

Big Sky Youth Empowerment provides opportunities for vulnerable teenagers in the Gallatin Valley to experience success and become contributing members of our community through group mentorship and experiential adventures.

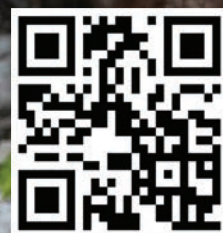


Get Outside. Grow Inside.

BIG SKY YOUTH EMPOWERMENT Annual Report 2022

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learn more and support



Dear BYEP Community,

Since joining Big Sky Youth Empowerment (BYEP) as the new Executive Director in July 2022, what stands out to me most is the genuine passion our teens have for BYEP. During programs each weekday from 4-7pm, I often hear participants talking about the connections they have with each other and their mentors — their trust, their gratitude, and their love for each other. They look forward to their weekly BYEP workshops and adventures and think of the BYEP community as a second family.

As an organization, 2022 was a year of new beginnings and transitions. Our Board President John DiCola volunteered to serve as BYEP's Interim Executive Director for seven months. He provided steady, thoughtful leadership and demonstrated his belief in BYEP as a critical program for teens. In early summer, a talented past BYEP Program Manager, Kayla Bradley, returned as our new Program Director after completing her graduate work in marriage and family therapy (MFT). And finally, I joined BYEP as the Executive Director after working for 8.5 years as the CEO of Greater Gallatin United Way, where I served K-8th grade youth in afterschool programming.

With every change there is an opportunity for growth. In 2022 we provided 41,399 hours of programming for teens, the most hours we've ever offered in a year! We are continuing to thrive in our deep relationships with adventure partners and organizations that make our work possible. We are gaining a deeper understanding of what our youth need, where they struggle, and how we can support them better through crises.

I deeply appreciate the gifts of those who came before me: from our founder Pete MacFadyen's vision and ongoing guidance, to our past and current dedicated board members, volunteer mentors, staff team, and hundreds of generous donors. Collectively, we are able to offer BYEP as an amazing program to support teens in our community.

BYEP is a program in which all teens are welcome. It is a community they co-create and can show up to as their most authentic selves. Teens individually grow and benefit from BYEP, and they also grow in community and connection. Hearing from our community's youth how important BYEP is for them, even life-saving for many, I am beyond grateful that you and so many others in our community care about these incredible young people. Thank you for your life-changing support!

Warmly,



DANICA JAMISON
Executive Director

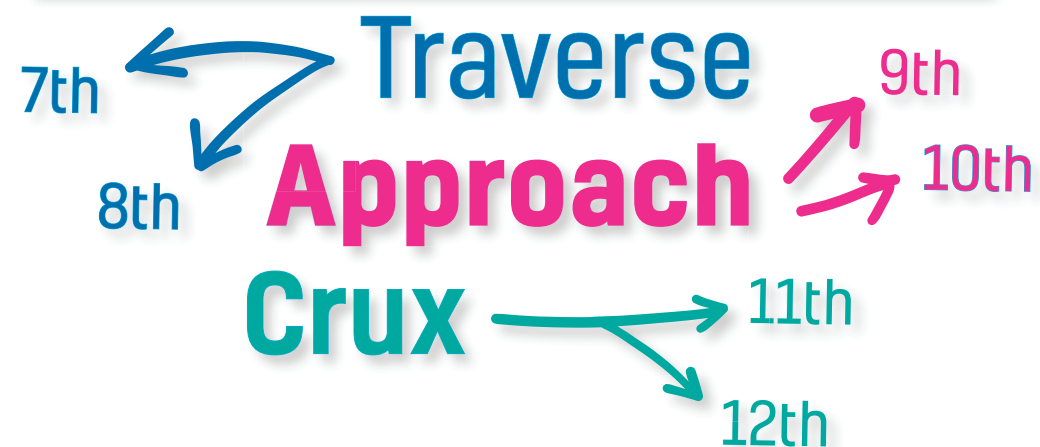


“ We are gaining a deeper understanding of what our youth need, where they struggle, and how we can support them better through crises.”

148 teens

participated in BYEP's program in 2022

program groups by grade



59 mentors

and tutors volunteered

10,914 hours

in 2022

Financials

weekday workshops + weekend adventures



16,046
program hours offered
in winter

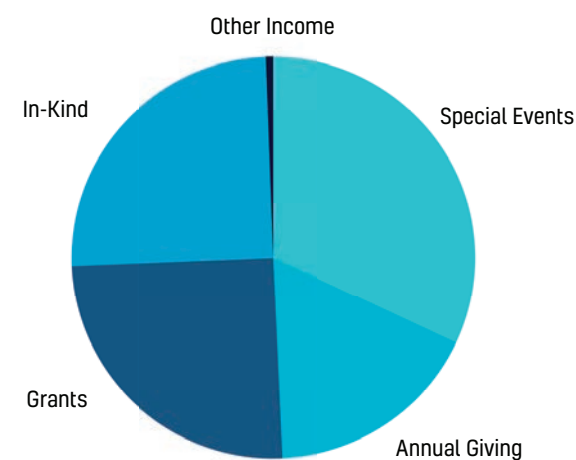


13,923
program hours offered
in fall



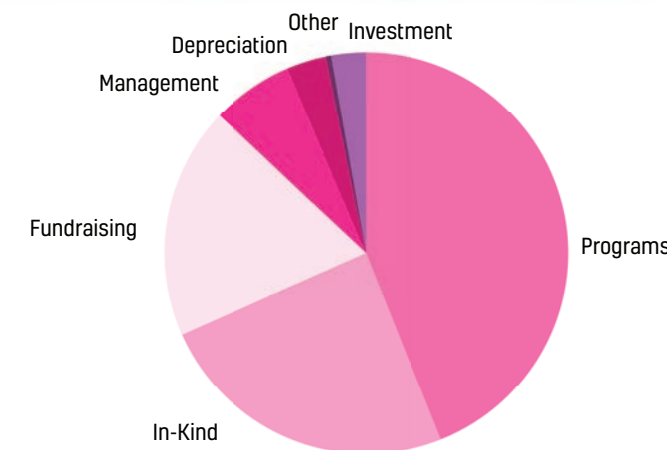
11,430
program hours offered
in summer

41,399 total hours
of programming offered to teens



- Special Events \$786,919
- Annual Giving \$425,470
- Grants \$617,320
- In-Kind \$616,439
- Other Income \$14,350

INCOME \$2,460,498



- Programs \$1,110,249
- In-Kind \$616,439
- Fundraising \$472,175
- Management \$166,893
- Other Expenses \$80,560
- Investment Loss \$70,835

EXPENSES \$2,526,847

“ At BYEP, we strive to create a safe space where participants can rebuild connections, trust, and genuine relationships.”



Dear BYEP Family,

As the Program Director, I am delighted to share with you the incredible journey we have experienced over the past year at Big Sky Youth Empowerment.

Our organization is built on the foundation of using the power of group work. We recognize that people are naturally drawn towards relationships, but after facing traumatic experiences, authenticity may seem unsafe, leading to feelings of loneliness, hopelessness, shame, and isolation. At BYEP, we strive to create a safe space where participants can rebuild connections, trust, and genuine relationships with their peers and positive adult role models.

One of our favorite practices is the “check-in,” where participants sit in a circle holding a piece of rope, symbolizing their connection to one another as they share what is going on in their lives. This physical and symbolic connection creates an environment free of judgment, in which everyone is seen, heard and encouraged to grow. Our group work also includes a gratitude practice, songshare, phone bucket, code of honor, self-reflection, and shout-outs, as well as initiatives tied to learning outcomes. These activities, led with intentionality, help guide our participants from the outer landscape to the inner, inviting and unveiling our inherent capacity for self-healing and growth within a community.

We have been fortunate to witness the beauty of empowering extraordinary youth to form stronger bonds and relationships with each other and with themselves, using the great outdoors as our vessel. We have found that the natural world is a powerful metaphor, welcoming our participants into ever-deeper wholeness. Through the numerous experiences of communion at BYEP, we have been honored to be part of each participant’s journey towards self-discovery, growth, and empowerment.

Thank you for your continued support, trust, and belief in our mission. We are excited to see what the future holds for our extraordinary youth and the Big Sky Youth Empowerment community.

Warm regards,

KAYLA BRADLEY
Program Director



Electives



EXPANDING MIDWEEK PROGRAM OFFERINGS FOR BYEP PARTICIPANTS

In the summer of 2022, we were thrilled to launch a new electives program for BYEP participants! Taking place one to two times a week from 4-7pm, electives are additional times for teens to come to BYEP outside of their regular workshop times, and participate in a special workshop to learn a new outdoor skill, creative craft, or simply gather for a fun activity.

Our goal for electives is not only to offer BYEP participants additional opportunities to gather, but also to connect with others while discovering new activities and interests. Many of our elective workshops are led by community members or business owners sharing their trade and passion with BYEP's youth. Since launching electives, some of the activities we have offered include woodworking, pasta making, painting, hiking, practicing martial arts, cooking, mountain biking, and snowshoeing.

Electives range from a single session, a cooking workshop for example, to a series that builds over several weeks in which they work on their project over the course of time, such as woodworking. Our beautiful space in downtown Bozeman exists to be utilized, and for our youth to be in it as much as possible! We are thrilled to create more programming and offer our teens more opportunities to be involved with BYEP.



Aidan Toohey

BYEP Participant, 9 seasons



WHAT MADE YOU JOIN BYEP?

In 8th grade BYEP did a presentation about all of the things that they do. It sounded very fun from the presentation, so I applied the same day.

TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF.

I'm a 16 year old artist who has been drawing since middle school. I was born and raised on a 958 acre ranch and am a 6th generation Montana. I have lived here all my life with my twin brother Will, and I am currently a Junior at Gallatin High School. I also love classic muscle cars — I like fixing up old cars like my '71 Impala.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE OUTDOOR ADVENTURE?

My favorite outdoor adventure has to be whitewater rafting because you get to be in the water all day with the sun out!

HOW HAS BYEP AFFECTED YOUR LIFE?

BYEP has allowed me to be more open and outgoing with others, and make friends faster and easier. It has made me happier with myself, and let me make very good friends in the program. I'm happy with all of the adventures and friends I have made!

HOW DOES BYEP MAKE YOU FEEL?

BYEP makes me feel welcome, appreciated, and supported. The program makes me feel happy with all of the fun adventures, especially in the summer.

WHO IS BYEP FOR?

BYEP is for people that want to find themselves. It's for people who want more friends and who love the outdoors. BYEP is for people that aren't that outgoing and also people that love to talk.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT BYEP? WHAT MAKES THE PROGRAM SPECIAL?

My favorite parts about BYEP are being able to do all of this stuff at no cost, which makes it special. I like all of the people who make BYEP a reality and I love all of the adventures that we go on... but my favorite thing about BYEP is my group and all of the great friends I've made in it.

DO YOU HAVE ANY STORIES ABOUT BYEP THAT WOULD HELP OTHER TEENS UNDERSTAND WHY BYEP IS A SPECIAL PLACE?

I have made friends here that I would have not made at school otherwise, and hang out with them after school often. I've known them for 4 years and know them better than most of my friends at school.

“BYEP makes me feel welcome, appreciated, and supported.”



Josie Savage

BYEP Mentor, 3 seasons



HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE BYEP?

BYEP is a wonderful nonprofit organization that provides transformative experiences and much needed mentorship to young people in the Bozeman community. The organization strives to empower youth by building life skills through outdoor experiences, promoting leadership and relationship development, and fostering a sense of community and belonging. It's truly a place where the youth can come to be completely themselves.

WHAT MADE YOU BECOME A VOLUNTEER MENTOR? HOW DID YOU FIND US?

I became a volunteer mentor for BYEP because I wanted to make a positive impact in the lives of young people in my new community. I found BYEP when I had just moved to Bozeman and didn't know anyone. I was searching for a way to get involved in the community and meet like-minded people.

HOW HAS YOUR TIME AT BYEP WORKING WITH TEENS IMPACTED YOU PERSONALLY? WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED?

Working with teens at BYEP has impacted me in many ways. It has taught me the importance of listening and being present for others, as well as the power of positive reinforcement and encouragement. I have also learned that everyone has unique strengths and challenges, and it is important to create a supportive environment that allows everyone to thrive.

TELL US ABOUT A MOMENT YOU EXPERIENCED THAT ILLUSTRATES HOW BYEP HELPS PARTICIPANTS GROW!

One moment that stands out to me is when a participant who had initially been quiet during group activities slowly started to come out of their shell. Seeing the participant's confidence grow over time and witnessing the positive relationships grow between their peers was amazing.

WHAT DO YOU WISH MORE PEOPLE KNEW ABOUT BYEP?

I wish more people knew about the incredible impact BYEP has on the lives of young people in our community. The organization provides a safe and supportive environment for teens to explore their potential and build lifelong relationships. I think everyone needs to know it's truly a safe haven for growth and individuality.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT BYEP?

One of my favorite things about BYEP is the sense of community that is created through the program. Participants and mentors alike are encouraged to support and learn from one another, and the result is a truly special and impactful experience. I also appreciate the variety of activities and experiences offered by BYEP, which allow participants to explore new interests and build important life skills.

Our Sponsors



SHOUTOUT TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS WHO SUPPLY OUR TEENS WITH GEAR FOR ADVENTURES, HELP MAKE OUR EVENTS HAPPEN, AND SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS ALL YEAR 'ROUND!



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The BYEP Family

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Corrin Thompson
Danielle Thompson
Julia Tietz
Brad and JoAnn Tongue
Whitney Truscott
Ryan Turner

Ellie VanDyke
Tyler Vendetti
Casey Vermette
Judith Voye
Brad Walker
Tim Warner
Sam Watson
Leah Weaver
Wendy Weaver
Hillary Wernlund
Jennifer West
William Wharton
Benjamin Wheat
Quinn White
Candice Wilson
Isabella Winston
Chet and Leigh Work
Emma Yardley
Perry Yoder
Morgan York-Singer
Anna Zimmer
David Zinn
Mike Ziska
Anthony Zotynia
Stephanie Zukowski

If you would prefer a different listing of your name or business, please contact info@byep.org and we can make that change on the digital report.





STAFF

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- KAYLA BRADLEY** Program Director
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- CRYSTAL KRAMER** Business Development & Events Manager
- MARIE-LUISE KLOTZ** Marketing & Communications Manager
- MCKENZIE SELDEN** Operations Manager
- GRANT CARROLL** Program Manager °
- CASEY CLARK** Program Manager
- BRIANA HOEY** Program Manager
- BENNETT KERN** Program Manager °
- JACK PEMBERTON** Program Manager °
- KENDYL PIERSON** Program Manager
- CHRIS TARNEY** Program Manager
- JAMES YOUNG** Program Manager
- MAREN YOUNGQUIST** Program Manager
- ETHAN TOWN** Operations Assistant

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- KATIE FINCH**
- MELISSA MCKEITHEN**
- DONNIE OLSSON**
- ERSIN OZER** °°
- MOLLY WOOD**

Thank you to our Board of Directors for your dedication to the teens in our community!

° Outgoing °° New board members

To learn more about our current team visit www.byep.org/staff