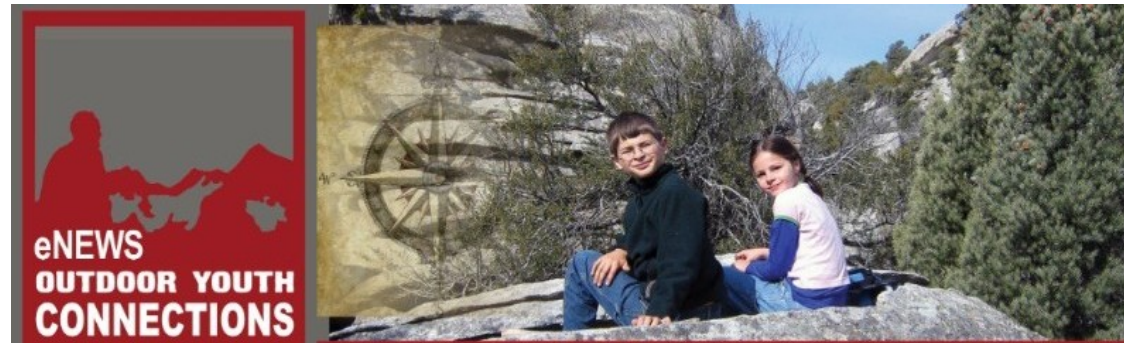


Outdoor Youth Connections 2017 Annual Report

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2017 Annual Report

The key to our success in 2017 was the wonderful collaboration with our community partners! With the YMCA Casino Road Community Center, we enjoyed guiding grade-schoolers on a simulated campout as they pitched tents, searched for “hidden treasures” by GPS collecting litter enroute, and prepared backpacking meals for their afternoon snacks. We extend a big thanks to volunteers from the Everett Mountaineers, who joined the adventure, helping us support local youth explore the outdoors.



We are also thrilled to report that we initiated our Shoreline Exploration Program with the Snohomish County Juvenile Court where we discussed the value of shorelines in our community, careers associated with shorelines, and simply enjoyed time on the beach in efforts to broaden the concept of community and inspire the youth for success.

Making a Difference

Over our first ten years, annual galas proved to be a disappointing fundraising source for us. While wonderful for connecting with our friends and celebrating our successes, the financial benefits did not justify the pre-occupation of Board time for a large part the year. Therefore, we are currently exploring more sustainable approaches to

engage the greater community with our mission for connecting youth with nature, truly catapulting all to greater success!

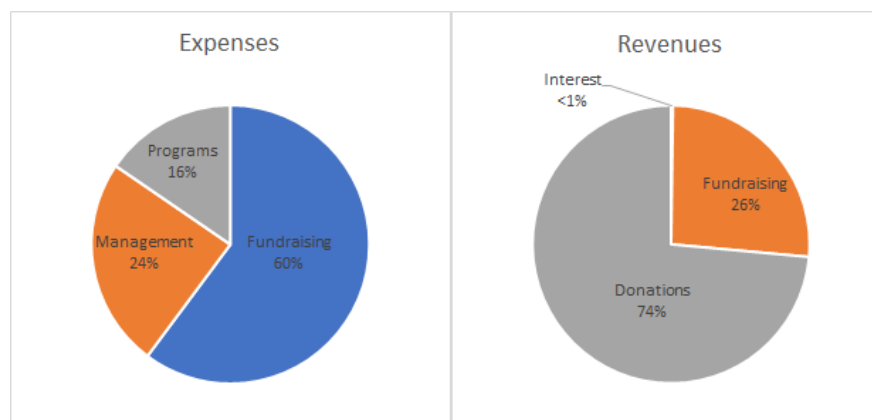
Eliminating our major fundraiser freed us to rethink our mission and to better align our programs with a vision that focuses more direct involvement with local youth activities and volunteer resources. We plan to formally update our mission statement in 2018, as well as research new internal systems and new ways of connecting with communities. We are very excited about the support and knowledge we can share with local organizations about the demonstrative benefits of outdoor experiences for kids.



Thanks to our partnership with the Snohomish County Juvenile Court, youth enjoyed shoreline exploration while they considered career possibilities.

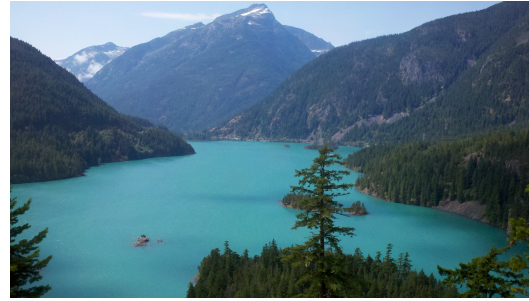
Financial Report

2017 was a year of re-envisioning for Outdoor Youth Connections and our second year in a row without a large annual fundraiser. As a result, our management and fundraising costs were higher than usual as a percent of revenue. We continue to strive for a more reliable fundraising model, hoping to improve this metric in years to come. Anticipating lower revenues, we minimized program costs by relying on volunteers and deferring scholarship outlays. We intend on resuming scholarship grants as revenues permit.



We connected with the Giving Tuesday Campaign and thankfully received a few end-of-year donations to supplement funding from private donations and federated campaigns. We explored grant writing to pursue funds and now recognize we have much to learn to be more effective in years to come.

Outdoor Youth Connections is an all-volunteer organization where we believe that youth are better connected to the earth, themselves, and one-another by meaningful experiences in the natural outdoors.



Outdoor Youth Connections connects youth with the opportunities and means to explore, study, and preserve the natural outdoors promoting personal growth and environmental consciousness.



OYC Board of Directors

Sandra Ingalls
Dennis Miller
David Kidd
Jill Thorton
Marina Ball

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November 4, 2018 2017 Annual Report

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