



# Annual Report 2018

**Lincoln Hills Cares** traces its beginning to 1922 when it was established as the country's only western resort accessible to African-Americans. It was also the site for Camp Nizhoni, which was operated by the Phyllis Wheatley Branch of the YWCA.



[www.lincolnhillscares.org](http://www.lincolnhillscares.org)



# OUR MISSION

**Lincoln Hills Cares** creates unforgettable Colorado experiences for youth by forming a connection to cultural history, science, technology, art and environmental conservation. Our programs impart knowledge, encourage thinking and empower youth who may not otherwise have the opportunity, due to economic, social or family circumstances.

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## Organization information

Address: Lincoln Hills Cares  
2590 Welton St. | Suite 279 | Denver 80205  
Phone: 720.504.9754  
Web site: [www.lincolnhillscares.org](http://www.lincolnhillscares.org)







## OUR STORY

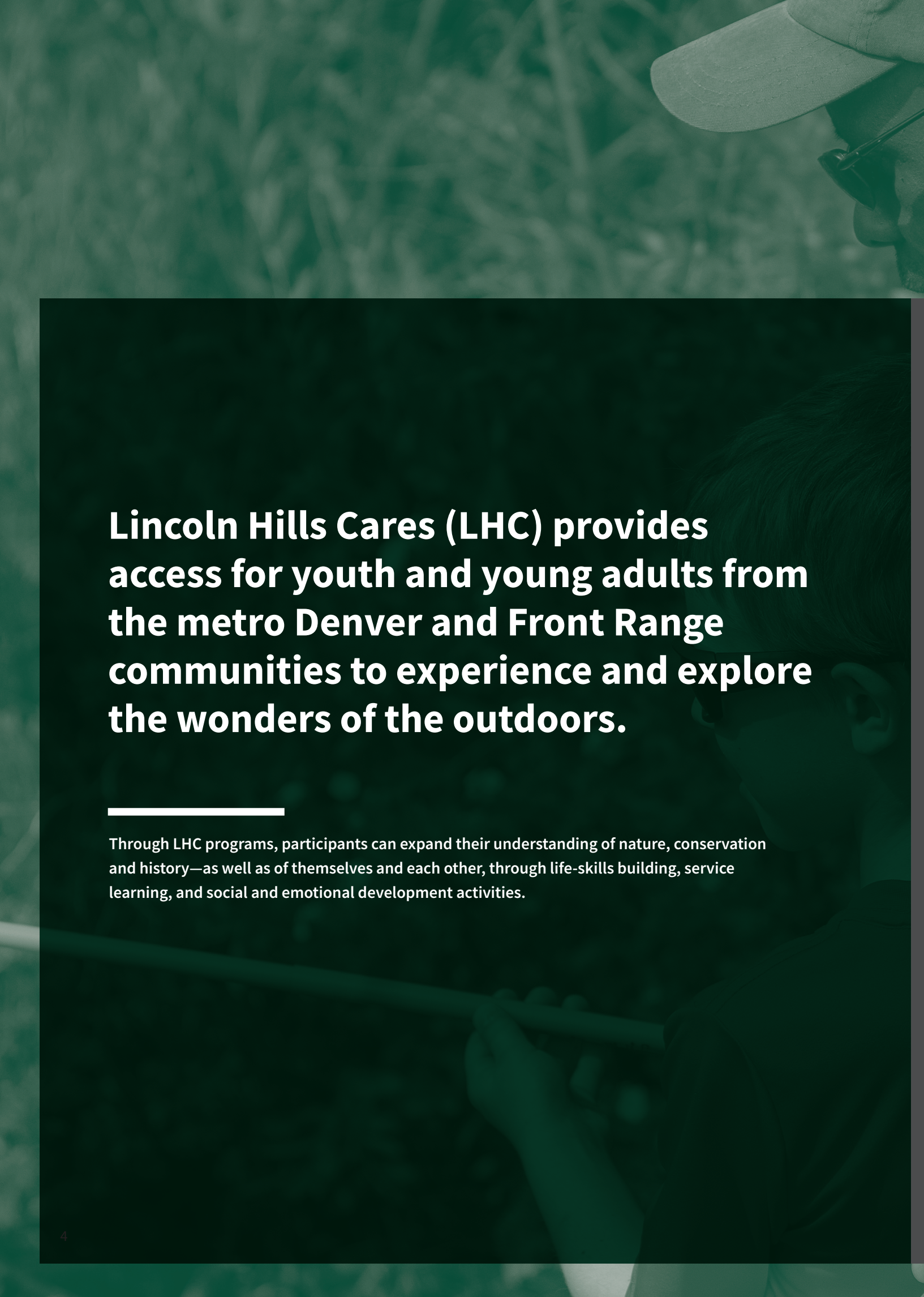
**Lincoln Hills Cares (LHC) was founded in 2008, by Robert F. Smith and Matthew Burkett, two entrepreneurs with the ability to envision a future of what was invisible to others. Their funding was the catalyst that gives underrepresented and underserved Colorado youth access to enriching, educational and transformative outdoor education-focused experiences.**

Though only a decade old in its current incarnation, LHC's historical roots date back nearly a century. In 1922, the Lincoln Hills property was established as the only vacation resort west of the Mississippi River—and one of only four in the country—for African Americans. At the time, it was a gathering place where people of color could recreate safely outdoors, and one of the few places in the nation providing outdoor activities to people of color. Riding the train up from Union Station in downtown Denver, African Americans could camp, ride horses, swim in the creek, go fishing and hiking, and sit by the campfire. The historic Winks Lodge, constructed in 1925, even had a celebrity appeal—drawing the likes of Count Basie, Duke Ellington and Lena Horne during their visits to Five Points jazz venues within Denver, as well as celebrated writers such as Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes. The lodge and surrounding Lincoln Hills Resort played a significant role in the civil rights movement.

In 2015, LHC hired its first managing director and began year-round programming, launching summer programs for underserved youth and forging partnerships to bring groups from the YMCA and Boys and Girls Clubs back to the rejuvenated Lincoln Hills property. In just a few years, LHC has extended its reach from only a few hundred youth served per year to more than 27,746 in 2018 through a mixture of philanthropic partnerships, service-learning opportunities and direct services.







**Lincoln Hills Cares (LHC) provides access for youth and young adults from the metro Denver and Front Range communities to experience and explore the wonders of the outdoors.**

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Through LHC programs, participants can expand their understanding of nature, conservation and history—as well as of themselves and each other, through life-skills building, service learning, and social and emotional development activities.





# WHAT WE DO

## **Youth Outdoor Education Program**

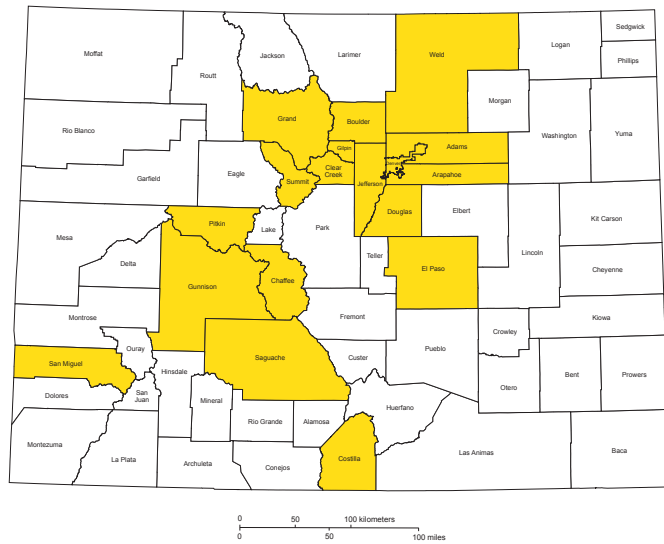
The Lincoln Hills Cares Outdoor Education Program provides abundant, diversified opportunities for youth to engage in experiential outdoor education programs. These programs are designed to teach and encourage discussions with youth about art, cultural history, the sciences and outdoor recreation through a dynamic STEAM-based curriculum with elements that meet state academic content standards. During these programs, youth work in groups, meet new friends, and participate in projects and activities that make science, technology, engineering, art, and math come to life.

Children growing up in Colorado's Front Range metro areas are fortunate to be at the foot of the Rocky Mountains. Even so, many don't have the opportunity to simply spend time in nature, visit the mountains or participate in experiential activities due to financial constraints, transportation barriers, family limitations, and other challenging sociocultural norms that discourage participation. Lincoln Hills Cares has a rich history of providing affordable, accessible outdoor experiences to underrepresented and underserved youth, and we remain dedicated to this cause.





## COLORADO



## Where We Work and Play:

Adams	El Paso
Arapahoe	Gilpin
Boulder	Grand
Chafee	Jefferson
Clear Creek	Pitkin/Gunnison
Costilla	Sagauche
Denver	San Miguel
Douglas	Summit
Eagle	Weld

## Our Service Areas:

LOCATION/EVENT	ZIP	# OF PARTICIPANTS
Colorado Dragon Boat Festival	80212	1513
<b>Lincoln Hills, Black Hawk</b>	<b>80422</b>	<b>1385</b>
Denver	80205	1194
Adams	80260	765
Commerce City	80022	710
Ft. Collins, Laporte, Arrowhead	80524	615
Littleton , Ken Caryl	80127	473
Louisville, Superior	80027	420
Denver, Commerce City,		
North Washington	80216	359
Denver, Commerce City	80239	350
El Paso	80831	350



BY THE NUMBERS

\*as of 12/1/18



3,604

Programming Hours



28

Partner Groups



27,746

Program Participants



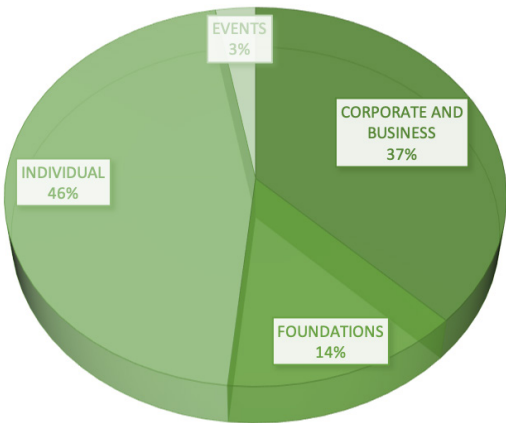
300+

Hours of Lesson plans  
(outdoor education)



Participant Survey Results:

- 100% strongly agreed they were confident persons
- 72% agreed or strongly agreed they felt comfortable in nature
- 66% agreed they felt comfortable around animals
- 66% strongly agree spending time outside was important
- 60% agreed or strongly agreed that teamwork and cooperation were important to them



2018  
FINANCIAL SUPPORT



# OUTDOOR EDUCATION CURRICULUM AND ACTIVITIES



IN 2018, LHC SERVED  
OVER 27,000 YOUTH WITH  
OVER 3,600 HOURS OF  
PROGRAMS.

**Lincoln Hills Cares** delivers outdoor education and recreation programs and experiences to our Denver Metro and Front Range communities. Through a variety of partnerships with local, regional and national nonprofit and municipal organizations we continue to expand our reach by serving a growing number of youth, young adults and families who may not otherwise have the opportunity.

## PROGRAMS OFFERED

- Youth Outdoor Educations Programs
- Nizhoni Equestrian Program
- TeamWorks Service Learning Program



Interested in partnering with us?  
Visit: <http://lincolnhillscares.org>





## OUTDOOR EDUCATION CURRICULUM AND ACTIVITIES

Archery

Arts

Archeological Digs

Camping

Challenge Courses

Cultural History

Energy

Entomology

Environmental Conservation

Fire Building

Fly Fishing

Geology

Hiking

Horseback Riding

Horticulture

Mathematics

Mountain Biking

Natural Engineering - Flight

Nature Scavenger Hunt

Ornithology

Outdoor Leadership

Paleontology

Physics

Pitching a tent

Pollinators

Pond Ecology

Rafting

Rock Climbing

Sailing

Shelter Building

Survival Skills

Tree Fort Construction

Water Filtration

Wildlife Biology

Wildlife Tracking





## NIZHONI EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM

THE VISION OF THE NIZHONI EQUESTRIAN PROGRAM IS TO FOSTER PERSONAL GROWTH THROUGH EQUESTRIAN EXPERIENCES. WE AIM TO FULFILL THIS VISION BY ENCOURAGING SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT AMONG YOUTH & TEEN GIRLS, THROUGH EQUESTRIAN TRAINING. WITH ROOTS THAT DATE BACK TO 1924, THE NIZHONI PROGRAM WAS RE-ESTABLISHED IN 2013 TO PROVIDE YOUNG WOMEN WITH POSITIVE AND EMPOWERING EXPERIENCES.

Today's Nizhoni Equestrian Program is staged out of the Lincoln Hills Equestrian Center, and allows for a safe and comfortable environment for youth to interact with horses. The program incorporates weekly instructional sessions that provide participants with an opportunity to learn various equine care tactics and horseback riding skills, which translate into building life skills, emotional awareness and self-confidence.





*"Being in the Nizhoni program has changed my life and the way I view animals and nature. I could not have done this without Ms. Pamela's encouragement to join the group. The way that she presented the program to me expanded my curiosity. Interacting with my assigned horse, Cricket, has taught me a lot about horses and their behavior; I was intrigued how our emotions connected. I was also able to appreciate nature more than ever before."*





# PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

We'd like to thank all of our partner organizations. Without their support, our work would not be possible.



**Lincoln Hills Cares strives to provide unique and innovative outdoor experiences through focused programs and curriculum, delivered in our Youth Outdoor Education Programs, Nizhoni Equestrian Program and TeamWorks Service Learning Program for youth and young adults.**



Interested in partnering with us?  
Visit: <http://lincolnhillscares.org>

Annunciation Catholic School  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Colorado  
Boettcher Boys & Girls Club  
Boule Scholars  
Boy Scouts  
Broncos Boys & Girls Club  
City LAX  
cityWILD  
Commerce City Parks and Rec.  
Cope Boys & Girls Club  
DC-21 School  
Denver Area Youth Services  
Denver Parks & Recreation  
Denver Urban Scholars  
Dora Moore ECE-8 School  
Family Forward Resource Center  
(Kathy's Kamp)  
Gilpin County Rec Center  
Gilpin County Scouts  
Girl Scouts of Colorado

Great Outdoors Colorado  
Groundwork Denver  
Heart & Hand  
History Colorado STAMP Camp  
Horizons at Colorado Academy  
Hope Kids  
Johnson Boys & Girls Club  
Mile High Youth Corps  
My Brother's Keeper  
Owen Boys & Girls Club  
Porter Billups Academy  
Shopneck Boys & Girls Club  
Suncor Boys & Girls Club  
Teens Inc.  
Urban League of Metro Denver  
Urban Youth Ministries  
Vickers Boys & Girls Club  
Westwood Summer Camp  
Wilfley Boys & Girls Club  
YMCA – Power Scholar Academy

# 100%

of youth agreed or strongly agreed they feel good about themselves.









# PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERSHIPS

Recognizing that organizations can accomplish more by working in collaboration, the Lincoln Hills Cares Foundation has been established to support Lincoln Hills Cares programming, and it also offers financial support to other organizations and programs with similar missions to expand and carry out its mission.



Since 2015, the collaboration has been an opportunity to leverage Lincoln Hills Cares (LHC) physical resources and outdoor curriculum to launch a formal Outdoor Education program with Boys & Girls Clubs of Colorado. Through additional investment and partnerships with LHC, Denver's underserved youth have experienced the wonders of Colorado's natural resources, increased their knowledge of Colorado's history, blended fun outdoor experiences with educational outcomes, and been exposed to outdoor and STEM related careers that they might never have previously considered.

One of the highlights was visiting the Great Sand Dunes National Park. Park Rangers from the National Park passed around ancient artifacts of the animals and people who once inhabited the Great Sand Dunes. Youth learned how to throw a spear using an atlatl, an ancient spear-throwing device that was once used to hunt bison and other large animals before the development of the bow and arrow. The History of Colorado program delivered a week packed full of experiential learning, Colorado's history, and outdoor fun.

**Successes:** One of the best ways to describe the success of the programs is to hear from some of the youth who participated in the Lincoln Hills Program:



- **97%** of youth report that they had fun and enjoyed programs
- **92%** of youth report that they would do the program again
- **91%** of youth report that it is important to protect natural spaces
- **89%** of youth report feeling supported by an adult
- **86%** of youth report learning something new
- **79%** of youth report having challenged themselves during the program
- **75%** of youth report that the program made them feel more connected to nature
- **74%** of youth report having never done the activity before





*er filtration was interesting.”*



**The No Walls initiative** is to launch the Denver Museum of Nature & Science’s (DMNS) re-imagined school outreach program. By partnering with Lincoln Hills Cares, both organizations will be able to expand their current reach by serving more under-represented children and youth, and provide them with a greater range of opportunities to foster curiosity, excitement, love, and stewardship of the natural world.

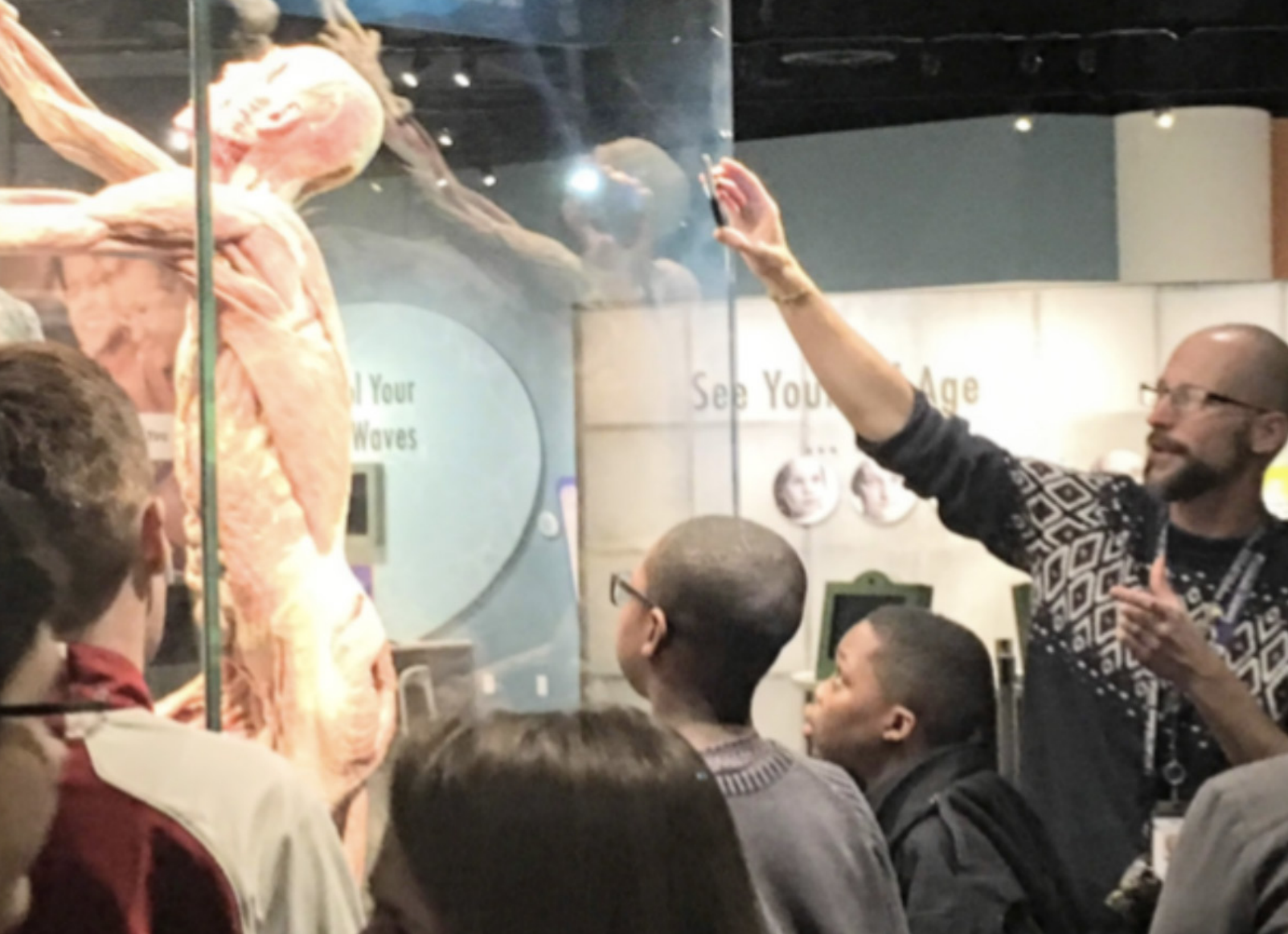
### **No Walls Schools Curiosity Kits and Wonder Workshops**

Teachers’ feedback on post-program surveys indicates that the programs feel tailored to their needs, make science approachable, and effectively engage, challenge, and motivate students.

- **96%** agree that students worked together collaboratively
- **93%** of teachers agree that their students did something memorable that they wouldn’t normally do in school
- **90%** of teachers who participated in Wonder Workshops and **80%** of teachers who participated in Curiosity Kits rated their overall experience with the programs as Excellent or Superior
- **90%** agree that students used critical thinking to solve problems
- **86%** agree that students showed pride in their work







Removing barriers to provide easier access for teens from all backgrounds and neighborhoods to engage in fun, engaging and relevant experiences with a focus on nature and science.

Teen Lounge, Lincoln Hills Cares and Denver Museum of Nature & Science (DMNS) have co-created a program since 2017 that advances both organization's mission, vision, and goals. Areas of overlap include: 1) inspiring people to understand and protect our natural world; 2) engaging teens around Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics (STEAM); 3) breaking down barriers to access; 4) increasing teen attendance and engagement in Lincoln Hills Cares and DMNS activities; and 5) providing opportunities for service-learning through planning and evaluation of these events.

### Accomplishments

- Engaged teens in fun, and relevant experiences with a focus on nature and science, in ways that are meaningful to them
- There were 1,152 attendees, reaching 96% of the 1,200 goal
- Removed barriers such as cost, transportation, and required registration for easier access for teens from all backgrounds and neighborhoods to engage in enriching opportunities, work and plan together, and connect year-round
- On a scale of 1 to 5, respondents rated the statement "I would come to another Teen Lounge in the future" at 4.3



# TEAMWORKS

The purpose of **TeamWorks** is to bring together youth from differing backgrounds to complete meaningful conservation projects, build relationships, gain employment skills, and learn conservation related principles.

Since 2010 TEENS, Inc. and Lincoln Hills Cares have collaborated to implement the highly successful **TeamWorks** summer employment program. This program has increased resiliency, ecological literacy, and work ethic in over 140 different youth employees.

Partners, including the National Park Service, Colorado State Parks, Jefferson and Boulder County Open Space, Left Hand Watershed Coalition, Denver Water, Children’s Farms of America (Denver), and others have already committed to 85 combined days with **TeamWorks** in 2019.

**Accomplishments:**

Youth gained extensive knowledge on how to facilitate groups and lead outdoor-based team-building activities.

- Students increased their knowledge of work etiquette and skills that will support them in success in the workplace going forward.
- Youth spent 80% of their time in outdoor, nature based, and environmental stewardship work sites or in nature based professional development programming. For example, at Woodbine, students engaged in several workshops on plant identification and then worked on invasive species removal projects.

As one participant stated, “**TeamWorks** has been one of the best summers I’ve ever had because it taught me about friendship, teamwork and hard work. My supervisors were role models who inspired me to work hard and be respectful.”

77%

Program Participants stated that they were “likely” or “highly likely” to return in 2019

69%

Program Participants experienced camping for the first-time

**Programming Sites**

- |                                       |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ■ Eldorado Canyon                     | ■ Castlewood Canyon State Park        |
| ■ Front Range Climbing Stewards       | ■ COMBA- Arapahoe National Forest     |
| ■ Roxborough State Park               | ■ Rocky Mountain National Park        |
| ■ Denver Museum of Nature and Science | ■ Private Land                        |
| ■ Denver Water- Gross Reservoir       | ■ Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks |
| ■ Clear Creek County                  | ■ Four Mile Watershed Coalition       |
| ■ Jefferson County Open Space         | ■ Children Farms of America           |









# STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

Lincoln Hills Cares has created lasting partnerships with local, regional and national organizations. The partnerships forge and strengthen our ability to deliver high-quality outdoor education programming to thousands of youth across the Front Range of Colorado and beyond.

# COMMUNITY RECOGNITION

Lincoln Hills Cares, was nominated by the Center for Legal Inclusiveness in the Nonprofit/Government Agency/Community Organization category of Inclusiveness at Work, recognizing those in the community who are working to create a more diverse and inclusive community in Colorado.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Lincoln Hills Cares continues to share the impact of its cultural history with the community.



## FD6 | **HOT TOPIC: LINCOLN HILLS, FROM NECESSITY TO OPPORTUNITY**

9:00am – 9:30am • Location: 113

Wink's Lodge, also known as the Winks Panorama, is a nationally significant site unique to Colorado's history. The Lodge represents Black Social History and exemplifies efforts of Colorado's African American community to create their own opportunities for vacationing, recreation and leisure in response to their exclusion from white-dominated venues under segregation. Winks is also significant for its Craftsman Style architecture, the sand-shifting influence of the Civil Rights Movement on the property, and in the area of Non-Aboriginal Historic Archaeology. Join J. R. Lapierre of Lincoln Hills Cares and Gary Jackson as they share past stories and future plans for Winks.

**Speakers:** Gary Jackson (Denver County Court), J. R. Lapierre (Lincoln Hills Cares)







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