Dear Friends of BookTrails,

Nearly eleven years ago, I sat behind the desk of my family bookstore, Off the Beaten Path, and dreamed up an idea. We visualized a program that would provide reading and writing enrichment to local children while igniting their imagination and passion by bringing them outdoors with books, trying some of the things their favorite characters do. We imagined building the majestic retreat that is now The Reading Ranch on historic Fetcher Ranch. We wanted to help youth connect with books, reading in a new, exciting way and also to help the children in our community who most need support in their literacy skills.

BookTrails Camp started that first summer with just 32 children, and now we have served over 1,200 total children with weeklong, day and overnight camps with the goal of creating a lifelong love of reading. Currently, we serve 215 children per summer, and we are ready to grow. In 2021, camp was fully enrolled in 24 hours, and we had 206 children on our waiting list. We have the demand, our community needs more childcare, and capital improvements will allow us to double the amount of children we can serve annually at the Reading Ranch. As the only licensed child care facility off-the-grid in the State of Colorado, we are fortunate to have the help of an experienced committee of builders, architects, and engineers to help plan and build a sustainable, environmentally-minded site to serve the next 1,200 kids and more into the future.

This year, we want to celebrate the friendships that have brought us to this moment: the friendship between BookTrails and the Fetcher and Lotz families that has made the Reading Ranch a reality; the friendships we treasure with our camp families and that you enjoy in this special community. These are the relationships that have sustained us, supported us, and made BookTrails a magical program for children to learn and grow. We celebrate the friendships made at the Reading Ranch and the privilege to gather with our campers for the next eleven years. To quote our camper Tristan, “It’s pretty much impossible to not make a friend at BookTrails!”

Thank you for your Support and Friendship,

Emily Osterman
Executive Director

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 principles, our students are given a unique perspective to view both literature and the natural world.

“My boys have attended these camps in the past and it’s the highlight of their summer. They learn something new about themselves every time. Their reading skills increase and they teach me life skills when they get home. These camps help to decrease their stress and expand their self-awareness. My boys would benefit from strengthening their connections to self and others.”

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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 and in turn, we promise to provide consistent, summertime literacy education and mentorship.

Collaboration

We are proud of our partners in literacy education:

- Integrated Community helps us to communicate with our BookTrails families with limited English fluency.
- 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.
- 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. Partners in Routt County also helps refer students to BookTrails.
- Rocky Mountain Youth Corps continues to devote sawyer crews to improving the Reading Ranch site.
- Tread of Pioneers Museum hosts our students for special activities and tours.
- The Colorado State Forest sends educators to visit the Reading Ranch and teach our students about the forest.
- Steamboat Lake State Park hosts and educates our students.
- Local educators create trainings for our staff.
- Yampa River Botanic Park hosts our students.

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 provides all our books at cost.
- Aces High provides sanitation services.
- Raindrop Water provides water to the Reading Ranch.
- Rex’s Restaurants feeds our staff during long meetings and trainings.
- Alpine Bank helps us to reach our financial goals

“Our daughter fell in love with BookTrails American Girl Camp at 7 years old, and we couldn’t be more grateful for such an incredible program in this beautiful valley. She fell in love with reading that first summer and hasn’t stopped since. She’s now 13 years old and doing a college freshman virtual writing class at Johns Hopkins. Thank you BookTrails!! She’s really hoping when COVID is over to be a counselor to help other kids fall in love with reading too!”
Parents are talking...

- I believe the true spirit of being outdoors and reading as well as the intimacy of the groups, has made BookTrails such a hit with my kids.
- He was tearful at the end of the week when we picked him up because he was going to miss his new friends and miss having fun all day.
- Yes they love it, they learned new things and the most importantly to love reading.
- She loved feeling successful and empowered as a reader, and greatly enjoyed the social connections.
- Our son had a FANTASTIC time at BookTrails and was there 2 weeks this summer. He loved the hiking and being outside and being with the other kids.

Impact 2021
We served 213 students in 2021

- North Routt: 18
- Oak Creek/South Routt: 5
- Hayden/Milner: 8
- Steamboat: 154
- Other Towns: 28

100% of parents surveyed believed their child enjoyed their week at camp

We provided $16,000 in scholarships to 66 children
Spent over 8,520 hours outdoors with children
Purchased over 350 new books (in 2021 alone) to use in our program

2021 Financials

- Total Income: $571,094
- Total Expenses: $280,339

- Income:
  - $286,800
  - $314,410
  - $344,574

- Expenses:
  - $227,500
  - $258,846
  - $280,339

- Foundations: $209,248
- Tuition Fees: $80,132
- Special Event: $23,377

- Program Expenses: $240,597
- Office: $10,585
- Site Improvements: $5,780

- Total Assets: $603,055
- Total Expenses: $280,339

2019 - 2021

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  - 2019: $286,800
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  - 2021: $344,574

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  - 2020: $258,846
  - 2021: $280,339

- Foundations: $209,248
- Tuition Fees: $80,132
- Special Event: $23,377

- Program Expenses: $240,597
- Office: $10,585
- Site Improvements: $5,780
We are excited to have three newly funded platform tents.

This yurt has accomplished the goal, but we’re excited for a new and improved pavilion!

Iron Horse Pavilion will serve as a kitchen and social space.

The Key: Campfire Area

Our Wash House will cost $100,000 to complete.

Inscribed stones will be laid around the new campfire area.

Iron Horse Pavilion will serve as a kitchen and social space.

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

Amount completed $490,984
To be raised $409,016
Total project cost $900,000

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

“My son really enjoyed the Camp Hatchet last summer. The whole family actually took the time to read the book together after his camp. It really increased his love of reading and his reading ability. It gave him time with his friends and the ability to experience an overnight camp night. I would love for him to be able to experience a week long overnight camp if the finances work out.”

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

Sustainable Solutions Building, Inc
Mountain Architecture
Picking Construction
Raindrop Water
Baseline Engineering
SEAD, INC
Fair and Square Construction
NWCC
Marshall Forestry Solutions
Wilderness Excavating
From the Campers
What emotions do you feel at camp?

Favorite outdoor experience?

87% of our students showed a greater interest in Reading after attending BookTrails
Donors

$1000+
- Lauinger Family Fund of YVCF
- Ski Corp Charitable Fund of YVCF
- Samantha Pal Frazier
- Judy Ackerman & Richard Epstein
- Craig and Kathleen Wasserman
- Rob & Ellen Race
- Bettina Neset & Rex Brice
- Cyd Osterman
- Yampa Valley Electric Association and Operation Round Up
- Don Jenkins
- Paul & Chresta Brinkman
- Pattie Moon
- Krissa Miller
- Carol Atha
- Routt County United Way
- Dana & Kiva Patton
- Richard & Audrey Mandell
- The Moniker Foundation
- Kelly & Steve Bloom
- Michael & Michelle Osterman
- Alpine Bank
- Community Grants Fundraising Fund of YVCF
- Anschutz Family Foundation
- Kettering Family Foundation
- Brad & Kathy Iversen
- The Madison Foundation
- Morgridge Family Foundation
- Amy & Larry Jenkins
- Green Waves Fund
- Craig Scheckman Family Foundation
- Kettering Family Foundation
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- Iron Horse Family Foundation
- Valerie Gates

$500-999
- Jack Black Fund of YVCF
- Nancy and John Merrill
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- Emily and Jordan Osterman
- Maura and Greg Schmitz
- Benjamin McLaughlin
- Mark and Kris Andersen

$100-499
- Zak and Kelly Conway
- Jack Dysart
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- Colorado Group Realty Charitable Foundation
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- William Badaracca
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- Alan Gourley
- Jain Himot
- Ian and Erin London
- Lewis and Joanne Shubin
- Jen Wlosky
- The Egg
- Annie and Paul Sachs
- The Capital Group Charitable Foundation
- Jeff and Catherine Brown