

2022 ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT



WWW.GCYOUTH.ORG



Photo credit: Zachery Fountain

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Photo credit: Walt Carr



Photo credit: Maghie, 2022 youth participating in GCY Speaks (above)
 Photo credit: Alex Metter (cover)

MISSION:

Grand Canyon Youth offers educational outdoor expeditions that connect young people to the transformative power of the rivers and canyons of the Southwest.

VISION:

We envision a diverse and equitable world where all youth are empowered to live with purpose while discovering and caring for self, community, and the natural world.



Photo credit: Lodore Smoldt

To Our Amazing GCY Community,

At GCY, we try to mirror the values we hope the youth learn while on expedition in our day-to-day operations. One of these values– curiosity– comes up time and again as we strive to share the highest quality expeditions possible with the youth we serve. How does what we do make a positive impact? What changes could we make to decrease barriers to participation for youth who don't typically have access to the rivers and canyons of the Southwest?

This past year, we have had the pleasure of working with collaborators from Northern Arizona University and the NARBHA Institute to take a deeper look into our evaluation processes. Through this project, we have taken a retrospective look at 15 years of GCY's survey data. In addition, we piloted a new, innovative evaluation method, inviting youth into deeper reflection spaces as they evaluate their experiences. This project, called "GCY Speaks", is showcased in this report along with other ways that GCY is making a difference for youth, the natural world, and our community. Thank you for being part of this important work!

Sincerely,

Emma Wharton, Executive Director

What GCY volunteers have been up to...

Before, during & after: Sustainable landscaping project at Grand Canyon Youth's entrance
(Thanks to City of Flagstaff grants & over 300 hours of volunteer labor!)



Photo credit: Benjamin Schedler

GCY Speaks:

An Innovative New Evaluation Method Launched on Youth Trips

In 2022, GCY piloted a new educational evaluation model on two expeditions where reflection and youth voice were at the heart of the process. Youth participated in creating art while on expeditions (photography, visual art, and creative writing) and then curated their art and reflected upon their experiences through facilitated post-expedition “meaning-making” interview sessions.

Horizon Lines

Each horizon line a new beginning
Every rapid leaves me wondering—
What comes next?
When the river drops away
And you can't see what lay—
In the future.
Life is like a river

Continuously sending those horizon lines

With no sliver—
Of an idea for what's ahead.
As I summit this rim above

And am greeted with mumbling hydraulics of—
Society I ponder my next horizon line.
Dropping into university.

– Ben, 2022 youth participating in GCY Speaks

Themes that emerged from the youth interview sessions:

- *Honor the Place*
- *Living in the Moment*
- *The Joy in Everything*
- *A Sense of Community*
- *Connections to Others*



Photo credit: Megan, 2022 youth participating in GCY Speaks

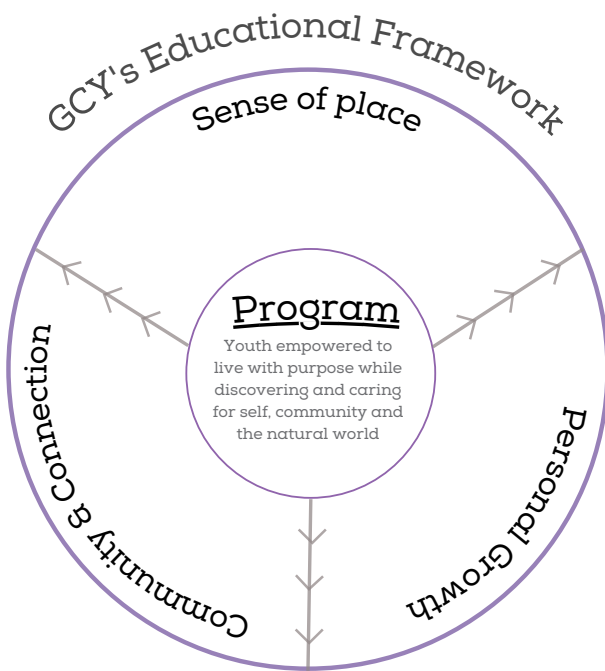


Photo credit: FiFi, 2022 youth participating in GCY Speaks

"On the river there is time to do everything, even look at the canyon upside down on the raft just because you can."
- Cal, 2022 youth participating in GCY Speaks



Photo credit: Zachery Fountain



GCY Values

Connection
Adventure
Intention
Respect
Responsibility
Curiosity

GCY's educational framework was designed in conjunction with the GCY Speaks evaluation project as a way to integrate our goals into expedition planning. The graphic above illustrates the three categories educators use to create custom curriculum for river expeditions while incorporating GCY values. The framework was designed by Alex Metter, GCY's Expedition Design Manager.



Youth Artist Statement:

My goal was to capture aspects of this canyon that I found beautiful and connected to with a variety of mediums. Each time I created one of these pieces, I felt very connected with the place I was at or the things that I was with. I used pencil, pens, watercolor, and block printing materials to create four unique pieces of art that highlighted various things I saw on my trip, including this native fish block print. I encouraged myself to use mediums I had less comfort with (watercolor and block printing) and tried to make each piece have a different feel.

- Holiday, 2022 youth participating in GCY Speaks

GCY Alumni Reflections:

We talked to past GCY participants about their experiences.
Here are some of the highlights...



Sarah

GCY alum (2008-2009) who stayed involved for the next 10 years as a volunteer, trip coordinator, driver, and guide

What are some of your memories from your GCY trips?

I made so many lifelong friends on GCY trips! Emma has also always been such a constant and bright light from my time as a youth through adulthood! There were so many fun times on GCY trips where the energy was high and the adventures were wild, but some of my most impactful memories were during moments where we stopped and sat in silence, reflecting on ourselves and our lives, and focusing on the things that really matter. Being on the river really puts things into perspective, and I cannot even count the number of times I was filled with a sense of completeness and gratitude while reflecting in silence on the river.

What did you gain from your GCY experience?

GCY instilled within me a love and appreciation for rivers. I have been a river steward since my first GCY trip at age 16, and I have gone on to make river protection and management my career. There really aren't words to express how grateful I am for my GCY experiences!

What would you say to a young person contemplating going on a GCY expedition?

Make it happen and don't worry about whether or not you have any friends on the trip– I guarantee you'll make new friends and have the time of your life!

Jean-Philippe

GCY alum (2007-2008) who stayed involved for the next 16 years as an intern, guide, driver, and now as GCY's Logistics Director

What are some of your favorite memories from your GCY trip(s)?

More than a decade after my first trip, I still have vivid recollections of my experiences. Guides yelling "hot drinks," epic hikes to places only a handful of people have been to, swimming in side canyons, and making new friends. My favorite part of these memories is being able to connect with others that shared the experience with me. A number of folks from my first trips are now guides that I work with year after year, and it feels like the trip has never stopped. Let's do an alumni trip!

What did you gain from your GCY experience?

GCY has made my career. Not just in the office, but in other pursuits I have. I think for both myself and the other youth joining a trip, it opens the door to new opportunities, perspectives, and challenges. I found a community willing to support my growth, praise my success, and welcome me home– every time.



Amanda

GCY alum (2017-2021) is now a GCY guide-in-training

What are you up to now?

I am studying Parks and Recreation Management with an emphasis in Outdoor Leadership and Education at NAU. I worked for GCY last summer in the warehouse. I will be doing the same this summer as well as being a guide-in-training. I love to go hiking, backpacking, camping, fishing, unicycling, hammocking, and to read.

What short or long-term impacts do you feel your GCY experience had on you?

I really came out of my shell during my first trip. My love of the outdoors grew exponentially. I gained a sense of self. I was able to connect with others on the trip and share my passion for the outdoors.

What would you say to a young person contemplating going on a GCY expedition?

Do it! It will be one of the best things you have ever done! You will start the trip with strangers and leave as a family.



Photo credit: Alex Metter (left top & bottom, right bottom), Clare Magneson (right top)

Alexander

GCY alum (2017-2019) and volunteer

What are you up to now?

I am in school to become an IT Specialist and working in technical support and logistics.

What are some of your memories from your GCY trips?

All of my memories are great. I remember a handful of the big rapids. I remember the waterfalls. I remember climbing up and finding a solo-spot in the canyon... there are a lot of memories I look back on. I still stay in touch with people from my GCY trips!

What short or long-term impacts do you feel your GCY experience had on you?

Being able to go down the Canyon, and hike in and out of it was awesome. It had a great impact on me. If you have the chance, you should go.

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#THANK YOU!

It changed my life and
has been so impactful.
I would not have been
able to go without
scholarship support.™

—Madeline, GCY Alumni



Photo credit: Zachery Fountain (all)

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GCY Alumni

Note: To be as inclusive of our diverse donors as possible, all couple names are listed alphabetically.



#The words to express how grateful I am, as a parent, are insufficient. The fact that my son wanted to go exploring with you and came home happy and excited and confident is a true testament to your organization and your people. Thank you for taking him! Thank you for growing him as a person! And thank your scholarship program for helping us during a difficult time to make this possible!™

—Amy, parent of a GCY participant

2022 Highlights



754 youth participated
on **61** expeditions

Served **46%** non-white
identifying youth &
51% white identifying youth
(3% prefer not to say)

Awarded **\$75,510**
in direct financial aid scholarships
to **301** youth (the highest financial
aid & highest number of youth yet!)

Offered **ALL** 5th graders from
4 Flagstaff, AZ elementary schools
introductory kayaking expeditions on
the Verde River

Launched **2** all-Indigenous youth
expeditions through Grand Canyon
for the **2nd** year in a row

84% of all 2022 expenses
spent on programs

Participants paid only **29%** of total
expedition costs (the rest is covered by
grants & contributions like yours!)

Rivers & Canyons We Explore



Grand Canyon Youth operates on
the homelands of the Nucu (Ute),
Pueblos, Dine (Navajo), Hopitutskwa
(Hopi), Nuwuvu (Southern Paiute),
Havasu Baaja (Havasupai), Hwal-Pai
(Hualapai), Pipa Aha Macav (Mojave),
Nuwuwu (Chemehuevi), Hohokam,
Yavapai-Apache, Jumanos, and
Shiwinna (Zuni) peoples.

2022 Financial Statements

2022 Statement of Revenue & Expenses

Revenue

Grants	\$ 459,864
Program fees (including financial aid).....	428,780
Contributions (Individuals)	218,926
Contributions (Businesses)	42,390
Endowment & estate gifts	46,644
In-Kind contributions	51,667
Special event (net of direct costs).....	34,948
Investment loss (net of fees).....	(23,678)
Merchandise sales & other (net of direct costs)...	7,656

Total Revenue **\$1,267,197**

Expenses

Payroll & payroll taxes	\$ 658,025
Expedition food, transportation, permits.....	124,673
Financial aid awarded.....	75,510
Outfitter services (including in-kind).....	73,085
Employee benefits.....	68,414
Insurance & background checks.....	46,694
Depreciation	37,997
Supplies (expedition & office).....	27,905
Interest on building loan	23,728
Contracted services.....	18,365
Utilities & property taxes	11,016
Conferences & training.....	9,460
Printing & postage.....	9,371
Professional fees (audit, legal, etc).....	8,575
Repairs & maintenance.....	8,515
Database & website	7,860
Merchant & bank fees.....	3,945
Other	1,743

Total Expenses **\$1,214,881**

Net Revenue over Expenses **\$ 52,316**

For more detailed information, please see the "Audited Financial Statements & Independent Auditor's Report" for 2022 at gcyouth.org

Balance Sheet at December 31, 2022

Assets

Cash.....	\$ 771,211
Receivables & prepaid expenses.....	85,052
Investments.....	266,391
Property & equipment (net of depreciation).....	893,046

Total Assets **\$2,015,700**

Liabilities

Accounts payable & accrued expenses.....	\$ 11,130
Expedition deposits for 2023 received in 2022.....	29,100
Building loan.....	551,638

Total Liabilities **\$ 591,868**

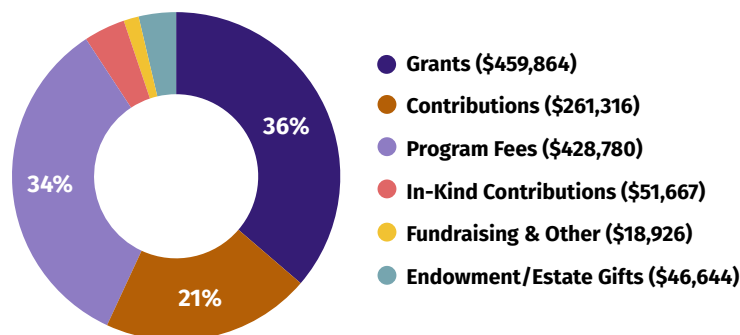
Net Assets

Without donor restrictions.....	\$ 1,068,733
Board-designated Endowment Fund	18,330
Donor Restricted Endowment Fund	114,199
With donor restrictions (programs)	222,570

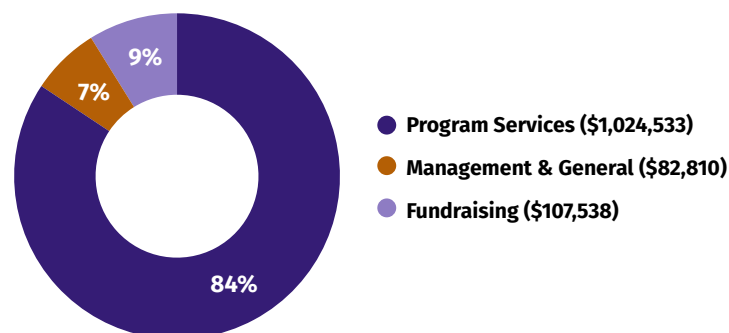
Total Net Assets **\$1,423,832**

Total Liabilities & Net Assets **\$2,015,700**

2022 Revenue



2022 Expenses



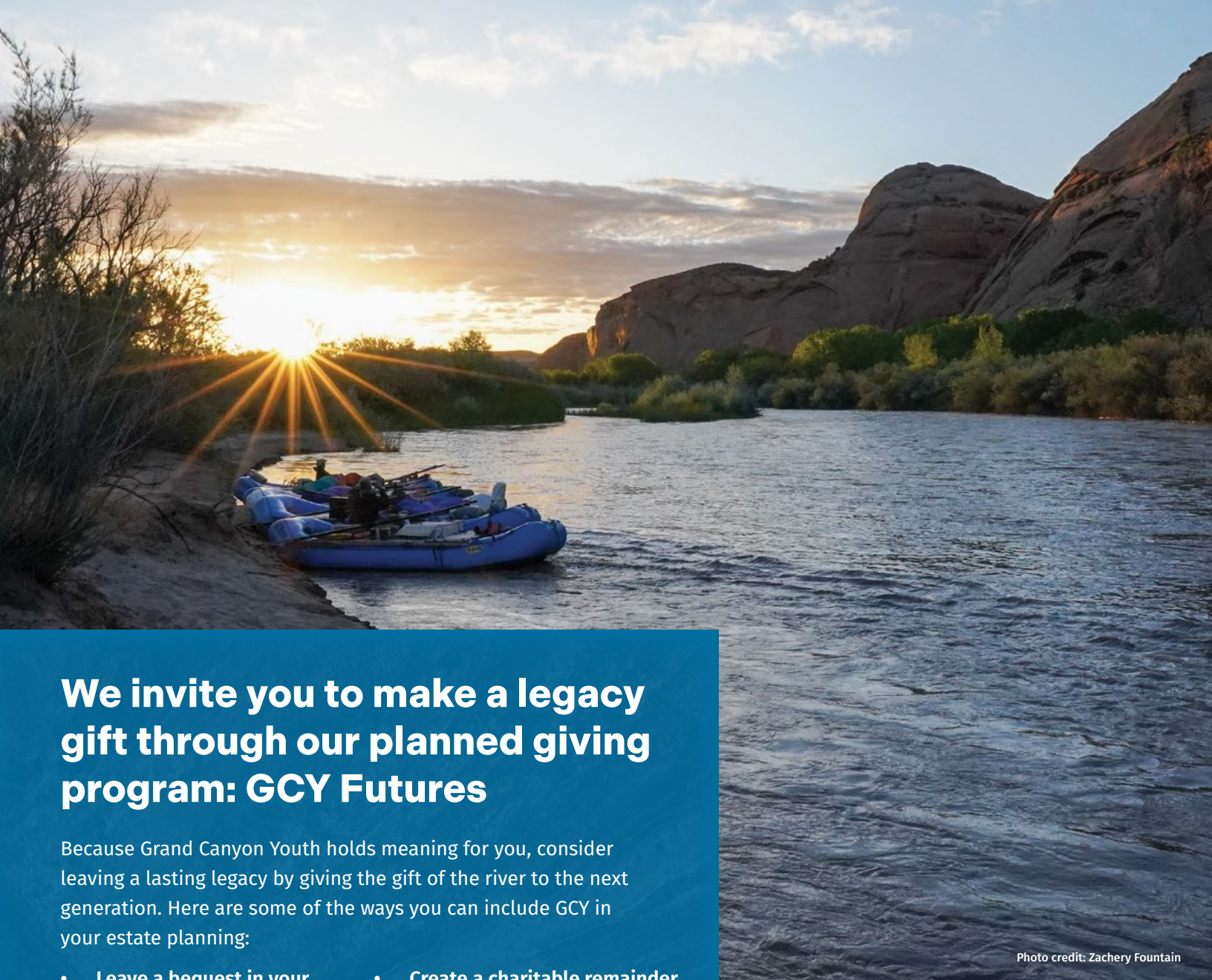


Photo credit: Zachery Fountain

We invite you to make a legacy gift through our planned giving program: GCY Futures

Because Grand Canyon Youth holds meaning for you, consider leaving a lasting legacy by giving the gift of the river to the next generation. Here are some of the ways you can include GCY in your estate planning:

- Leave a bequest in your will or trust
- Name GCY as a beneficiary on your IRA or life insurance
- Designate a gift of stock or real estate
- Create a charitable remainder trust or donor-advised fund
- Make a qualified charitable distribution (in lieu of IRA RMDs)

Including GCY in your estate plan is easier than you might think. In your will or living trust, you may designate a percentage or a specific amount to Grand Canyon Youth by simply including our name and tax ID number 86-0905180. Learn more about making a gift in your will or living trust at gcyouth.org/plannedgiving, and as always, consult with your financial advisor.

If you have already named Grand Canyon Youth as a beneficiary, please let us know. We would like to thank you and welcome you to GCY Futures.

For more information, please contact GCY's Development Director Clare Magnuson: 928.773.7921 or development@gcyouth.org

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