

Annual Report 2024-2025

GRAND
NORDIC



MESA
COUNCIL

Mission Statement

Grand Mesa Nordic Council is a community-supported, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting fun and safe cross country skiing experiences on Grand Mesa for skiers of all ages and abilities. GMNC relies entirely on voluntary contributions and grants to fund trail grooming and maintenance operations.



Non-Discrimination Policy

Grand Mesa Nordic Council does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. These activities include, but are not limited to, hiring and firing of staff, selection of volunteers and vendors, and provision of services. We are committed to providing an inclusive and welcoming environment for our staff, members/clients, volunteers, subcontractors, and vendors. Minors may be excluded from membership or participation at the discretion of Grand Mesa Nordic Council leadership.

Letter from the Executive Director

The 2024-2025 season was a turning point for GMNC. We raised the money to move forward on two major projects: the construction of Skyway Station (our first permanent building on the trail system) and the expansion of our trail systems at Skyway and County Line.

Thanks to an outpouring of support for the Skyway Station project from our members as well as from community partners, businesses and foundations, we are on track to begin construction on Skyway Station this summer. (More details elsewhere in this report.)

This spring, we received a planning grant from Colorado Parks & Wildlife to fund the development of new ski and snowshoe trails at Skyway and County Line. This grant will finance the environmental assessments (NEPA) and mapping required to gain Forest Service approval. We've been scouting and mapping the new routes this spring and have hired Westwater Engineering to complete the environmental assessments. If everything goes as planned, we will submit the trails for Forest Service approval this fall.

We're grateful for the support and collaboration that the Forest Service has brought to these two projects. And we're especially grateful to our members for stepping up their financial support this year and the many volunteers who kept us running. Thank you!

Our 2024-2025 season got off to a great start. Early storms gave us ample snow for skiing by Halloween and allowed our team, led by Tigran Bailey, to groom most trails in November. Once again, we were a destination for skiers across the West (and beyond) looking to train on early snow.



We're dedicated to keeping skiing affordable and accessible to everyone in our community. That's why we keep our membership fees low and once again we offered free learn-to-ski clinics to provide a safe and welcoming environment for people to try out skiing. These clinics were funded by a grant from the Dave and Mary Wood Fund and free or low-cost rentals were provided by our partners, The Nature Connection and Silent Country Ski & Cycle.

Thanks for your support!

-Christie Aschwanden, Executive Director



John Traylor



Abe Herman

Letter from the New Co-Chairs

Thank you so much for your support! The 2024-25 Nordic season was successful by every metric—revenues, memberships, sunshine, snowfall and smiles. We're in the home stretch in fundraising for Skyway Station, and expect to break ground this summer (please consider donating to finish off our capital campaign!). Trail expansion is moving forward thanks to a Colorado Parks and Wildlife grant, and the GMNC Board, our Executive Director Christie and staff are turning our attention to successfully managing the growth we've experienced over the last several years. Maintaining the blissful experience found on our trails is a top priority.

Our success as an organization over the last five years would not have been possible without the exceptional work of our past board president, Dan Tille. Under Dan's leadership GMNC doubled our membership levels, professionalized our staff, and launched the exciting work highlighted in this annual report. Dan is stepping off the board to devote his volunteer hours to helping us complete the Skyway Station construction project, and we're grateful he will continue to contribute to the success of GMNC. We hope you'll thank him for all his hard work when you see him on our trails this winter.

On behalf of our entire GMNC team, thank you all for making our community so special.

Sincerely,
John Traylor & Abe Herman
Co-Chairs, Grand Mesa Nordic Council



Treasurer's Report, Fiscal Year Ended April 30, 2025

Great news: We finished our fiscal year in the black with a net income of just over \$2,000. Our final revenues and expenses came in right on budget. **Carrying zero debt, we closed out the fiscal year with \$435,000 in net operating assets.**

More good news: Revenues Are Increasing

- Our Operating Revenues increased 14.1 percent over the previous year.
- Membership dollars increased by 11.3 percent, and overall individually-based donations (including memberships) were up 22.1 percent.
- Sustaining memberships are increasing. (Please consider becoming a sustaining member!)
- Business contributions rose 31.5 percent.
- Investment revenue increased 45.2 percent. This is interest earned from investing excess operating cash. Our Finance Committee ensures that funds are invested in low-risk accounts earning good interest rates. These investments are kept completely separate from Skyway Station funds.

-Donations to our Capital Equipment Reserve Fund (CERF) were very strong— three times the size of last year's contributions. These donations go directly into a fund set aside for extraordinary capital (grooming) equipment repairs and replacements.

-We also maintain a separate **SnowCat Replacement Fund**, and the board elected to move an additional \$9,000 to this fund at the end of the year, bringing its total to **\$259,000**.

Even More Good News: Operating Expenses on Budget

Overall, expenses increased 12.7 percent over last year. Some expenses went down, such as expenses for programs, events, and fundraising. Admin and program staff expenses increased by a modest 2.8 percent, while expenses that drive our primary operations and mission, for trail grooming and maintenance, increased 28.3 percent. Administrative costs increased by 35.2 percent, largely driven by the costs of updating and upgrading our entire accounting system.

Not so good news: Mesa County

Governmental grant revenue decreased 40.5 percent, primarily due to cuts from Mesa County. In past years, Mesa County has put a portion of their share of the Colorado Lottery's Conservation Trust Fund (CTF) toward our operations, but last year they decided to redirect this money to other projects. Instead of granting us \$35,000, they cut this funding to \$17,500, leaving us with a \$17,500 hole to make up. They've told us that this year their contribution to GMNC will drop to \$0, leaving us with another \$17,500 gap to fill. **The fact that we overcame this significant cut this past year and still ended up in the black is truly remarkable.** We have a tough year ahead as we work to fill this significant gap in our budget.

—Christine Noel, GMNC Treasurer

Operating Revenues	2024-2025	2023-2024
Memberships	160,546	144,218
Grants	27,500	46,250
Programs	25,839	26,165
Trailboxes, Daily Use, Extra Donations	40,619	20,542
Business Contributions	26,882	20,441
Special Fundraising Events	13,681	14,250
Capital Fund Reimbursement	12,209	7,236
Investment Revenue	10,367	7,142
Merchandise Sales	3,325	5,974
Donations to CERF	13,119	3,329
Gain / Loss on Sale of Assets	3,250	
Total Revenue	337,337	295,547

Operating Expenses ▼	2024-2025 ▼	2023-2024 ▼
Admin. & Program Staff	136,106	132,380
Trail, Grooming, and Maintenance	139,960	109,111
Administrative Costs	28,496	21,075
Programs and Events	4,550	16,418
Insurance	12,967	13,774
Fundraising (merch, etc)	3,039	4,655
Depreciation Exp.	10,208	
Total Expenses	335,326	297,413
Net Income	2,011	(1,866)

Operations Report



Jared, Tigran and Hannah

Thanks for another great season! Our grooming crew was me, Hannah Grossman and Jared Sears. It was our pleasure to groom the GMNC trails.

We made the best of a low snow year. Our season started strong, with great early snow, followed by some dry patches in January and February. We completed about 120 days of grooming at the Skyway, County Line and Ward systems.

We wish you all a safe summer. We'll see you again in a few short months!

-Tigran Bailey, Operations Manager/ Lead Groomer



Events/Volunteer/Ski School Coordinator Report

I want to extend a special thank you to everyone who supported our silent auction at the season kick off parties and online. This was our biggest fundraiser of the year and the proceeds surpassed all previous years. What a fantastic way to kick off the season!

We had an exceptional group of ambassadors out on the trails this year. A huge shoutout to them for all they do for GMNC. Our dedicated group of volunteers played a vital role in making the ski races, membership tables and other events successful. They gave out hot chocolate, baked cookies and made skiers feel welcome on the trails.

We had a fun season at ski school. PSIA instructor Emily Lovett trained our instructors, and she was amazing. We had a great Thanksgiving camp and continued with Women's Wednesdays and Friday meet-ups. We held a kids' games event and hosted many kids groups skiing and playing on our trails. Thanks to our instructors for an awesome season!

It was truly an honor serving the GMNC community.

Happy skiing!
—Hailey Coughlin



Ski School Report

The GMNC ski school had another great season, with Hailey Coughlin as director. Our instructors began with a training course led by PSIA-certified trainer Emily Lovett from Steamboat Springs. Emily helped us create a comprehensive teaching protocol for our instructor staff.

The GMNC ski school is funded through grants and registration fees (no operation funds are used to pay for it), and it once again operated in the black. Things began with a very well-attended series of masters clinic at the Grand Mesa Nordic Festival over Thanksgiving weekend, followed by a weekly Masters program with rotating instructors. We also offered progressive skate and classic clinic series for skiers looking to meet more specific training goals.

Our free learn-to-ski clinics are as popular as ever, and all three clinics sold out in a very short period of time. We were able to once again offer these clinics at no cost to attendees thanks to a grant from **The Dave and Mary Wood Fund**. We also partnered with **Silent County Cycle & Ski** and **The Nature Connection** to offer low cost or complimentary ski rentals to clinic attendees. These clinics are geared to first time classic skiers and they translated into many new members and ski enthusiasts.

Our Wednesday Women's clinics continued, with both skate and classic options. Our free women's Friday meetups also continued this year.

We are looking forward to more great clinics and programs next season!



Leadership 2024-2025

GMNC is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors from our local communities.



Dan Tille President

Originally from the the Midwest, Dan spent 13 years traveling around the US and Europe for his wife's career in the US Air Force. He runs a coaching business and spends time with his wife and two daughters, training his dogs, skiing on the GMNC trails, and riding his bicycle as often as he can.



John Traylor Vice President

Born and raised in the Grand Valley, John has skied on Grand Mesa his whole life. Now retired after a career in public finance, he is happy to support GMNC and all it does to enhance winter sports and community building for Coloradans.



Christine Noel Treasurer

Dr. Christine Noel, CPA, is a tenured Associate Professor of Accounting at Colorado Mesa University with 20+ years of teaching experience. She has cross-country skied all around her beautiful home state, and is delighted that the best skiing Colorado has to offer is right here at the Grand Mesa Nordic Council.



Marguerite Tuthill Secretary

Marguerite Tuthill grew up in Avon and has lived in Grand Junction since 2015. She learned to love Nordic skiing in college. She heads operations for a value-based healthcare company. Her friendly, Newfoundland dog has designated herself an unofficial greeter on the County Line dog loop.

Board of Directors 2024-2025

Members At Large



Susie Attaway

Born and raised a beach bum near Mustang/North Padre Islands, Susie spent several decades traveling our vast mountains as a medical sales rep in healthcare. An avid back-country telemark skier, Susie started her winter Nordic addiction on the Grand Mesa after attending a skating clinic in Crested Butte.



Tom Ela

Tom was born and raised in Grand Junction and learned to downhill ski at the old Mesa Creek Ski Area. After 15 years of college and seeing the world, he returned to Colorado. He helped found the GMNC in 1990 and has been a Board Member almost continuously since. He has been integral in putting on the GMNC races since the beginning.



Nike VanArsdale

Nike is a Colorado native. Cross Country skiing is her favorite activity, second to dancing. Nike lives in Orchard city with her husband and her dog, Raleigh, both also love to ski. She is a farmer, and a Real Estate broker in Cedaredge. She is passionate about the GMNC community of people and loves to share her love of skiing and activity with others.



Ben Graves

Ben is the Director of Development and Partnerships for the Nature Connection, and has worked as a high school science teacher in the Delta County School District. He enjoys working with kids and families, inspiring a love for our local environment and being outside. He lives with his wife and two daughters in Paonia.

Key Staff



**Christie
Aschwanden**
Executive Director



Hailey Coughlin
Ski School Director,
Events/Volunteers



Tigran Bailey
Operations/Lead
Groomer



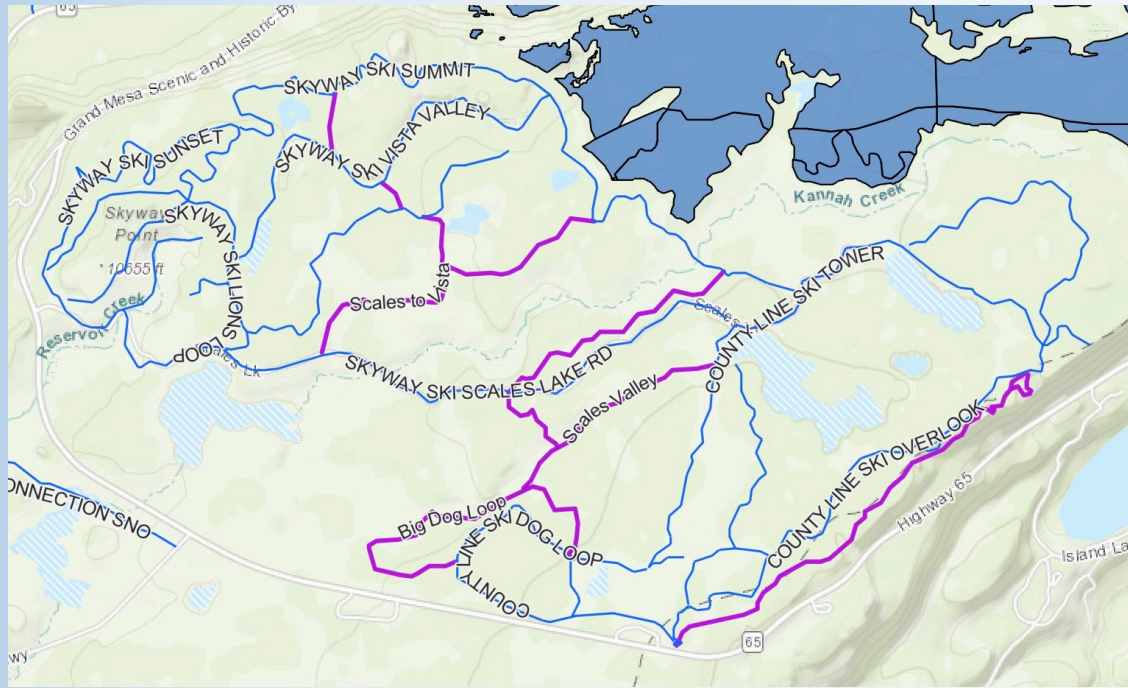
Beth Klein
Bookkeeper



Community Partners

- Alpine Bank
- ANB Bank
- Dave and Mary Wood Fund
- Delta County
- Delta-Montrose Electric Assoc.
- El Pomar Foundation
- Friends of Youth and Nature
- Gates Family Foundation
- Goodwin Foundation
- Grand Valley Nordic Ski Club
- Grand Valley Outdoor Recreation Coalition
- Jean Thomas Lambert Foundation
- Lions Club of Grand Junction
- Mesa County Trails Crew
- The Town of Cedaredge
- The Rotary Club of Delta Colorado
- Mesa County
- The Nature Connection
- Riverside Educational Center
- Surface Creek Community Fund
- U.S. Forest Service
- Western Colorado Community Foundation
- West Slope Outdoors Alliance

Trail Expansion Project Update



In March, we received a grant from Colorado Parks and Wildlife to support our proposed trail expansion at County Line and Skyway. The \$23,088 planning grant will fund the necessary mapping and environmental assessments required to submit the proposed trails to the Forest Service for approval.

We have hired WestWater Engineering to conduct this work. Our staff and volunteers spent time this spring scouting and mapping the proposed routes. The map shown here is a (very) rough draft of the new proposed trails.

Our existing trails are in blue (a few of them are only partially shown), and the proposed routes are in purple. The purple trail on the far south side of County Line is a proposed snowshoe route, which still requires more scouting. We will be doing some work on the ground in early summer to finalize the routes we'll propose.

Our timeline has us submitting the proposal to the Forest Service by fall, with a decision coming as soon as the end of the year. Following approval, the next step will be to do any trail work needed the following summer and finalize new maps. We will be seeking additional funding for this final step.



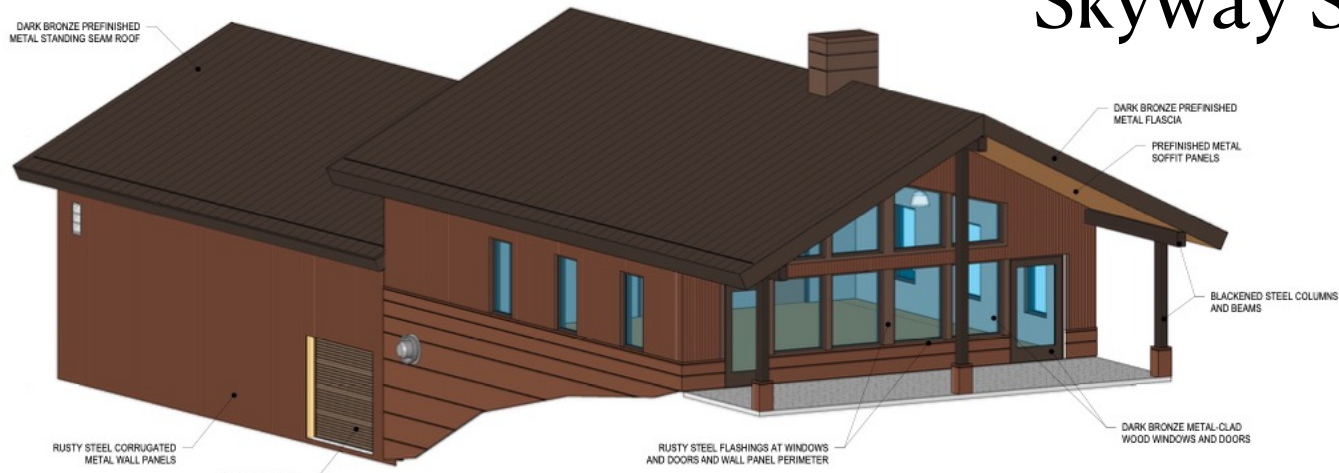
It's happening! After years of planning, and lots of support from our members and the wider community, we are moving forward with the construction of Skyway Station, our trail system's first permanent building. Nestled in the trees just north of the parking lot at the Skyway trailhead on Grand Mesa, this rustic, charming shelter will protect and store our grooming equipment and give our community a space to gather and belong.

Skyway Station is part of the GMNC's long-term vision to preserve and sustain what we love about skiing on the Grand Mesa. As of June 1, we had raised funds for the main building and operations basement, but were still completing the final fundraising on the snowcat garage at the back of the building (see sketches on next page).

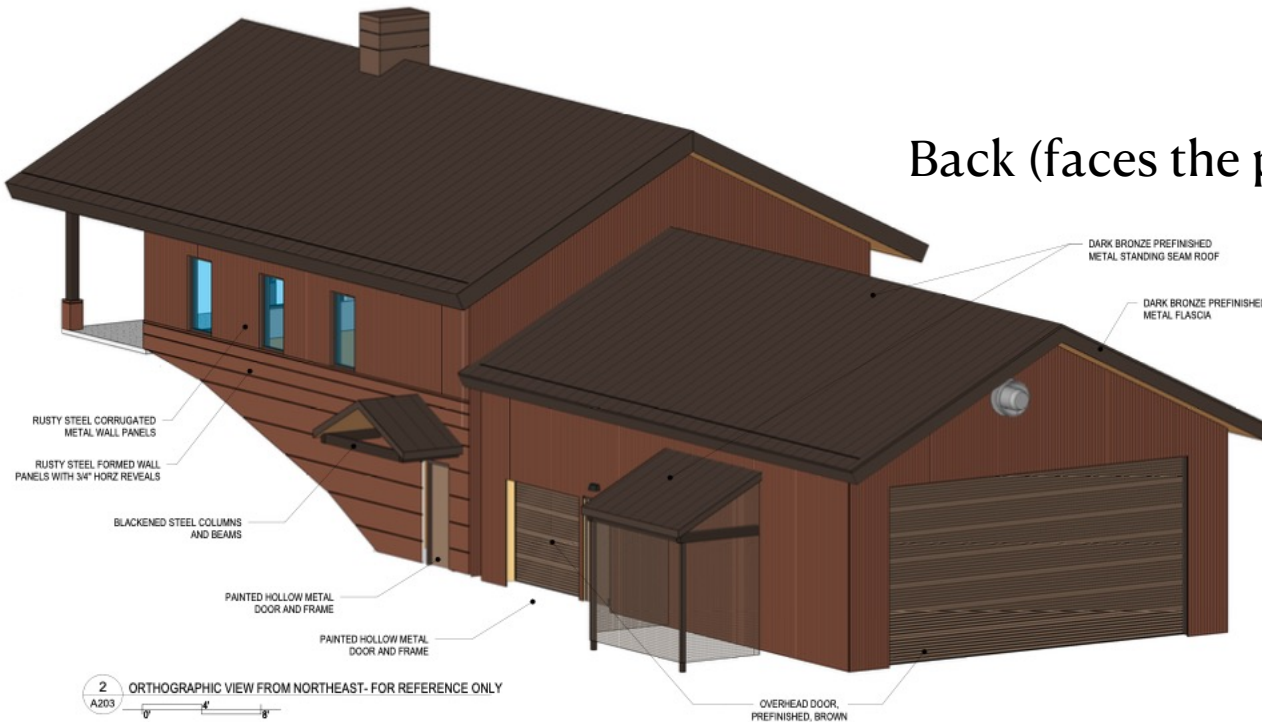
We are scheduled to begin construction this summer, and the project will (hopefully) be completed by the end of the 2025-2026 season. If all goes as planned, we can have our season end party at Skyway Station.

Find more information or make a donation here: <https://gmnc.org/join/future/>

Skyway Station



Front (faces the Skyway parking lot)



Back (faces the practice loop)

← Snowcat garage



SKYWAY STATION BUILDING OUR FUTURE

Thank You Donors!

We honor donor requests to not share their names. If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please let us know.

\$100,000+

The Goodwin Foundation

\$20,000+

Tom and Sue Beachman

Delta Montrose Electric Association

Gates Family Foundation

Tim & Sarah Judkins

John & Barb Rankin

\$15,000+

El Pomar

Western Colorado Community Foundation

\$10,000+

Alpine Bank

Shannon Tupa & Peter Marshall

\$5,000+

Alpine Bank

Bryan Cashion

Christi Reece Group

Ariel & Elizabeth Martinez

Marilyn Mudge

John Traylor

Peter & Donna Valenti

\$2,000+

ANB Bank

Walter Bland

Enno Heuscher

Victoria & David Klinger

Jill & Dave Knutson

Illene Roggensack

\$1,000+

Dana Albright

John Batug

Ron Crews

Jerry & Marci Nolan

Bob & Sheryl Shivley

Natalie Trecker

Brad Burritt & Danielle Carre

Schwab Charitable

Matthew J. Deeths

Jan Dudley

Tom Ela

Andrea Nederveld

Dan Tille

James Whiting

\$500+

Barrett (Baer) Bechtel

Dr. Sarah Bishop

Randy & Marilyn Boyce

Charles & Robbie Breaux

Myles Brown

Community Hospital

Irene & Jim Compton

Ralph D'Alessandro & Linda

Bacigalupi

Evan Ela

Randall Gillette

Michael Gormley

Greg & Patti Hart

Abram Herman

John Holder

Sarah Hutchinson

Pat Japenga

Marilyn Kastens & Ken Pill

Lee Kleinman

Angie Kuzminski

Mark Main

Mark Main employer match

Bob Major

Nathan & Robin Moreng

Nora and Kevin O'Brien

Dan Perl

Melinda Roalstad

Strategic By Nature Inc.

Third Sector Innovations

Catherine Wagner

Art & Erin Wilson

\$5,000+

Ariel & Elizabeth Martinez
Tom & Sue Beachman

\$1,000+

Art Trevena & Joyce Tanihara
Craig & Karin Hughes
Dan & Lynea Schultz-Ela
Marilyn Kastens & Ken Pill
Gudrun Rice & Charles Kerr

Jay Mathis

Jill & Dave Knutson

Marilyn Kastens & Ken Pill

Irene & Jim Compton

Tim and Sarah Judkins Foundation

Tom Ela

Ski Club Vail

Susie Attaway

Tom Schaffer

\$500+

Andrea Singewald
Aspen Valley Ski Club

Bill Hilty

Bob Major

Brian Brandstetter

Bryan Cashion

Cheryl Riise

Debra Clark

Emily Sinclair

Greg Bodkins

H. Walker Sanders

Janice Head

Joe Urbanski

John Traylor

Joni Canterbury

Kevin & Nora O'Brien

Kristina Hindert

Lawrence Jones

Maggie Bruehlman

Melinda Roalstad

Myles Brown

Nora and Kevin O'Brien

Park City Ski & Snowboard Club

Paula & Steve Harper

Peggy Ensign & Maggie Hopffgarten

Ralph D'Alessandro & Linda Bacigalupi

Randall & Michele Gillette

Roger Van Andel

Shelly Weiss

Steve & Jane Colby

Tiberiu-Doru & Patricia Corduban



THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS

The following donors have given beyond the basic membership fee, and we're grateful for their generosity. We rely on these extra donations to fund our operations and keep membership fees affordable to all in our community. Our sustaining members (in **bold**) make their donations via monthly giving.

We honor donor requests to not share their names. If we have inadvertently omitted or misspelled your name, please let us know.

\$250+

Annemarie and Sam Yoder

Atis Muehlenbachs

Beverly Pulver

Bryant Mason

Carol Sperat

Charles & Robbie Breaux

Christie & Dave Aschwanden

Christine Noel

Coby Jordan

Cory Beck

Dan & Kate Tille

David Pettit

Derek van Westrum

Elliot Norquist

Filip Babnic

Gayle Tomkiewicz

Gregory Deckrow & Cindy Peterson

Heather McKernan

Impact Assets

James & Arlene Jackson

James & Kristen Lummis

Jaymie Redfern

Jennifer Walker

Jill Macfarlane

Jim & Janet Comerford

Jim Whiting

Joe D. Ramey & Ellen Heffernan

John Blair

Judy Altenberg

Karen & David Jensen

Katherine Key

Keith Fife & Kathy

Portner

Ken & Deanna Janckila

Kyle & Lori Stone

Linda DuPriest

Lynda Law

Matthew Deeths

Michele Hart

Mike Kerrigan

Nancy Church

Nancy Janes

Patrick Page

Peter Marshall

Richard Bertaut

Rick & Ann Peterson

Shannon Tupa

Steve & Lisa Kollar

Sue Solewin

Tom & Tara Suplizio

Marguerite Tuthill

Winslow Robertson

Business Members

Race Series Title Sponsor \$1,500: Empowered Energy Systems

Bronze Business Members \$500+

Board & Buckle Ski & Cyclery
Chill Switch Wines
Colorado Mesa Univ Outdoor Program
Cristee-Meade Building Co.
Delta County Tourism
Dufford, Waldeck, Milburn & Krohn, LLP
Friends of Youth and Nature
Gearhead Outfitters
Grand Mesa Lodge
Loki Gear
Lost Mesa Grill
Mariko Wilcox, Northwestern Mutual
Mike Tofel, Christi Reece Group
Monument Health
Mountain Top Resort
Odin Gear Depot
Rand Porter Properties
Starr's Guitars
The Board & Buckle
The Gear Junction
Thunder Mountain Lodge
West Slope Whiskey Club

Basic Business Supporters (\$250+)

Alpine Autohaus
Big John's Lumber Cedaredge
Blue Bear Cabin, Cedaredge
Cedaredge Lodge
Chow Down Pet Supplies Montrose
Crested Butte Nordic
Dr. John Unger, Montrose Chiropractic
Ela Family Farms
Fortunate Fruit
Heather Russell, psychospiritual therapist
Maison de Terre Bed & Breakfast
Monument Health
OpenSnow
Paonia Storage
Re/Max Mountain West
Silent Country Cycle & Ski
The Great Outdoors Company
TraVersatile Properties



Sharing the Joy of Skiing with Kids

We believe every child in our community deserves a chance to get outside in nature during the winter to experience the joy of being physically active in the outdoors.

We create opportunities for kids to fall in love with skiing by working with community partners such as Friends of Youth and Nature, The Nature Connection, the Grand Valley Nordic Ski Club and Riverside Educational Center.

Students from Delta County and Olathe schools learn to cross country ski on our trails, thanks to our partnership with The Nature Connection. The Nature Connection also provides low-cost family ski lending and Pop-Up ski lending at some of our events, including Family Fun Days.

Friends of Youth and Nature brings kids to ski and play on the Grand Mesa and they give financial support to our family ski days. Our ski instructors work with Riverside Educational Center to introduce kids from the Grand Valley to our trails.

The Grand Valley Nordic Ski Club offers coaching and instruction to kids who want to try racing.



Joyce Tanihara, Joey
Dog, Art Trevena



Victoria Klinger

GMNC Depends on Volunteers!

We love our volunteers! They are essential to our events and community. Our volunteers gave more than 1,000 hours of their time in service to our community this season.

Their work began with volunteer trail days in fall of 2024. Thanks especially to **Art Trevena and Joyce Tanihara**, we identified and completed extensive repair work at Ward. We also cleared downed trees and fixed broken trail markers at County Line and Skyway.

Trail Ambassadors provide a friendly face of GMNC, sharing information and etiquette tips to trail users. Ambassadors also collect user feedback and provide GMNC staff with detailed reports of happenings and usage. **Victoria & David Klinger** donated the most time this season to the Ambassador Program, each putting in more than 48 hours of service. Other top volunteers included **Julie & Chuck Allen, Karen Cornell, Dave Roedel, Liane Mattson, Danielle Carre and John & Cindy Thomas**.

Throughout the season, volunteers supported races, tables, and family/kid days, provided helping hands at lessons, serving hot cocoa, cookies, and soup, directing racers on course, and selling swag and memberships at trailhead events. Our robust and enthusiastic volunteer crew is at the heart of what makes this organization tick.



Chuck & Julie Allen



Dave Roedel, Madi Dog,
Karen Cornell

2024-2025 in Photos

