



THE CAIRN PROJECT



2016-2018 IMPACT REPORT



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A LETTER FROM THE FOUNDERS

Dear Friends,

We're so proud to share The Cairn Project's first impact report! The past two and a half years have been filled with milestones that we would not have achieved without you - our supporters, friends, and partners. Above all, this 2016-2018 report is a way of expressing our thanks to our community.

The Cairn Project is rooted in a simple idea: outdoor education is a unique and critical opportunity for young women, offering the chance to escape the confines and pressures of school environments; to tap into undiscovered strength, bravery, and perseverance; and to experience the joys and challenges of collaborative leadership. In a world rife with challenges, we know one thing for certain - we will all benefit from a rising generation of women who are emboldened to step into their leadership potential and to speak with authentic voices. We know that time outside fosters resilience to meet the unknown on the horizon with confidence.



Since our first adventure, we've been humbled by the engagement and enthusiasm of a wider community who believe in our "Get Out, Give Back" mission and want to get involved. From Alaska to Texas, our 2018 cohort of Ambassadors catalyzed their outdoor adventures into a chance to educate their networks about the importance of girls-only outdoor education, and to raise money for organizations delivering this opportunity around the country.

Ultimately, our impact is driven by our local partners, the organizations we support with small grant funding. We're proud to have seeded adventure opportunities for so many girls, and we look ahead with enthusiasm, envisioning so much more impact in the years to come.

Thank you for your continued support of The Cairn Project!

With deep gratitude,

Alison Sarah

Alison & Sarah
Founders



OUR MISSION & VISION

For girls and young women, The Cairn Project expands outdoor access by supporting community-based wilderness and outdoor education groups around the country through a small grants program. For women, we're bringing together a community that is inspired to catalyze outdoor passion into a force for good, share learning and stories, and raise the profile of women and girls in outdoor adventure.

We envision a dynamic community that is mobilizing to expand outdoor opportunities for young women, and a rising generation of empowered and self-confident girls who are personally connected to the landscapes we live in.



WOMEN'S WILDERNESS

HOW IT WORKS

GET OUT

The Cairn Project raises money by equipping passionate outdoor enthusiasts with the tools and support they need to elevate their next great adventure into an inspired fundraiser.

01

GIVE BACK

Donations are channeled into The Cairn Project's program, providing small grants to our local partners who are empowering young women through transformative outdoor experiences.

02



INSPIRING GIRLS EXPEDITIONS

AMBASSADOR LIZ PHAM





2018: THE YEAR OF ADVENTURE

The Cairn Project catalyzes outdoor adventure into opportunities to give back. In 2018, our “Get Out, Give Back” team grew! Twelve passionate outdoorswomen planned and executed adventure fundraisers around the country, activating their social networks to support our growing program.



HIKE:
CRISSY FIELD TO POINT REYES

ALISON WRIGHT CALIFORNIA



RUN:
CEDAR RAPIDS TO IOWA CITY

LUCIA TONACHEL IOWA



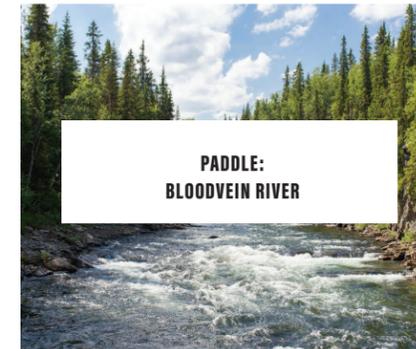
BIKEPACK:
BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

ASHLEY CARRUTH FOUR CORNERS



BACKPACK:
GLACIER NATIONAL PARK

SARAH CASTLE & ALISON WRIGHT MONTANA



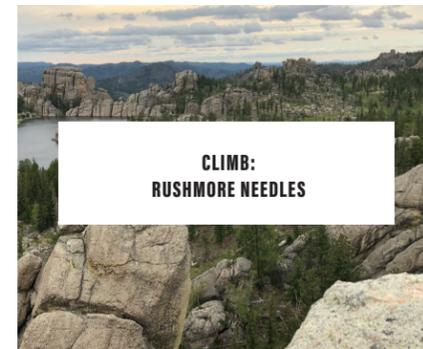
PADDLE:
BLOODVEIN RIVER

LAURA WILDENBORG CANADA



PACKRAFT:
ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

EMILY SULLIVAN ALASKA



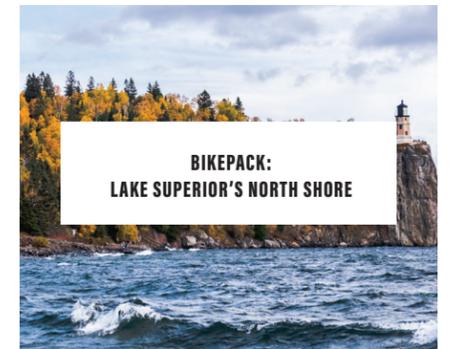
CLIMB:
RUSHMORE NEEDLES

LIZ PHAM SOUTH DAKOTA



PADDLE:
MIDDLE FORK OF THE CROW RIVER

SIRI GOSSMAN MINNESOTA



BIKEPACK:
LAKE SUPERIOR'S NORTH SHORE

LINDSAY KOCKA MINNESOTA



RUN:
MIDWEST HALF MARATHON

OLIVIA GREV MINNESOTA



BIKE:
MINNESOTA GRAVEL TOUR

SHANNON CASTLE & SARAH CASTLE MINNESOTA



BACKPACK:
THE LONESTAR TRAIL

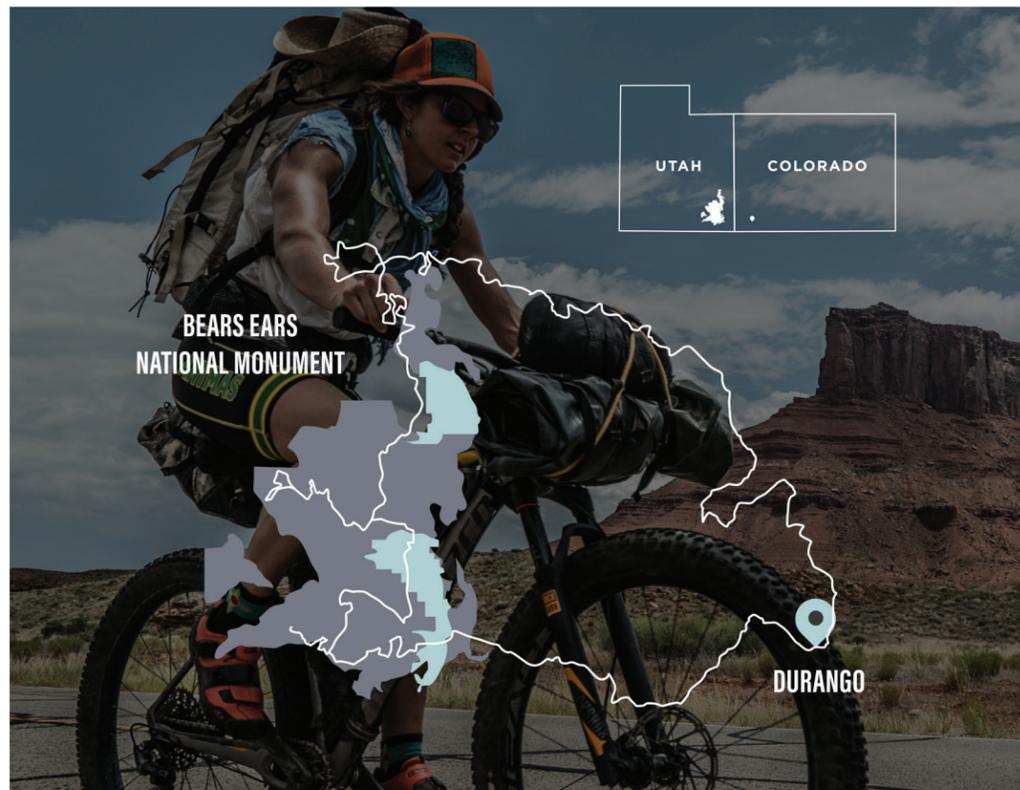
BECKY HEATH TEXAS



BREAKING TRAIL

BY ASHLEY CARRUTH

I hoist my pack over my head and onto the limestone ledge some eight feet above me. A stepping stone bobbles from side to side as I balance on tip toes, reach my hand above my head in search of a solid hold and scramble up the cliff to join my pack on its perch. I scan up canyon for any sign of humans: a trail, footprints, cairns, broken willow branches. I've never been



FEATURED CAMPAIGN

much of a math person, but I run some quick numbers. Hours since breakfast: four. Miles bushwhacked in the same time: six. Number of dawn-to-dusk days bikepacking through Bears Ears National Monument: 11. Inches of precipitation in Bluff, Utah, within the past seven months: 0.3. Personal fatigue rating: 9 out of 10.

As I consider the dark sky and expansive red rock labyrinth yawning some 40 miles before me, my own words from three weeks prior echo in my head. "Forty miles in three days is no problem," I nonchalantly told my boyfriend. "I've run that in just one day over four mountain passes. It can't be that hard."

As thunder erupts above me, I cough, nearly choking on the slice of humble pie lodged in my throat. Suddenly, 40 miles in this place, alone, feels daunting. Before I know what I'm doing, my tent is out of my pack and assembled on a sandy beach beneath a cottonwood tree. A soft rain patters against my tent as a drift off to sleep. It is only three o'clock in the afternoon, but it feels good to be cocooned in a small space, as if I needed to shelter myself not so much from the rain, as from the vastness of the desert.

It seems like I've been down here for months, even though it was only yesterday that I pedaled some 50 miles from Bears Ears Buttes through snow, hail, and rain to the Sundance Trailhead at the bottom of Dark Canyon. Dark Canyon begins high on the edge of Elk Ridge in southeastern Utah, some 5,000 vertical feet above, and cuts its way down through the layers of sandstone and limestone to the upper reaches of Lake Powell and the Colorado River.

I had been mulling over a possible trip through the Bears Ears National Monument since President Trump eviscerated the monument by 85 percent back in December 2017. But I hadn't quite found my adventure muse until I was skimming an email from The Cairn Project. The newsletter announced a fundraising strategy to enlist adventurous women to serve as Ambassadors and use their athletic endeavors, from running the Boston Marathon to climbing Denali, as a way to crowdsource.

I put aside the newsletter and decided it was time to pay my dues.

It felt good to have a bigger purpose for this trip, beyond fulfilling my own need to be rad. As an educator, I am always looking for new ways to engage my students in relevant issues in their own community. I aspire to help them foster a connection to wild places and a love of the land while understanding the ways those connections not only help the land through environmental stewardship but also lend themselves to a sense of personal and collective well-being.

My trip could serve as recon for my curriculum: I would return armed with knowledge about the Bears Ears and connect my students to a public land-use debate right in their own back yard. What I didn't anticipate were the ways in which unplugging from everyday life would enable me to connect more meaningfully with myself, the environment and community.

I'm home now, no longer immersed in the singularity of purpose that can only come from a day spent riding your bike from one point in the desert to the next. I'm inundated by a seemingly endless to-do list and at times feel scattered and unfocused. But as I prepare for another school year in a community and place I love deeply, I wonder what impressions upon the rock my hands will make. What will I leave behind to those who follow? I hope as much wilderness as possible.

"What I didn't anticipate were the ways in which unplugging from everyday life would enable me to connect more meaningfully with myself, the environment and community."

Ashley's Bears Ears Bikepacking campaign raised \$6,000 for The Cairn Project. The text above is a short excerpt of a longer essay; read Ashley's full story in the fall 2018 edition of The Gulch magazine.



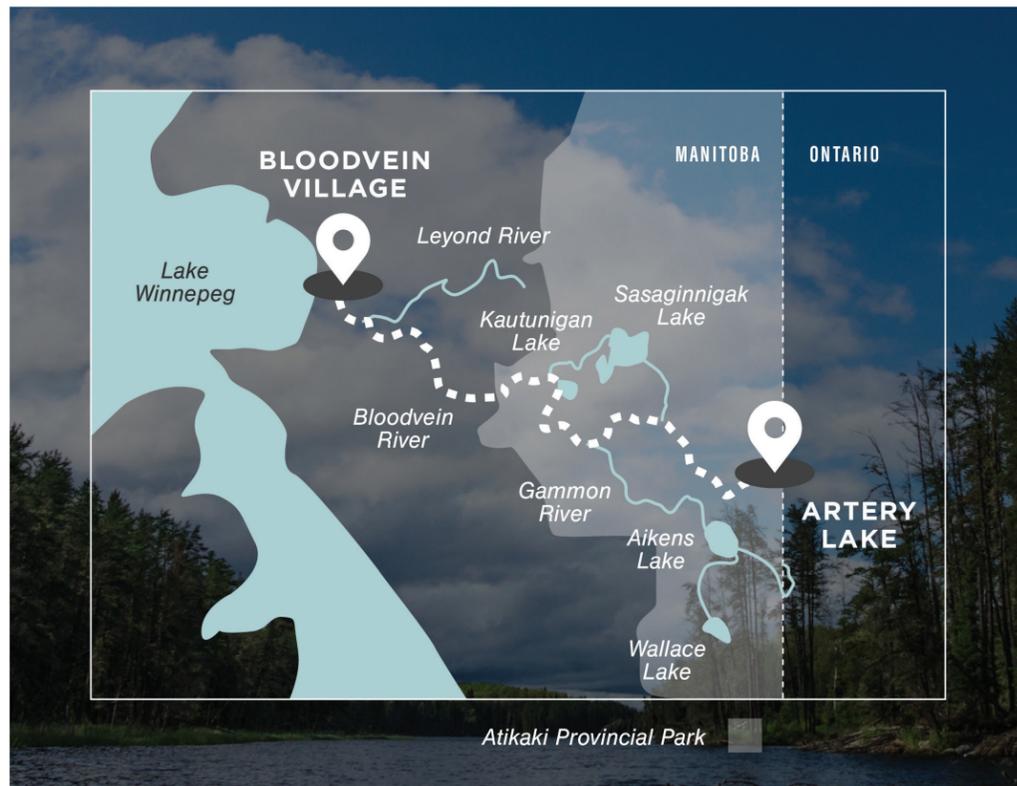
ON THE BLOODVEIN RIVER

BY LAURA WILDENBORG

A typical day consisted of waking up, doing our different tasks of packing up, making coffee and oatmeal or granola, pumping water, digging holes that were 6 inches deep, and packing the boat. We constantly reviewed the map, checking which side of the river to find the portages around the rapids and watching for them. We developed a routine of scouting the rapids and

“Usually, you can depend on moving water to quicken your pace, flowing on an average of three miles an hour. Instead, with totally slack water, we had to completely propel ourselves down the rest of the river.”

FEATURED CAMPAIGN



then deciding to paddle, portage, or line the canoes. Making decisions was a constant mind exercise; carrying the boat and navigating the trails were a full-body workout. Thankfully, we had a hardy stock of food in our bear barrel and earned our full night of rest at the end of each day. In spite of the low water, our benefits included wonderful weather and no bugs, which is unheard of in Canada!

Up until four days before we set out for the Bloodvein, the river had been closed due to wildfires. As we flew over the Canadian forests, we could see the tired wisps of smoke from the embers below. Slightly wary of the wildfires, we lowered our boat off the plane onto the waters of Artery Lake. We knew water would be low because it was the end of the summer and it hadn't rained for so long (cue the wildfires).

Coming upon our first rapid of the trip, we got a glimpse into how low the water actually was. Rocks were everywhere. We spotted a potential line, but it was going to be quite technical. We decided to portage, easily finding the trail we carried our first load over. Along the shore at the end of the rapids, there was half of a canoe perched on a rock. No human or gear or the other half of the canoe in sight! We discovered that it was old and abandoned - a sign that we had made a solid decision to portage.

As we moved along down the river, we realized that there was no current. No moving water until we were above a rapid. This did not bode well for our decision to shorten our trip to ten days rather than twelve. Usually, you can depend on moving water to quicken your pace, flowing on an average of three miles an hour. Instead, with totally slack water, we had to completely propel ourselves down the rest of the river.

Next rapid we decided to portage our gear and take a run at the Class II in front of us. After carefully scouting and discussing our plan of attack, we loaded into the boat. Down the tongue of water, we followed our exact route and boofed our canoe over the final rock slide, as we had underestimated how deep the water was. We came out unscathed and totally amped!

Our next rapid was another story. Another Class II, we scouted it and found a decent route. Emptying our canoe of our precious cargo (aka basic survival supplies, plus some chocolate), we took on the rapid. Following the line perfectly, we were shaken into the reality of lack of water volume as we violently found a hidden rock just below the surface, Mary skinning her knees on the bottom of the boat as we both jerked forward. This contributed to a weight shift and we started tipping over. I leaned hard against the tip to no avail. I slurped out of the boat. Looking behind me Mary was completely under, and then popped her head out looking just as shocked as I felt. We went to shore to assess the damage. The boat had a huge dent in it - so deep it made a dent into the inside of the bow. There wasn't a hole, but it was definitely in a fragile state. Thinking about ways to limp the boat along, Mary informed me that her hand was feeling weird. It was day two, we had a damaged boat and my partner had a potential injury. We had to reassess our risk levels and how to safely and successfully travel from here on out.

We had come to this river to paddle wilderness whitewater - a total of seventy-five runnable rapids from Artery Lake to our take-out near Lake Winnipeg. On average, August has a flow of 1700 cubic feet per second (CFS) and our level was at 420 CFS. We portaged or lined the remainder of the river.

Laura and her friend Mary safely reached their end point, not without varied excitement, including a bear encounter and significant wildfire threats over several days of river travel. Laura's Paddle: Bloodvein River campaign raised \$7,000 for The Cairn Project.



LESSONS IN FLEXIBILITY: LEARNING TO SLOW DOWN IN THE BROOKS RANGE

BY EMILY SULLIVAN



“Flexibility is key in the Arctic.” That’s the motto of bush pilots Dirk and Danielle of Coyote Air in Coldfoot, Alaska, and it was certainly relevant to my experience while planning a trip in the far north this summer. I had mapped a long and ambitious traverse of the Arctic Refuge, to be completed in one week. However, upon arrival in Coldfoot, I quickly found that my plans would be thwarted. The pilots were unable to fly east for multiple days and the rivers in that direction were flooded and unsafe to float alone. In the spirit of flexibility, I chose to delay my trip in the hopes that flooding would subside.



Two weeks later, rivers had not gone down. Dirk and Danielle offered to fly me west into Gates of the Arctic instead. I struggled with the abandonment of my original plan: while I yearned to be easy and flexible, I felt disappointed. I had been excited for the physical and navigational challenges of my original trip, as I would be traveling at a rapid pace through a trail-less area that sees very little visitation. The Arrigetch Peaks region didn’t quite allow me those challenges. So I let go of some of my personal expectations and tried to force myself to do two things I am not particularly good at: slow down and go with the flow.

When Dirk’s plane finally faded into the clouds and left me in silence on the banks of the Alatna, I was immediately struck by how much time I had on my hands. I no longer had a mileage goal, and I had no epic route to complete in a certain amount of time. Instead, I had six days to spend however I pleased; a fact that at first felt more cumbersome than freeing. But as days passed, I settled into myself, observing the change of seasons in the far north and slowing down to a degree that I had forgotten was possible. I meditated next to the most brilliant blue tarn I have ever laid eyes on, with granite spires towering above. I danced, alone--a ragged version of a ballet in the clouds. I spoke with birds and rocks and swayed with arctic poppies in the breeze. I wasn’t alone, as every little piece of the landscape became my friend.

“I danced, alone—a ragged version of a ballet in the clouds. I spoke with birds and rocks and swayed with arctic poppies in the breeze. I wasn’t alone, as every little piece of the landscape became my friend.”

My time on the river allowed me a new form of freedom as I moved effortlessly through the landscape. I camped for two nights at the confluence of the Alatna and Nahtuk Creek, drying gear and exploring my new surroundings. My bush pilot, Danielle, confided to me that this area was, to her, “the real Brooks Range.” It held a subtle beauty, less dramatic than the Arrigetch, but more similar to the quiet and humble peaks I am used to at home in the foothills of the Alaska Range.

I still plan on returning to the Arctic Refuge to complete some version of my original trip, and I’m sure that I will still move fast and light on many of my backcountry trips. But for now, I am thankful for the reminder of how small I am, how insignificant my plans are. The reminder that farther and faster aren’t synonymous with better.

Emily’s Packraft: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge campaign raised \$11,000 for The Cairn Project. This piece is an excerpt; read Emily’s full essay on The Cairn Project’s blog.



2017: MORE ADVENTURES, MORE IMPACT

In 2017, a couple of friends joined Alison and Sarah in the “Get Out, Give Back” effort. Building on the generous support of our inaugural donors, we expanded our grants program, grew our donor base, and made grants in more states.

01



BACKPACK: ZION TRAVERSE

ALISON WRIGHT

Two days and 50 miles across one of Utah’s crown jewels: Zion National Park.

📍 UTAH

BIKE: MIDWEST GRAVEL GRINDER

JEN KEVILLE, MARTHA FLYNN, SARAH CASTLE

One day to ride the 100 miles of southern Minnesota’s Almanzo Gravel Race.

📍 MINNESOTA



02

03



BACKPACK: COLLEGIATE PEAKS OF COLORADO

ALISON WRIGHT & SARAH CASTLE

Nine days along the 160-mile Collegiate Peaks Loop of the Continental Divide and Colorado Trails.

📍 COLORADO

2016: LAUNCHING THE CAIRN PROJECT

The hike that launched The Cairn Project: in 2016, Founders Alison Wright and Sarah Castle set out to hike the John Muir Trail in California's Sierra Nevada as the first "Get Out, Give Back" adventure.

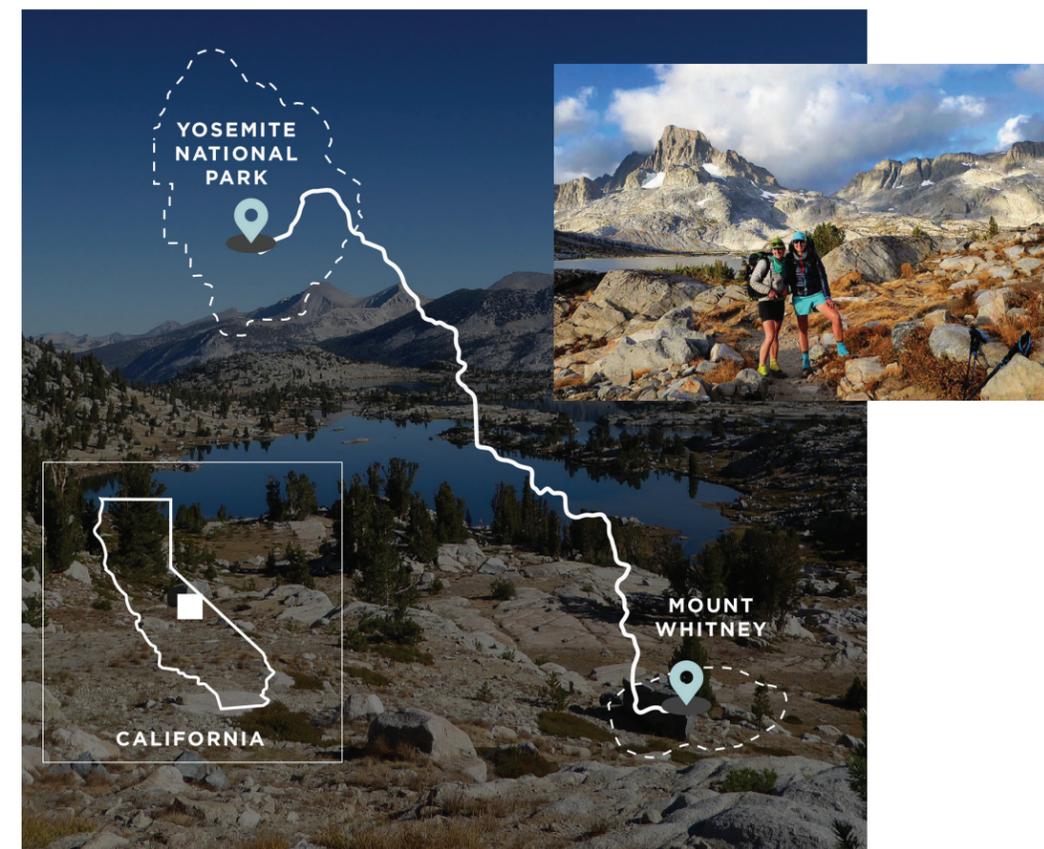


BACKPACK: THE JOHN MUIR TRAIL

SARAH CASTLE & ALISON WRIGHT

📍 CALIFORNIA

12 days of backpacking the 221-mile John Muir Trail. Named for one of America's best loved wilderness explorers, the JMT is a long distance hiking route that follows the crest of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California.



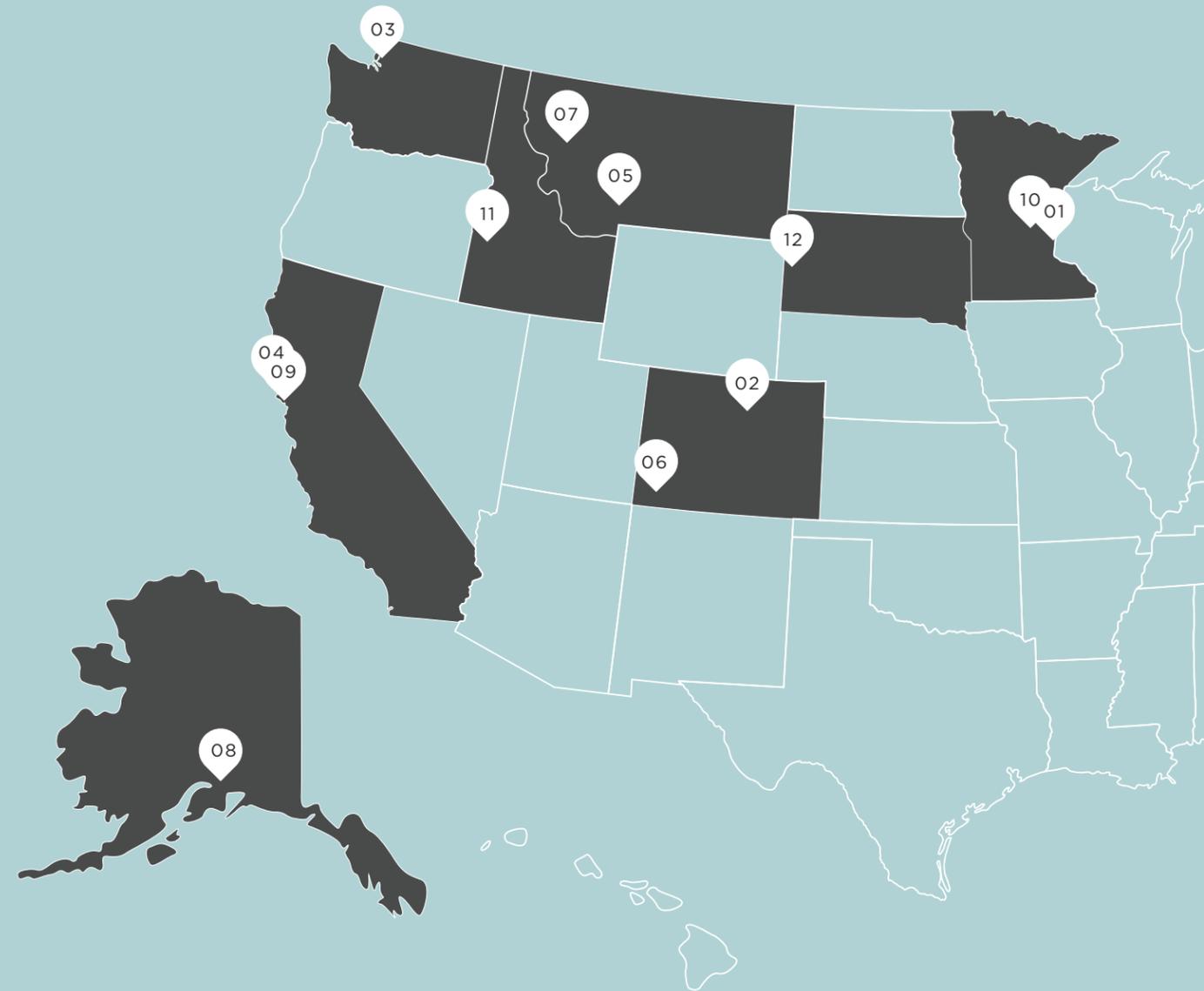


WHO WE SUPPORT: OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

With more resources, our local partners can have even greater impact. We answer this call by mobilizing a broad network that believes in the value of outdoor programs for young women – connecting our partners with a community of support that extends far beyond their hometowns.

Our grants run the gamut from increasing scholarship funds for well-established programs, to helping smaller, newer groups take their impact to the next level, and everything in between. As our grant portfolio grows, we will support partners in new communities and states.

- 01 LITTLE BELLAS
- 02 WOMEN'S WILDERNESS
- 03 WILD WHATCOM
- 04 GIRLVENTURES
- 05 MONTANA OUTDOOR SCIENCE SCHOOL
- 06 SAN JUAN MOUNTAIN SOLES



- 07 MT ALPHA CYCLING
- 08 INSPIRING GIRLS EXPEDITIONS
- 09 BROWN GIRL SURF
- 10 BIG CITY MOUNTAINEERS
- 11 WILD HEARTS IDAHO
- 12 MAKESPACE



NAVIGATING NEW EXPERIENCES ON THE WATER

Water-based sports offer a unique opportunity to combine technical skills development and teamwork with exploration in a new and exciting landscape: the marine ecosystem. Sea kayaking and canoeing expeditions offer the chance to learn and practice backcountry camping skills in places only reached by boat, and water adventures closer to home can foster a whole new relationship with your local environment.

BIG CITY MOUNTAINEERS



Our grants have supported canoeing, sea kayaking, and surfing opportunities for girls around the country. In Minnesota, The Cairn Project has partnered with Big City Mountaineers and Sisterhood Boutique to offer a week-long canoeing expedition in the Boundary Waters. Girls participating in Inspiring Girls Adventure's Girls on Icy Fjords program combined sea kayaking with glacial exploration, art, and science education. And in the Bay Area, Brown Girl Surf is connecting young women to the ocean with a surfing and mentorship program.



BROWN GIRL SURF

"I never thought I would be in love with the ocean. I grew up around it but for most of my life I didn't know how to swim so I just avoided it. Brown Girl Surf opened up a whole new world for me."

— Brown Girl Surf participant



WILD HEARTS IDAHO



"I'm a firm believer that opportunities like this will shape the next generation of young women who will lead in our communities and beyond."

— Acey,
Wild Hearts Idaho
Youth Leadership Board Member

HIKING AND BACKPACKING: STEPPING INTO LEADERSHIP

There's nothing quite like exploring landscapes on foot, carrying all of your gear on your back! Hiking and backpacking help to cultivate teamwork and leadership skills: planning routes, navigating anticipated and surprise elements outside as a group, and adapting to the streamlined simplicity of backcountry living are all experiences that offer fulfillment in the moment and lessons to carry back into the "real world."

Hiking and backpacking are integral parts of the programs of several of our partners, including Wild Hearts Idaho, the state's single girls-only outdoor program, who take girls on year round hiking adventures in the mountains around Boise. Our partner San Juan Mountain SOLES starts out each cohort with a summer backpacking expedition in the San Juans. And our support to Wild Whatom in Bellingham and Women's Wilderness in the Front Range of Colorado helps to expand access to local hiking through scholarships and gear support for outdoor adventure programs for middle school girls.



SAN JUAN SOLES



STRONG, CONFIDENT GIRLS ON AND OFF BIKES

MT ALPHA CYCLING



We want to see more girls on bikes! Studies show that girls participation in cycling drops off significantly in pre-teen and teenage years. Girls feel less confident in their abilities, more concerned about safety, and lack friends to ride with.

In Missoula, Montana, our grants to MT Alpha Cycling are increasing access to bike gear and skills training for young women in the community, regardless of financial



circumstances. In partnership with Minnesota-based chapters of local partner Little Bellas, The Cairn Project is providing scholarship support for girls to participate in summer-long mountain biking programs. A grant to the new South Dakota-based arts and cycling organization makeSPACE is helping to kickstart a cycling program for young women, girls, and LGBTQIA+ participants.



LITTLE BELLAS

"I'm inspired by changes I see over the course of our program. From the tentative girl who comes out of her shell to the girl who didn't think of herself as an athlete and now believes she is strong and brave, they all end up in an even better place than they started."

– Martha Flynn
Volunteer Director of Little Bellas - Twin Cities



"I gained the courage to step out of my comfort zone as I made friends with new groups of people, took on incredible physical challenges, stepped up as a leader, and learned to communicate my needs."

— GirlVentures Alumna

GIRLS REACHING THEIR POTENTIAL THROUGH CLIMBING

The Cairn Project supports rock climbing programs that provide young women with opportunities to explore their abilities, understand their fears, and build courage and confidence in a safe environment. Each climbing route is a defined personal challenge, offering exceptional chances to practice personal goal setting. Climbing helps to develop critical life skills like focus and concentration, creative problem-solving, decision-making, and perseverance.

Our grants have supported scholarships for young women to attend the climbing and mentoring 'Girls Climb On' program led by Bay Area-based GirlVentures. In the Front Range of Colorado, we've supported Women's Wilderness' 'Girls Lead for Life' program - an after-school and weekend climbing and mentorship program that cultivates respect, inclusivity, and collaboration.





INSPIRING GIRLS EXPEDITIONS



FOSTERING THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDS

The Cairn Project supports programs that integrate hands-on, experiential science education into their outdoor activities. Our landscapes provide an exceptional classroom in which to observe the natural world, cultivate wonder and curiosity, and learn science in a field setting. Girls interact with female scientists and naturalists, work with other girls to conduct on hands-on science experiments, develop observational skills, and exchange ideas. These opportunities are a foundation for lifelong environmental awareness and engagement.



INSPIRING GIRLS EXPEDITIONS

Our grants to Inspiring Girls Expeditions offer the chance to explore coastal Alaska landscapes from the interdisciplinary and interwoven perspectives of geology, biology, ecology, and physics. With local partner Montana Outdoor Science School, The Cairn Project supported field science learning opportunities on a week-long girls-only backpacking course in Montana's Gallatin Valley.

"Our goal is to not only show young women what they are truly capable of, but also to open their eyes to observing and interacting with our world - the landscapes and the people - in new ways."

— Erin Pettit
Inspiring Girls Expeditions



EXPANDING OUTDOOR ACCESS FOR ALL GIRLS

Girls face a complicated array of barriers to access in outdoor education. Many programs are simply too costly for families to afford for their daughters, or require expensive gear as a precursor to participation. In some cases, barriers are also logistical: working families don't have the time or resources to transport their daughters to programs. Even more nuanced are cultural and family norms that don't envision the outdoors as a place for young women. Social

"I filled out the application and forged my parents' signature. We had no money. They spoke no English. But one thing was understood - I could get a scholarship."

- Xiu Mei Chen
GirlVentures alumna

WILD WHATCOM



media, stories of outdoor adventure, and the outdoor retail industry often do not give young women the chance to "see" themselves outside - this is particularly true for girls from underserved communities and girls of color.

Expanded access is a criteria in every grant made by The Cairn Project, and our partners work to respond to the specific local context they work in. We've supported scholarships

for biking, climbing, and outdoor adventure programs in California, Colorado, Minnesota, Montana, and Washington. Our grants have also funded gear and logistics for these girls - rides from convenient pick up points to programs in Denver and Bellingham, wetsuits for young women participating in Brown Girl Surf, and biking gear for our partners MT Alpha Cycling and Little Bellas.



GIRLVENTURES



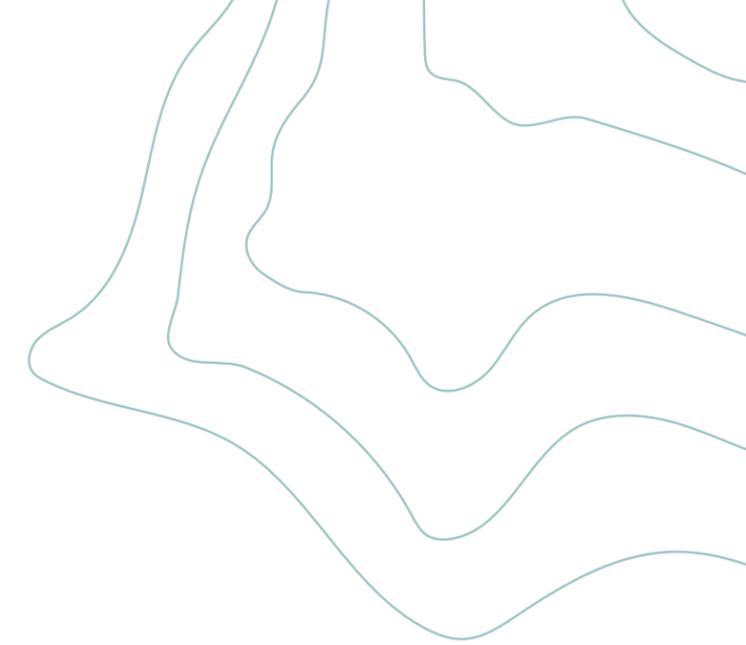
BROWN GIRL SURF



“Whenever I pick her up, the first words out of her mouth are, ‘Can I go again next Saturday?’”

— Father of a 12 year old
Brown Girl Surf participant

AFTER-SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW AND EXPLORE



SAN JUAN SOLES

Close-to-home, after-school programs offer young women a unique chance for cumulative and ongoing learning over the course of an academic year or semester. Gathering girls and mentors together for biking, climbing, and outdoor adventure programs during the school year offer young women a safe space to process the pressures of school and home. These programs give girls a break from traditional stereotypes and a chance to develop friendship that might not be possible in other settings.

Our grants support school-year programming in a number of states, and in each, ongoing mentorship is a key focus of the curriculum. San Juan Mountain SOLES in Durango, Colorado brings girls together for outdoor leadership development throughout the school year. In Montana and Minnesota, The Cairn Project supports after-school biking programs. And in California, Idaho, and Washington, our partners continue to expand outdoor adventure, climbing, and hiking programs - responding to increased demand for these after-school opportunities.



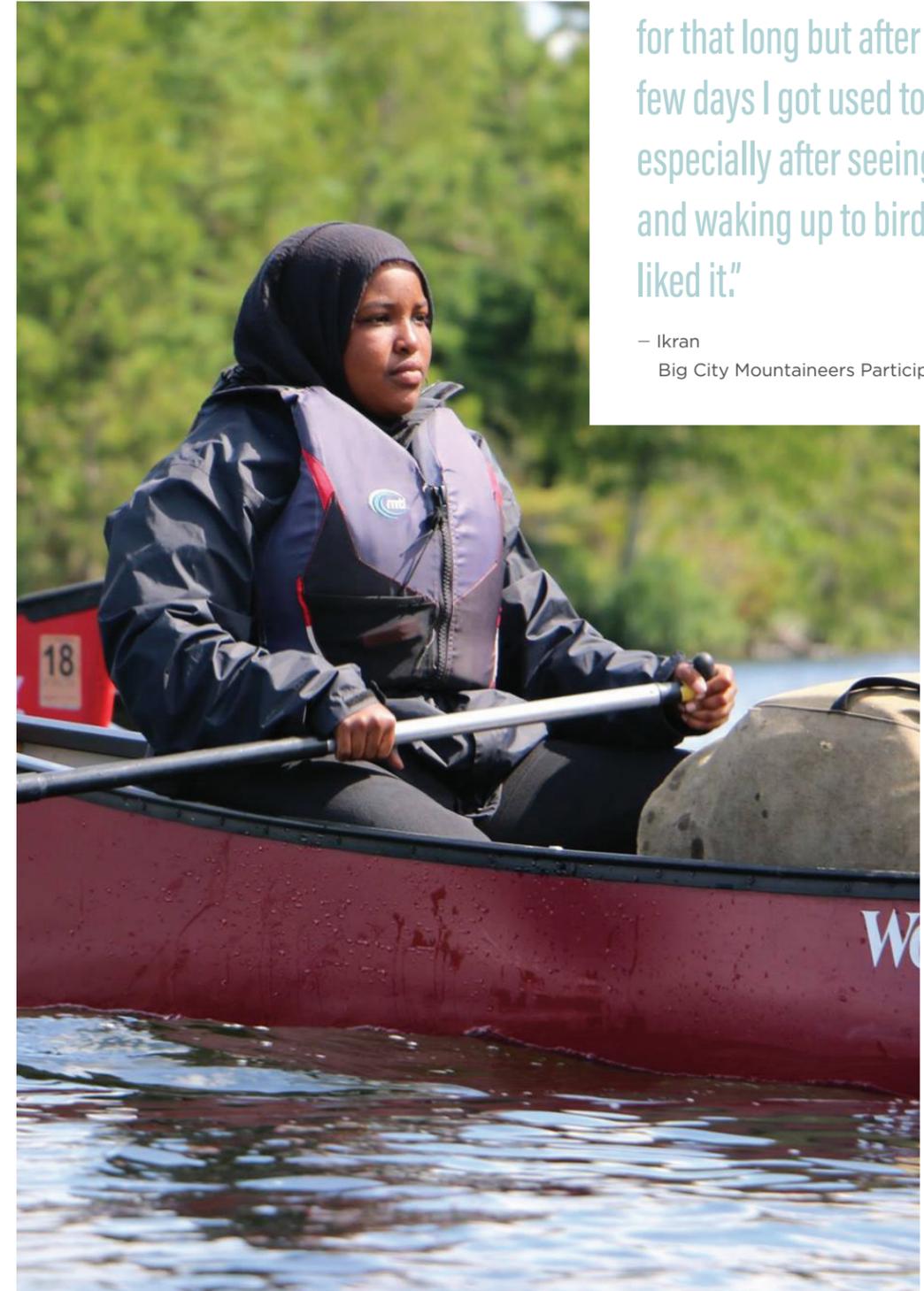
EXPEDITIONARY LESSONS THAT LAST A LIFETIME

Multi-day expeditions can be an important touchstone in the life of a young woman, offering the opportunity to unplug and be independent in the wilderness. The Cairn Project is helping to widen access to expedition programs that integrate backcountry travel and outdoor skills with transformative mentorship and leadership curriculum. Longer-format programs offer young women the time to push their limits, see themselves as leaders, and develop deep bonds – with the group, and with the natural landscape.

We support a number of outdoor expeditionary style programs. A grant made to our local partner Big City Mountaineers funded

scholarships for an 8-day canoeing expedition in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area for a group of Minneapolis, MN girls – young women of East African descent, many of whom are first generation immigrants. Support from The Cairn Project has provided scholarships for girls from across the country to spend a week in coastal Alaska with Inspiring Girls Expeditions on an expedition that combines sea kayaking with science and art education. And in Montana, a small grant provided scholarships for half of the young women joining Montana Outdoor Science School's week-long girls-only backpacking course in the Bridger Range.

MOSS



BIG CITY MOUNTAINEERS

“At first I was a little hesitant because I’ve never slept outside for that long but after like a few days I got used to. And especially after seeing the stars and waking up to birds—I really liked it.”

– Ikran
Big City Mountaineers Participant



SHOUT OUT TO OUR TEAM

In 2018, The Cairn Project recruited an inaugural cohort of Ambassadors - women who embody the mission and vision of The Cairn Project by actively participating in raising the profile of women in the outdoors. 2018 was our biggest year yet, and we couldn't have done it without the dedication and commitment of each of our Ambassadors.

AMBASSADORS



ASHLEY CARRUTH 📍 COLORADO



LUCIA TONACHEL 📍 MAINE



LIZ PHAM 📍 MINNESOTA



EMILY SULLIVAN 📍 ALASKA



BECKY HEATH 📍 TEXAS



OLIVIA GREIV 📍 MINNESOTA



JUSTINE MULLIEZ 📍 OREGON



LAURA WILDENBORG 📍 MINNESOTA



LINDSAY KOCKA 📍 MINNESOTA



DASHIELLE VAWTER 📍 CALIFORNIA



SIRI GOSSMAN 📍 MINNESOTA



ADVISORY BOARD



PETRIKA PETERS 📍 SOUTH DAKOTA



JANET RIKALA DALTON 📍 CALIFORNIA



COLLETTE ROY 📍 CALIFORNIA

FOUNDERS



SARAH CASTLE 📍 MINNESOTA



ALISON WRIGHT 📍 CALIFORNIA

EXPEDITION SPONSORS

The Cairn Project is grateful to the growing cadre of outdoor brands who are supporting our Ambassadors' adventure fundraisers through donated or reduced-cost gear. By providing key supply needs for Ambassadors, these brands are making dreamt-up adventures more achievable, ultimately helping to generate more support for The Cairn Project's small grants program supporting girls-only outdoor education around the country.

Thanks to all of these companies for their commitment to helping more women and girls have the chance to pursue their outdoor adventures.





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FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

2016-2018 INCOME

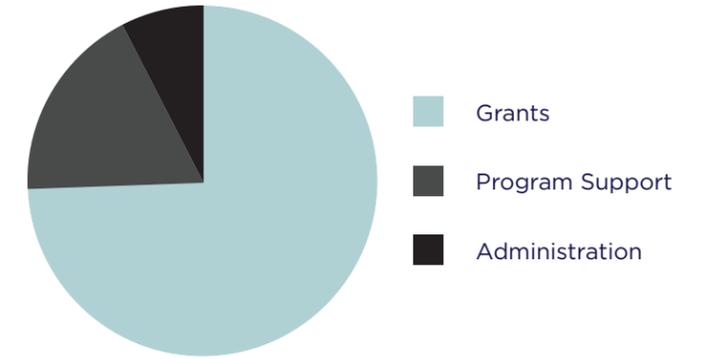
Total Revenue \$135,029.17

2016-2018 EXPENSES

Grants \$100,000

Program Support \$25,000

Administration \$10,029

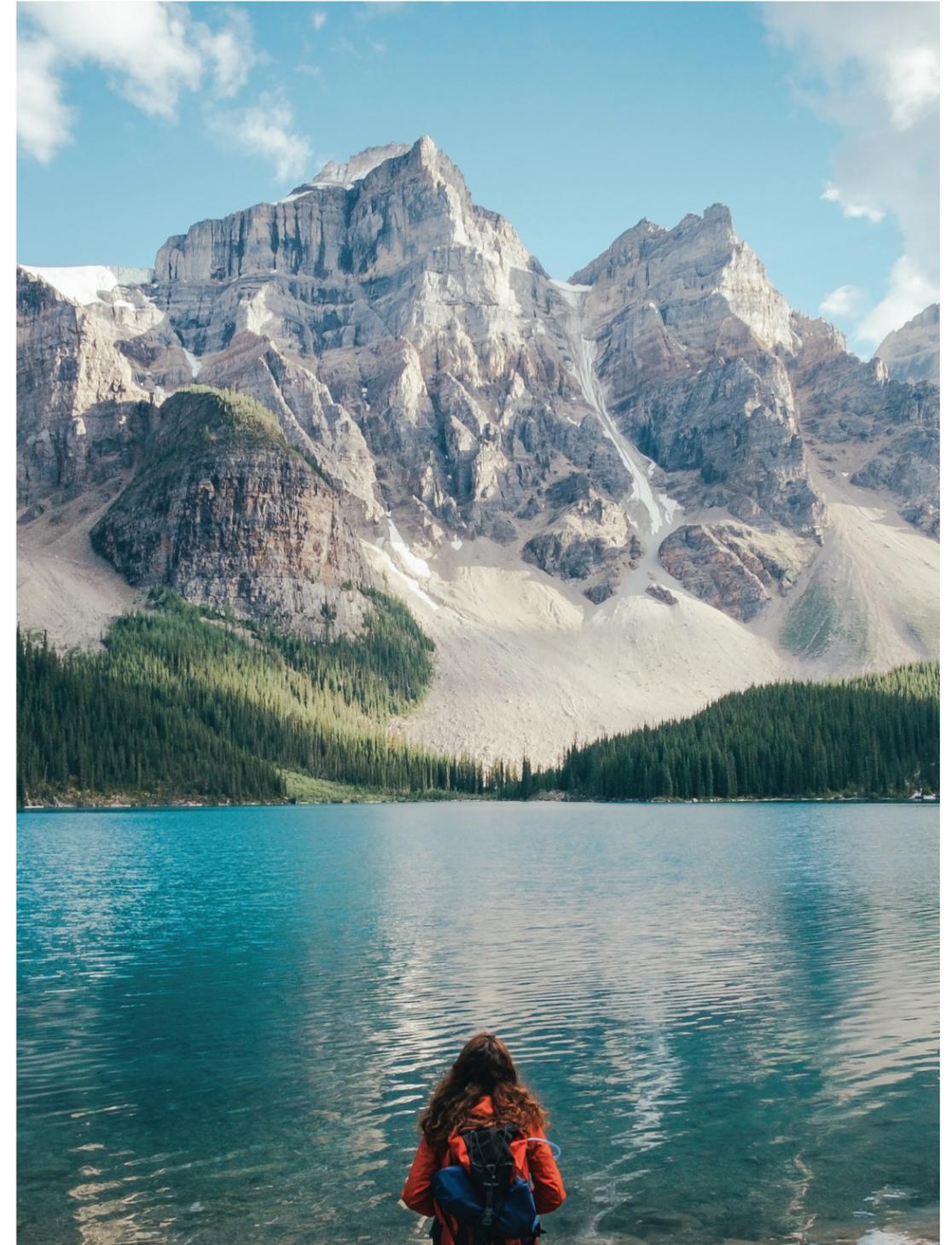


CONTINENTAL DIVIDE TRAIL, CO



2019: REACHING NEW LANDSCAPES

2019 is all about looking to the horizon and Dreaming Big. We're committed to growing our grants program and supporting organizations in new communities. With a new cohort of Ambassadors, we'll be catalyzing outdoor adventure into a force for good in landscapes around the country. We're excited to explore new ways to bring our growing community together, serving as a hub for those who want to celebrate, learn from, and support women living adventurously and giving back to our next generation of leaders and stewards. We are so grateful for our supporters, and we look forward to continuing the adventure that is The Cairn Project with you!





THE CAIRN PROJECT

Cover photo and GirlVentures
photos property of Eileen Roche

Design by Studio Neue

The Cairn Project
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cairnproject.org