor Discovery Areas
 - › Dedicated astronomy, campfire, and nighttime activity area
 - › Trail system that connects Camp Colton to the Coconino National Forest to explore the wonders of Hart Prairie
 - › Habitat restoration areas, including an aspen regeneration zone
 - › Preservation of existing forestry plots that support forest health education
 - › Archery area, low ropes course, boomball (volleyball) courts, nature play area (existing), and firepits





Total Project Cost: \$10 Million

Flagstaff Unified School District and Friends of Camp Colton are partnering to realize this project. Funding for Phase 1 is secured with \$3 million coming through Friends and \$3.7 million from the FUSD school bond and other district sources. For the next two phases, Friends is currently raising \$2 million with \$2 million coming from the school bond.

Phase 1 - Summer 2024: \$6.7 Million (Fully Funded)

- New Lodge: \$4 million
- Entry and Drop-Off Area: \$730,000
- Sustainable Utilities & Safety Systems Including Water, Septic System, Alternative Energy, and Fire Suppression: \$1.97 million

Phase 2 - Summer 2026: \$3 Million

- Bathhouse: \$1.25 million
- Student and Teacher Cabins: \$1.75 million

Phase 3 - Summer 2028: \$1 Million

- Remodel the Wilson Lodge: \$550,000
- Storage Shed: \$100,000
- Astronomy / Evening Activity Area: \$200,000

How can you be a part of the future of Camp Colton?



Join us in creating the next chapter for Camp Colton. You can ensure the lasting legacy of this treasured tradition by supporting the capital campaign. Help us reach more students, make Camp Colton more accessible and inclusive, and expand our programs.

You make the magic of Camp Colton possible for the kids of our community, now and for the next 50 years.

Naming and Recognition Opportunities

Naming Opportunity

The New Lodge - Committed

~~\$2--\$3 million~~

Recognition Opportunities

Dining & Community Hall

\$500,000

Outdoor Veranda

\$250,000

Bathhouse

\$200,000

Kitchen

\$100,000

Welcome Ramada - Committed

~~\$100,000~~

Astronomy Pavilion & Amphitheater

\$100,000

Nature Play Area

\$50,000

Archery Range

\$50,000

Ropes Course

\$50,000

Fire ring

\$25,000

Outdoor Classrooms - One remaining

\$25,000

Nurse's Office

\$25,000

Solar Panel Installations - One remaining

\$25,000

Student & Teacher Cabins

\$25,000

Trails

\$10,000

Benches & Tables

\$5,000

Recognition opportunities are suggestions and subject to change. Donors and supporting organizations may have customized recognition based on their commitment to Camp Colton.



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Friends of Camp Colton

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Friends of Camp Colton is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established in 2001 to support the educational mission and financial sustainability of Camp Colton. For the past 22 years, Friends of Camp Colton has expanded key programming to non-FUSD schools from across Northern Arizona, invested in improving the Camp experience, and reached more children through new programs. Friends of Camp Colton is financially stable and self-sufficient and annually raises funds for Camp through grants, foundations, the GORE-TEX Kahtoola Uphill race, annual appeal, and school tax credit campaign. This strategic partnership and the support of our community ensures that Camp will thrive for another 50 years and beyond.



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