Mission

Our mission is to foster literacy in all people and promote access to literacy programs for all children. BookTrails aims to design programs that create new ways to experience the joys of reading and writing through experiential learning.

*BookTrails is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that promotes a love of literacy.*

Our literacy adventure camps create new ways to experience the joys of reading and writing. At BookTrails, our students are able to experience and feel as though they are the main character in their favorite story — whether it be building a survival shelter, running through a stream bed, or sketching in a meadow. By using reading and writing as a tool to teach environmental principals, our students are given a unique perspective to view both literature and the natural world.
Dear BookTrails Family,

I hope this letter finds you well and feeling as though we have almost made it through one of the greatest challenges that we have faced—the worldwide COVID pandemic. As I write, vaccination levels in Routt County have reached 21% and there is hope on the horizon for a somewhat “normal” camp season. Reflecting on 2020 brings up the words challenge, innovation, and resilience.

Everyone has a story about the moment when they realized life was changing as they knew it. For me, it was a gradual realization that BookTrails Camp might have to change dramatically or close completely. Annmarie and I sat with our Board of Directors and decided we couldn’t let camp slip away without trying everything possible. My staff created multiple contingency plans with accompanying budgets and we waited for guidance from State officials that was delayed again and again. On a Zoom call with our summer staff on May 25th, we told them that we would let them know in 5 days if we were opening and if so, we needed them to start the next day. I watched as my beloved staff digested the news and then responded with a dutiful “Okay, we’ll be there.”

And then we all showed up, and showed up in a big way. We ordered the PPE, our staff moved in with each other and quarantined. Our staff received weekly COVID testing, from which our noses may never fully recover. We cut our enrollment by 30% to accommodate the new state guidelines. We decided to prioritize spots for our most needy and at-risk students instead of taking top dollars for the coveted spots. Many of these students had fallen dramatically behind in their literacy skills and experienced devastating trauma during quarantine. We knew these kids would need BookTrails the most. We were proud to provide scholarships to 49 local children and serve 184 children total in 2020.

Despite the challenges of COVID, we continued work on The Reading Ranch, our two acre home in North Routt County. We built a new access road that brings our students safely and quickly to the Reading Ranch and will not flood during wet weather. The new road will allow us to bring larger construction machinery to build the next phase of improvements and facilities. Upon completion, BookTrails Camp will be able to serve an additional 100 children per year. You can find out more about our Reading Ranch Capital Campaign on our website, mybooktrails.org and in this report.

As we look towards a new year, we are filled with excitement for the opportunities and joy that this year will bring. On February 1st, our summer camps reached capacity in just 4 hours of opening registration for 2021. We currently have over 150 children on our waiting lists and feel the demand for us to expand our programs. Our new facilities at the Reading Ranch will enable us to open more spots in the future, but to get to that future your support is pivotal.

We observed an increase in the following:
• Student stress levels
• Behavior issues, including “melt-downs” - inability to focus on longer lessons
• Conflict between children and parents
• Desire for unstructured, free time

We decided to prioritize our most at-risk campers by honoring the same percentage of scholarships as years prior, despite the cut in enrollment. The impacts of the interruption of regular school were dramatic for at-risk youth. Many children were exposed to trauma, left alone during the day, and faced extreme poverty. BookTrails put action into providing weekly literacy classes for a group of our most vulnerable students to help regain their lost literacy skills. We partnered with the Boys and Girls Club to continue BookTrails classes into the 2020-2021 school year to continue tracking the literacy skills of our campers.

Running a summer camp during a worldwide pandemic was difficult but we rose to the occasion with creative solutions, positive attitudes, and a whole bunch of (masked) fun!

With a Multitude of Thanks,
Emily Osterman
Executive Director

Renzo Walton
President

BookTrails Camp during COVID-19

BookTrails was thrilled to be one of the first programs in Routt County to re-open after the COVID quarantine period. When it was clear that the pandemic would impact BookTrails, our staff worked diligently to make necessary adjustments including bulk orders of PPE creating mitigation protocols to keep staff and students safe. Our staff moved into housing together to prevent outside exposure and were tested weekly to keep our community safe. Due to state guidelines, we were forced to lower our enrollment by 30%. We were able to open on June 15th and serve 149 children throughout the summer. We were fortunate to avoid any COVID cases at camp.

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COVID-19 impacts during this unusual summer

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Our parent survey asked what other activities their children participated in during COVID. BookTrails was the only educational program listed. Other responses were horseback riding, tennis, and biking.

Board Members
Renzo Walton - President
Paul Weese - Vice President
Rohail Abid - Treasurer
Lauren Jenkins - Past President
Chresta Brinkman
Brian Smith
Jennifer Vlosky
Julie Tourigny

Staff
Emily Osterman
Executive Director
Annmarie Blodgett
Program Director
BookTrails Scholarship Program

BookTrails strives to include all children who would like to participate in our programs. We accomplish this through our Scholarship Program, which awards over $20,000 in scholarships annually. Scholarships are need-based and distributed to 60-80 children per year.

BookTrails Scholars Program

The BookTrails Scholars Program is a targeted program that provides summertime literacy education to at-risk youth. Participants are referred through their teachers and receive a week at camp matriculated with their peers and weekly literacy classes throughout the summer. All students participating in the BookTrails Scholars Program are experiencing the double disadvantage of trying to learn the English language while also showing deficiencies in their reading skills. The program provides consistent literacy education to 30 students throughout the summer.

Once a child joins the BookTrails Scholars in first grade, they are in the program every summer until ninth grade. BookTrails and our BookTrails Scholars make a commitment to each other in turn, we promise to provide consistent, summertime literacy education and mentorship.

“Your high quality counselors are a key part of why my kids love Book Trails. They know they are going to be safe from bullying and that the counselors make them feel special.”

The Sunset Gala Goes Virtual!

Like many organizations, we were forced to move our annual fundraising event to a virtual night on Zoom! On October 18th, we watched videos from camp, heard from campers, and listened to a bedtime story from the new Bud Werner Children’s Librarian, Jamie Collins. We were thrilled to raise $9,000 but cannot wait to see everyone in person in 2021!!

Collaboration

We are proud of our partners in literacy education:

- Integrated Community helps us to communicate with our non-native English-speaking families.
- Boy Scouts have volunteered their time to renovate the Reading Ranch site.
- Steamboat Springs School District refers students to our programs.
- The Boys and Girls Club and BookTrails have partnered to provide literacy education into the school year, with BookTrails visiting the Club twice per week.
- We joined the Partners in Routt County nonprofit collaboration in 2020, holding our camp pick-up and drop-off at their new Jacob’s Circle location.
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corps continues to devote sawyer crews to improving the Reading Ranch site.
- Totally Kids referred scholarship students from Hayden to our program.
- Tread of Pioneers Museum hosts our students for special activities and tours.
- Cedars of Faith hosts our summer programs.
- The Colorado State Forest sends educators to visit the Reading Ranch and teach our students about the forest.

These local businesses help us achieve our goals:

- Hive180 supplies all of our marketing and advertising needs with creative and innovative solutions to reach our goals.
- Big Agnes provides tents and sleeping bags for our students.
- Off the Beaten Path Bookstore orders all of our books.
- Aces High provides sanitation services.
- Raindrop Water provides water to the Reading Ranch.
- Rex’s Restaurants feeds our staff during long meetings and trainings.
- Mountain Valley Bank
Impact 2020 - We served 184 students
All 184 students came from Routt County. We restricted our program to prevent the spread of COVID-19

Out of the 42 parents who responded to our survey, 100% believed their child enjoyed their week at camp.

- She gained independence and confidence on the campout.
- It gave something to do during the very loooong summer.
- They were happy, smiling, and full of excitement about their day when I picked them up from camp.
- Yes they love it, they learned new things and the most important to love reading.
- She loved feeling successful and empowered as a reader, and greatly enjoyed the social connections.

We provided $14,000 in scholarships to 51 children
Spent over 8,195 hours outdoors with children
Purchased over 300 new books (in 2020 alone) to use in our program
Gifted over 210 new books
149 children served at BookTrails Camp
35 children served at BookTrails School Year Program

Impact 2020

North Routt: 15
Oak Creek/South Routt: 4
Milner: 5
Hayden: 2
Steamboat: 158

2020 Financials

Incomes:
- $314,410

Expenses:
- $258,846

Donations:
- $76,299 - 24%

Tuition Fees:
- $42,445 - 14%

Personnel:
- $166,879
- 73.1%

Supplies:
- $36,000 - 15.8%

Advertising:
- $14,300 - 6.3%

Special Events:
- $9,014 - 3%

Special Event:
- $1,200 - 0.5%

Office:
- $9,949 - 4.4%

Foundations:
- $186,625
- 59%

2020 Financials

Foundations:
- $186,625

59%

Income:
- $314,410
Amount completed $250,000
To be raised $650,000
Total project cost $900,000

Complete
- Site prep-beetle kill mitigation
- New access road
- 3 sleeping tents
- Kitchen yurt
- Library

Funded
(to be completed in 2021)
- Water system & solar array

To Be Completed
- Pavilion with permanent kitchen - $400,000
- Washhouse - $100,000
- 3 sleeping tents - $36,000
- Outdoor classrooms - $14,000
- Operations/maintenance endowment - $100,000

Upon completion of the Reading Ranch, we will be able to host groups of 50 campers/staff. We will be able to serve 100 more campers per year.
Reading Ranch

BookTrails is Ready to Grow! Help Us Reach Our Goal!
The Reading Ranch is a beautiful two acre site located in North Routt County on the Upper Fetcher Ranch. The site is nestled between groves of old growth pine and aspen with a bustling creek as a border and surrounding views of the Zirkel Mountains, Steamboat Lake, Sand Mountain, and Hahns Peak.

An Off-Grid, Educational Center
The Reading Ranch is completely off-the-grid, giving students a chance to unplug from technology and access a literary and nature experience unique from their daily lives. BookTrails is working with sustainability specialists to help create the best innovations in water treatment, solar power, and other exciting projects in which our students will have the opportunity to learn and participate.

A Place for Community
The Reading Ranch will also serve as a historical cornerstone of western heritage, as the site has been preserved for over 100 years as an example of local agricultural ranching. The space will be available for use by other community groups to learn, grow, and share in a rural, outdoor environment.

Help Us Reach Our Goal!
We need to continue fundraising and complete construction plans in order to achieve our vision.

To donate to this project or to find out more, contact us at: mybooktrails.org
admin@steamboatbooktrails.org
855-426-6587

Thank you!

We created a committee of dedicated & talented professionals to help build the Reading Ranch:

Chancie Keenan
Chris Rundall
Tim Travis
Jake Mielke
Simon Wood
Jonah Lotz
Ian London
Paul Weese
Rob Taylor
Ron Krall
Eric Schankerman
Todd Pedersen
Andrew Rossi
Scott London
Paul Brinkman

Thank you to these businesses who are helping to build the Reading Ranch:

Sustainable Solutions Building, Inc
Mountain Architecture
Grove Mountain Construction
Raindrop Water
Baseline Engineering

SEAD, INC
Fair and Square Construction
NWCC
Marshall Forestry Solutions
Wilderness Excavating

“Thank you, thank you, thank you, for hosting camp this year. The kids of Steamboat really needed it socially and mentally with everything going on. It made such a positive difference in my kids lives.”

Gondola Car
BookTrails was grateful to receive one of the donated Steamboat Ski Resort gondola cars. Will Crump and Sarah Rutledge were the highest bidders during our November auction. Thank you for your support!
Thank you to the incredible funders who provided emergency funding to help run BookTrails during COVID. These funds were desperately needed and we could not have survived without these special grants:

CO Cares Grant
YVCF COVID Fund
CSFF COVID Fund
Iron Horse Foundation COVID Fund
Adolph Coors Foundation COVID Fund
Routt County COVID Fund
Colorado Humanities COVID Grant
Morgridge Family Foundation COVID Grant - United Way
Alpine Bank PPP Loans
### $1000+

- The Capital Group Companies Charitable Foundation
- Brinkman Family Compartir Fund of the YVCF
- Community Grants Fundraising Fund of the YVCF
- Chuck Kettering Memorial Endowment of the YVCF
- Will Crump and Sarah Rutledge
- Fair and Square Construction
- Valerie Gates
- Peg and Harold Kamins
- Ronald and Susan Krall
- Richard and Audrey Mandell
- Michael and Michelle Osterman
- Rob and Ellen Race
- Rob and Elizabeth Taylor
- Three Moon Fund of the YVCF
- Jack Dysart
- Anonymous

### $50-99

- Yari Avitia
- Millie and Ben Beall
- Joshua Berliner
- Ashlee Cerda
- Michael and Hope Cook
- Colorado Group Realty
- Brian Crockett
- Jackie Curtis
- Karen and Stuart Frankel
- Bob Gumbrecht
- Julie Hagenbuch
- Grace and Darragh Heaslip
- Sally Hertzog
- Paul Komor
- Ian and Erin London
- Laraine Martin
- Dagny McKinley
- Mike and Tamara Monahan
- Megan Moore-Kemp and Scott Kemp
- Annie and Paul Sachs
- Lynn and Alan Sidman
- Brian Smith
- The Drunken Onion Get & Go Kitchen
- Peter and Gretchen Van De Carr
- Lyn Wheaton
- Anonymous

### $100-499

- Brad & Kathy Iversen
- Lauren Jenkins
- Jan K. Kardatzke
- April Krall
- Cam and Laurie Kuelthau
- Mary B. Kurtz
- Lauren Kushner
- The Lavery Family
- Amy McElhaney
- Nancy and John Merrill
- Eva Minning
- The Mitchell Family
- The Mohn Family
- Pam and Rod Morgan
- Thomas Osterman
- Lindsey and Sam Reznicek
- Carol Shikles
- Lewis and Joanie Shubin
- Sloop Painting
- SoulSpark
- Sustainable Building Solutions, Inc
- Dianne Stoyko
- Liz and BJ Taylor
- Timothy Travis
- Melanie & Norbert Turek
- Kay Van Ness
- Kevin and Nancy Ventrudo
- Jen Vlosky
- Renzo R. Walton
- Jane & Gary Wilner
- Julie Weinberg
- Jennifer and Adam Wright
- Dimitri and Bessie Zgourides
- Christiana Zgourides
- Anonymous

### $500-999

- Kris and Mark Andersen
- Carol Atta
- Jack Black Fund of the YVCF
- Jordan and Emily Osterman
- Craig and Kathleen Wasserman
- Paul Weese

### $100-499

- Wayne and Lisa Adamo
- Adonna Allen
- Badaracca Family
- Sarah Ball and Dan Farmer
- Don Blodgett
- Jerry and Debby Blodgett
- Bryan Bomberg
- Suey Bouzo
- Jeff Brown and Catherine Hagney Brown
- Luke Campagnola
- Shelly Catterson
- Liz and Mark Daoust
- Pinky and Steve Downs
- Avrom and Erica Feinberg-Gallagher
- Brooke, Jeff Fesperman
- Kevin Gaunt
- Mona and Jon Gibson
- Alan Gourley & Sarah Brown
- Ace Hardware
- Jain Himot
- Hive 180
- Abby Hoffner

### Continued $100-499

- Sloop Painting
- SoulSpark
- Sustainable Building Solutions, Inc
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- Melanie & Norbert Turek
- Kay Van Ness
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