



2009 Annual Report



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Suite 202
Avon, Colorado 81620
(970) 827-9725
www.gorerange.org

Mission Statement

To awaken a sense of wonder
and inspire environmental
stewardship through natural
science education.

Thank You

Schools Served

Avon Elementary School
Battle Mountain High School
Berry Creek Middle School
Boulder Country Day
Brush Creek Elementary School
Eagle County Charter Academy
Eagle Montessori
Eagle Valley Elementary School
Eagle Valley Middle School
Edwards Elementary School
Fountain Valley School
Gypsum Elementary School
Gypsum Creek Middle School
June Creek Elementary
Lake County Middle School
Meadow Mountain Elementary
Minturn Middle School
Mountain Montessori
New America School
Red Sandstone Elementary
St. Clare of Assisi
Stone Creek Charter School
Vail Academy
Vail Mountain School



for your support



Dear Friends,

We are delighted to share our annual report for fiscal year 2009 (July 1, 2008-June 30, 2009). As we reflect on the past fiscal year, we celebrate our many successes and highlight our future vision for providing even better science and environmental education to our community. We are able to fulfill our mission daily and work towards the establishment of an environmental learning center because of the financial and in-kind contributions from our many donors. We are most grateful for your support.

Now in its second decade, the Science School provides well established place-based, experiential education for youth, families and adults. Participants have the opportunity to learn more about local ecology and the uniqueness of our mountain home. This type of science and environmental education is now more critical than ever. Student achievement in science has declined at a time when a basic understanding of scientific and ecological concepts is important for students' future success and ability to make critical decisions. Our society has become increasingly distant from the natural world while at the same time we have learned that children's connection to nature is essential in their physical, emotional and intellectual development. As we continue to face complex environmental challenges locally and globally, the need for a deeper scientific understanding of our environment increases.

The Science School is well positioned to address these challenges which are highlighted in this annual report. Our school programs are designed to awaken a sense of wonder and connection to nature, while enhancing children's science literacy and overall academic achievement. Our family, community and adult programs provide stimulating learning opportunities that educate and inspire environmental stewardship. The success of our capital campaign and the anticipated ground breaking in 2010 of the Buck Creek Campus will exponentially increase the impact of the Science School. In a community where stewardship is paramount to the health and well-being of our environment, economy, and way of life, this campus will have a transformational impact on our valley. Clearly, the mission of the Science School has taken on greater importance than ever before.

Our current accomplishments and future vision are possible due to the generosity of our many donors and educational partners. We thank you again for your continued support and we look forward to the exciting journey ahead.

Best regards,

Markian Feduschak
Executive Director

Kathy Borgen
Board Chair

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“What I liked is when we got to see the foot prints of animals, follow them and see their houses. I learned that animals need to get ready for the winter not just people. I didn’t like when we all went home.”

3rd grader—Edwards Elementary

Student Assessment Program

In its sixth year, the Student Assessment Program measures scientific literacy and interest in science as a result of taking a Science School program. In 2008/09, the Science School evaluated 343 fourth, fifth and seventh grade students through grade and curriculum-specific pre- and post-tests.

The results:

Fourth and fifth grade scientific literacy increased an average 22 percentage points while seventh grade literacy increased an average 20 percentage points.



Youth Programs

Field Science Programs The heart and soul of the Science School’s youth programming offered 47 programs to 22 different schools and 1,918 K-12 students throughout Eagle County and beyond for 18,232 contact hours of natural science learning. Another highlight: Every ECSD middle school student participates in at least one field science program annually.

Avon In-School During the 2008/09 school year, 275 Avon Elementary School students grades K-5 received 45-minutes of science education each week through our in-school program. First, second, third, and fifth grades also participated in field science courses.

Brush Creek In-School was adopted in the 2008/09 school year, using the same curriculum developed for Avon Elementary. 440 Brush Creek Elementary School students, grades K-5 received 45-minutes of science education each week. First, second, third and fifth grade students also participated in a field science course.

Integrated Science Study A new and innovative addition to our programming was offered in 2008/09 at June Creek Elementary School. GRNSS designed science curriculum to align with the ECSD wide adopted literacy program. Two 3rd grade teachers were trained by GRNSS staff to implement the program in their classes. 35 students received two 45-minute science lessons for 12 weeks total. Students also participated in a snow science field course. This curriculum has been adopted by several more elementary schools for the 2009/10 school year with the goal of eventual expansion to all ECSD elementary schools.

After-School Programs The Science School provided after-school enrichment for 120 students at Meadow Mountain Elementary and Gypsum Elementary schools.

Girls in Science This after school program specifically for girls grades 3-5 expanded from being offered just at Avon Elementary to two additional schools, Brush Creek and June Creek. 55 girls participated in this hour-long program once a week for 22 weeks.

Summer Science Camps Last summer, 252 youth enrolled in weeklong day and overnight camps. Children ages 6-13 explored the Eagle River Watershed, while participating in engaging and educational activities.



Community Programs



The Science School's community programs offer inspiring educational adventures for everyone—resident, visitor, child and adult.

Nature Discovery Center Last year, 19,498 people visited the Nature Discovery Center on Vail Mountain where they learned about mountain ecology from our dynamic team of naturalist interns. Naturalists provided snowshoe tours, guided hikes, family evening programs and lessons for children in ski school. Thank you to Center partners, Vail Resorts and the U.S. Forest Service, for instrumental and invaluable support.

Public Lands The Science School proudly partners with several organizations and agencies to supplement educational offerings on public lands throughout Eagle County; these programs collectively impact over 4,000 people.

- *U.S. Forest Service*—Minturn Ranger District visitor services, Yeoman Park and Gore Creek evening campground programs, guided hikes and snowshoe tours.
- *Town of Vail*—Vail Nature Center adult, family and youth programs including Camp EcoFun.
- *Western Eagle County Metropolitan Recreation District*—Summer youth programs at Sylvan Lake State Park.
- *Colorado State Parks*—Evening campground programs at Sylvan Lake State Park.

Meet the Naturalists Last year, the Science School hired and trained nine seasonal naturalist interns from colleges and universities across the country to provide visitor services and programs that foster an understanding and connection to our natural resources. Each naturalist was certified as an Interpretive Guide through the National Association for Interpretation.

Adult Programs The Science School offered a variety of natural science excursions, including birds, wildlife, wildflowers, and ecology. The Science School continues to partner with the Eagle Valley Library District to present the winter High Country Speaker Series at the Avon Library.





Donor Programs

Donor Profile

Making a Difference: Pam Timmins

Pam Timmins' involvement with the Science School goes back to 2000. All her experiences with the school, whether on adult hikes, volunteering at the Nature Discovery Center, or on field trips as a chaperone, have enhanced her deep appreciation of the wilderness around us.

"To see the awe of a child on a first time winter field trip listening to the silence in the aspen grove and smiling at the touch of snowflakes on her cheek, sums it all up: magical! And that's why I volunteer."

Pam recently told us, "I just came back from a short hike up the drainage above where I live and my thoughts turned to how lucky we are to live here."

We too feel lucky – to have you as a friend of the Science School. On behalf of all who benefit from your support, vision and enthusiasm, thank you Pam Timmins for making a difference to so many!

Donor Programs & Highlights

EdVenture Program EdVenture members who annually donate \$1,000 or more receive special invitations to complimentary seasonal learning adventures. This year EdVenture events included a fall hike at Bud and Betsy Knapp's ranch in Lake Creek that incorporated a program on "Bear Essentials," followed by a bountiful brunch; First Tracks on Vail Mountain hosted by Chris Jarnot and Vail Resorts; and learning about all that is thriving in the cold while snowshoeing at Mountain Star, in "Exploring the Dead of Winter," hosted by Susan and Tom Washing. Contact Natalia Hanks for information on becoming an EdVenture member.

The Annual Fund campaign "No Child Left Inside" was a great success, attracting returning as well as new donors. The Science School relies on gifts from individuals for nearly 65% of our income. These funds are used to provide over 3,000 school children with experiential, hands-on programs in 23 schools. These programs are offered at a minimal price with 80% of the cost of the programs covered by the Science School, through generous gifts to the Annual Fund.

Grants The Science School relies on support from local, regional and national foundations, corporations and government. These gifts allow us to continue programs like our middle school biodiversity expeditions, *Avon In-School* (to which we dedicate a full-time science instructor) *Girls in Science* (now expanded to five schools) and our popular summer science camps. This summer we received an overwhelming request for scholarship assistance for summer camps and were able to meet each request.

Expand Your Giving

1% for the Planet This global philanthropic initiative attracts hundreds of companies from small businesses to outdoor industry giants like Patagonia. Members can contribute 1% of sales directly to any of the more than 1,500 environmental non-profits registered at onepercentfortheplanet.org, including the Science School. Sincere thanks to all those who support us through this program.

Colorado Childcare Contribution Credit Colorado tax payers who make donations to the Science School for programs that qualify under the Colorado Childcare Contribution Credit initiative are eligible for up to a 50% tax credit. Contact Natalia Hanks for more information.

Planned Giving Consider making a planned gift to the Science School through charitable lead trusts, gift annuities, bequests or other forms of estate planning. Planned gifts offer a range of tax benefits and make a lasting contribution.

In Honor and In Memory Gifts A wonderful way to give a gift that continues to give is to consider a donation to the Science School in honor or in memory of a family member or colleague. The Science School acknowledges your donation to the recipient or their family members with a letter that does not mention the amount, only the thoughtfulness of your gesture. Perfect for holiday giving, Mother's Day, birthdays, anniversaries, etc.

Please direct all donation inquiries to Natalia Hanks, (970) 827-9725 ext. 30, nataliah@gorangerange.org

Special Events



Open That Bottle Night A sold out crowd celebrated fine wine and friendship at the 3rd annual Open That Bottle Night on February 27, 2009. Sincere thanks to Event Sponsor Slifer Designs, Media Sponsor Vail Daily, Founders Stewardship Award sponsor Alpine Bank and so many others who made the event a great success.

The evening included live, silent and scholarship auctions and an entertaining “Wine Label Game,” with prizes that included diamond hoop earrings donated by Becka Davis and a basket of wines, donated by local liquor stores.

Vail Mountain School student Holly Domke received the Founders Stewardship Award presented by Alpine Bank President, Glenn Davis.

Event Committee: Holly Elliott and Debbie Scripps Co-Chairs, Kelly Bronfman, Patti Cogswell, Deb Deverell, Lynne Mackechnie, Alison McAdam, Joe McHugh, Eileen Miller, Ann Newman, Susan Pollack, Carolyn Pope, Susan Rogel, Kris Sims, Natalia Hanks, Carolyn Connolly.

Science on the Green On a perfect Indian summer September day, 21 teams competed in the 3rd annual Science on the Green golf fundraiser at Red Sky Ranch. The Fazio course proved competitive to all, and particularly gratifying to the first place team from Millennium Bank, comprising Dan Patten, Matt Spencer, David Viele and Henry Reed. Second team prize went to Janet Hill, Bobbi Hagerman, Jeff Koch and Rollie Kjesbo. Bobbi also won the women’s longest drive, and Janet Hill secured the women’s closest to the pin. Men’s longest drive prize handily went to Dave Viele and Mike Connell won the prize for men’s closest to the pin.

Sincere thanks to Title Sponsor, Pason Systems USA, Facility Sponsor Red Sky Ranch and Vail Resorts, as well as generous team and product sponsors who contributed to the success of this event.

Event Co-chairs: Holly Elliott, Janet Hill, Jeff Koch, Lynne and Peter Mackechnie, Lisa and Chip Ruth.

Reach for the Peak Reach for the Peak biennially celebrates those in our community whose philanthropy and service go above and beyond. Reach for the Peak 2008 recognized Molly and Jay Precourt and Argie and Oscar Tang with a tribute dinner at Eagle’s Nest in August, 2008. See details in our 2008 Annual Report. Reach for the Peak 2010, on August 21, will honor Susan and Harry Frampton.

Proceeds from Reach for the Peak 2008 are reflected in this annual report while the event was highlighted in last year’s annual report.



Invitational Programs

Invitationals are small group multi - day adventures that explore natural and cultural history outside the Vail Valley. Invitationals engage local scholars and experts to enhance the overall educational experience.

Land of Fire: Yellowstone Invitational 12 guests stayed on a 600 acre private ranch bordering Yellowstone National Park, enjoying hiking, horseback riding, fishing in the Gallatin and guided day trips into the Park. Highlights included observing the highest concentration of protected thermal features in the world and learning about predators that abound in Yellowstone. Cocktails and bountiful dinners, engaging evening discussions with local scholars and entertainment by a cowboy poet added to the overall experience.

San Juan River Archeology and Natural History 16 adventurers discovered the unexpected on the San Juan River in May 2009. Blending rafting through Precambrian canyons with hiking up hidden washes perimtered with Anasazi ruins, adding fine food, talented guides and scholars from Wild Rivers Expeditions and sleeping under a canopy of stars—created a memorable adventure in this fascinating, remote region close to home.



Campaign for Our Students

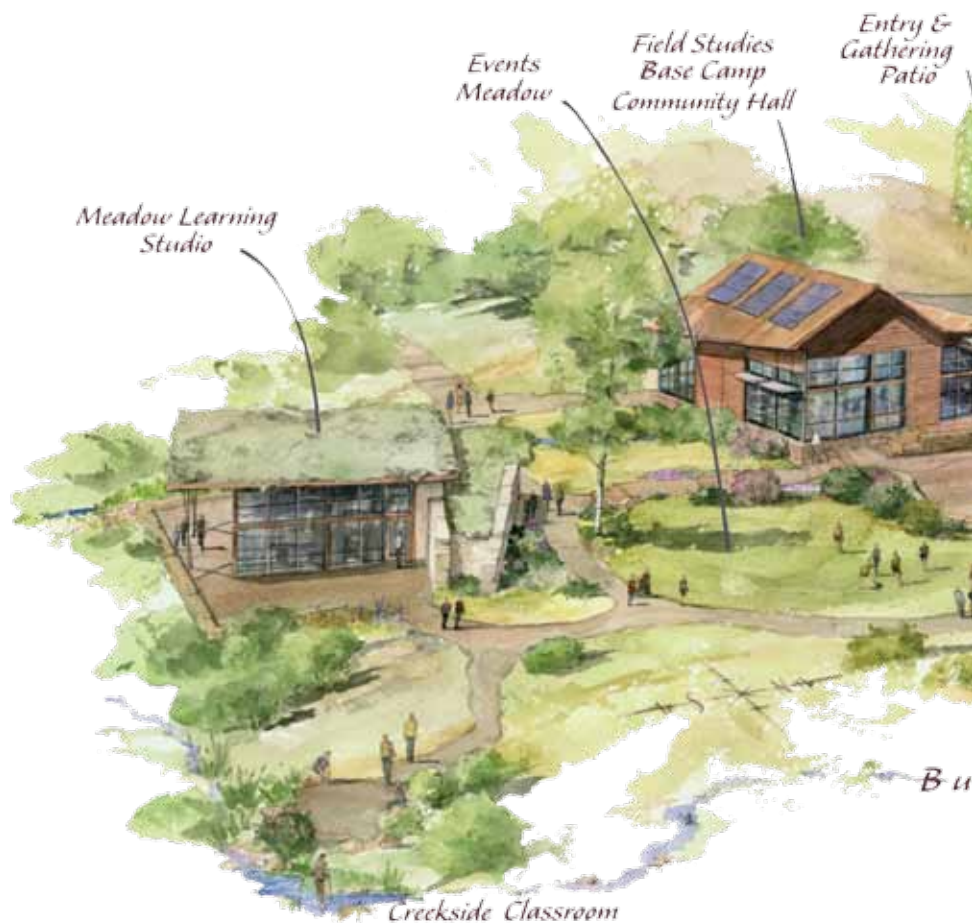
As we enter the final stretch of our campaign, we reflect on the vision and generosity of those who have led this effort - the Langmaids, Tangs, Precourts, Borgens, Frechettes, Georges and many others.

We have experienced more success than we could have imagined and now stand poised to break ground in the spring of 2010.

The opportunity exists to complete the project without the need for phasing, bringing this important center to the community even sooner than anticipated.

Join us for a tour of our site to learn more about this remarkable project, its many benefits to the community, and how you can help make it possible. This campus will bring exploration, learning and joy for generations to come.

To find out more or to make a gift, please visit us online www.gorangerange.org or contact Doug Dusenberry, Capital Campaign Director at (970) 827-9725, x 21.



Our campus design itself will inspire and teach by incorporating and showcasing the latest technologies in green building and design; from active and passive solar and solar photovoltaic panels to vegetated roofs, alternative building materials, natural lighting and geothermal demonstration projects. It is our intent to become one of only about 90 facilities in the US to achieve LEED® Platinum certification. LEED® is a program of the US Green Building Council that rates buildings based upon their impact on the environment and overall energy efficiency.



Special Thanks to Our Outstanding Design Team: Zehren and Associates; Mithun Architects; Sherry Dorward, Landscape Architect; Beaudin Ganze Engineers; J&K Engineers; Monroe & Newell Engineers; Slifer Designs; R.A. Nelson, General Contractor

Campus Benefits:

K-12 students: All 6,000+ students in our county can participate in hands-on, outdoor science education. These programs are aligned with state and district science curriculum standards and reconnect our students to the natural world.

Teachers: Through teacher training programs, we'll rekindle a sense of excitement about natural science, share methods for integrating outdoor experiences and ensure that our teachers are among the best prepared in the state.

Life long learners: Adults can expand their knowledge through world class speakers and outdoor education programs. Our interactive visitor center and interpretive trails will provide exciting educational alternatives.

Visitors: The world recognizes our valley for incredible sports and cultural offerings. This campus will attract new visitors, naturalists, green builders and architects, eco-tourists and families who are looking for a more diverse mountain resort experience.

Science School board
and staff express sincere
gratitude for the generosity
of the following contributors
who supported our Annual
Fund from July 1, 2008 to
June 30, 2009.



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\$40,000 +

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NRC Broadcasting
Petals of Provence
Pink Monkey Solutions
Carolyn & Steve Pope
Red Sky Ranch
Republic/National, Dave Thibedeau
Maggie & Bill Rey
Diana Cecala & Kathy Reynolds
Ritz - Carlton Bachelor Gulch
Riverwalk Wine & Spirits
Susan & Rich Rogel
Lisa & Chip Ruth
Debbie & Ric Scripps
Leslie Fielden & Jeff Seidel
Slifer Designs
Splendido at the Chateau
Squash Blossom
Mimi & Woody Stockwell
Susan & Tom Washing
The Bookworm of Edwards
The Christiania
The Gazette
The Westin Riverfront Resort & Spa
Tracy Tutag
Cheryl Ungar
Vail Cascade Resort & Spa
Vail Catering Concepts
Vail Powder Guides
Vail Resorts
Vail Valley Foundation
Bob Vanourek
Village Warehouse Wine
Vin 48 Restaurant
Walmart
Robert West
West Vail Liquor
Wings Winery
Fred & Nancy Wolfe



Buck Creek Campus Donors



Mt. Elbert

Argie & Oscar Tang
Molly & Jay Precourt

Mt. Massive

Pat & Pete Frechette
Penny & Bill George
Katherine & Erik Borgen
Gates Family Foundation

Mt. Harvard

Barbie & Tony Mayer
Tricia & Pat McConathy

Blanca Peak

Daniels Fund
Judy & Craig Foley
Sherry & Robert Johnson
Ann Smead & Michael Byram
Kelly & Samuel Bronfman
Susan & Harry Frampton
Eagle County
Nancy & John Snyder
Amy & Jay Regan
Debbie & Ric Scripps
Vail Valley Foundation
(donor-advised funds)

La Plata Peak

Eileen & Gary Miller
Kissy Russell
Lisa & Chip Ruth
Diane Tope & Richard Patriacca
Mimi & Woody Stockwell

Susie & Paul Lyons
Judy & Alan Kosloff
Silvia & Alan Danson
Pam & Ben Peterzell

Uncompahgre Peak

Alpine Bank
Sharon & Don Greene
Lynne & Peter Mackechnie
Daniel Carroll
Karen Berndt
Suzanne & Patrick McGee
Brenda & Joe McHugh
Holly & Buck Elliott
Joyce Bennis & Al Beedie
Lorraine & Harley Higbie
Governor's Energy Office
Dorothy Browning &
Carl Colby
Carolyn & Karl Rathjen
Jon & Bethany Haerter

Crestone Peak

Diana Cecala & Kathy Reynolds
Colorado Mountain News Media
Carolyn & Steve Pope
Sunny & Phil Brodsky
Susan & Rich Rogel
Susan & Al Pollack
Laura & J.T. Thompson
Marty Head & John Feagin
Barbara & Jay Mahoney
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Peter Casabonne
Dorothy & James Klein
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Brian Sipes
Alix & Hans Berglund
Margot & Ross Perot
Sue & Winston Fowler
Boettcher Foundation
Gordon Family Fund
Debra Deverell
Margo & Roger Behler
Jim & Sally Butterworth

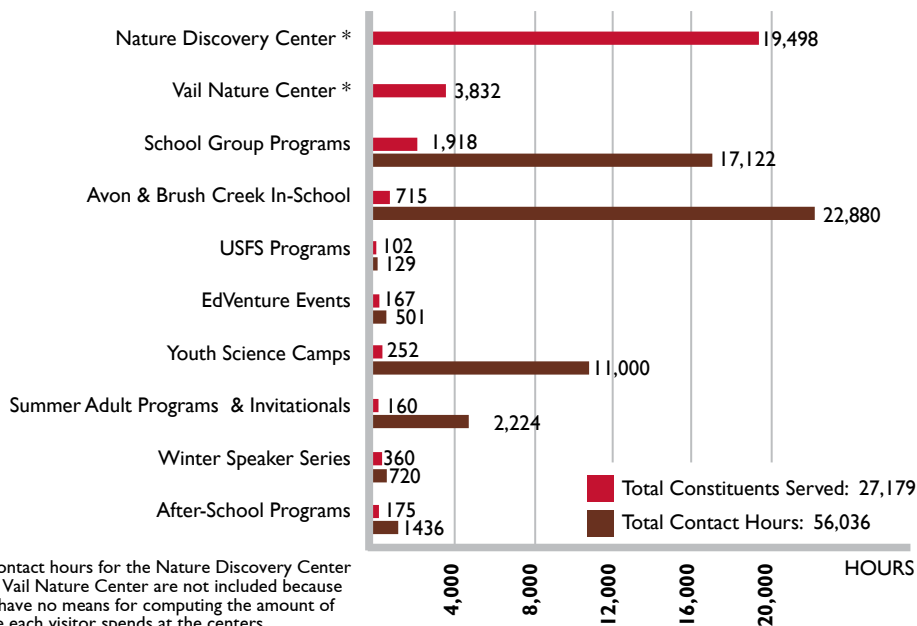
In Kind Contributions

Zehren & Associates
Mithun Architects
Sherry Dorward Landscape
Architect
Land Art Illustrations
Beaudin Ganze Engineers
J&K Engineers
Monroe & Newell Engineers
Slifer Designs
R.A. Nelson

Serving the Community



Total Constituents served by program in FY 2009



* Contact hours for the Nature Discovery Center and Vail Nature Center are not included because we have no means for computing the amount of time each visitor spends at the centers.

Graduate Fellowship in Natural Science Education

Field science programs are taught by the Science School's team of Graduate Fellows whose 15-month tenure includes coursework towards a master's degree in environmental education and complements their instructional practices as well as the curricula they teach to K-12 students.

2009 Graduates The Science School graduated its fourth class of Fellows in August: Chris Cohen, David Ford, Noah Koerper, and Kate Sorensen. Graduate Fellows had the option to complete their graduate degrees focusing on Environmental Education at Colorado State University or Prescott College and three of the four went on to complete their advanced degrees.

The Graduate Fellowship position is unique in the state of Colorado. It significantly contributes to the professional development of young teachers and the overall professionalism of the fields of natural science and environmental education.

Partners in Education

We extend a special thank you to the following agencies, towns, businesses and organizations that made the Science School's educational programming possible in FY 2009.

Avon Elementary School
 Betty Ford Alpine Gardens
 Bureau of Land Management
 Colorado Division of Wildlife
 Eagle County School District
 Eagle River Youth Coalition
 Eagle Valley Library District
 KZYR Radio, The Zephyr
 NRC Broadcasting
 Paragon Guides
 RSN-TV 8 & 17
 Town of Avon
 Town of Eagle
 Town of Vail
 US Forest Service
 Youth Foundation
 Vail Daily
 Vail Recreation District
 Vail Resorts
 Vail Valley Foundation



Financial Highlights

July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

Statement of Financial Position

Assets

Current assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$617,688
Investments	3,191,655
Accounts receivable	7,002
Pledges receivable	473,280
Bookstore inventory	14,123
Other	7,734
Total current assets	\$4,311,482

Non current assets

Pledges Receivable	\$774,241
Total non current assets	\$774,241

Fixed assets

Land	\$3,850,000
Equipment	40,716
Furniture and Fixtures	38,897
Vehicle	28,694
Construction in progress	209,370
Less: accumulated depreciation	(63,907)
Net fixed assets	\$4,103,770

Total Assets	\$9,189,493
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Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts payable	\$29,217
Accrued payroll	34,680
Deferred tuition revenue	44,997
Total liabilities	\$108,894

Net assets

Net investment in fixed assets	\$4,103,770
Unrestricted	275,882
Temporarily restricted	4,700,947
Total net assets	\$9,080,599

Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$9,189,493
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Statement of Cash Flows

Cash Flows from Operating Activities

Cash received from donations	\$1,651,212
Cash received for tuition	177,709
Cash received from special events	262,044
Cash received from other	15,524
Cash received from interest	9,286
Cash paid to employees	(671,378)
Cash paid for goods and services	(492,372)
Net assets released from restriction	—

Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$952,025
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Cash Flows from Financing Activities

Payments for purchase of property and equipment	\$(92,596)
Cash paid to purchase investments	(1,713,081)
Cash received from sale of donated investments	897,892

Net Cash (Used) by Investing Activities	\$(907,785)
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Net Change in Cash	\$44,240
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Cash Balance and Cash Equivalents—Beginning of Year	\$573,448
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Cash Balance and Cash Equivalents—End of Year	\$617,688
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Reconciliation of Change in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided By Operating Activities

Change in net assets	\$299,960
<i>Adjustments</i>	
Depreciation expense	\$16,263
Gain on sale of asset	—
(Gain) loss on investments	—
Donated Investments	(5,677)
Donated fixed assets	—
(Increase) decrease in accrued interest receivable	(69,258)
(Increase) decrease in accounts receivable	5,888
(Increase) decrease in pledges receivable	857,453
(Increase) decrease in Bookstore inventory	(4,661)
(Increase) decrease in other current assets	18,847
Increase (decrease) in accounts payable	12,217
Increase (decrease) in accrued payroll	9,634
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	(188,641)

Total Adjustments	\$652,065
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Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities	\$952,025
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Our bookstore, located at the US Forest Service Visitor's Center in Minturn, is the Vail Valley's #1 source for books on enjoying and studying our local environment including trail guides & maps, naturalist guides, books on environmental science, nature writing and living green.

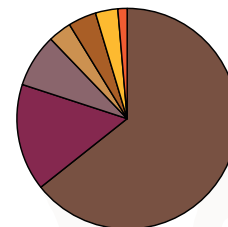
Income Statement

Revenues	FY 2008	FY 2009
Capital Campaign		
Individuals	\$2,752,006	\$341,292
Land	3,850,000	0
Foundations	200,000	55,000
Annual Campaign		
Individuals	336,947	230,474
Special Events	163,740	444,344
Foundations	28,200	88,681
In-Kind	40,799	38,830
Corporate Gifts	26,750	46,750
Government	17,500	37,239
Tuition & Program Fees	213,830	178,162
Interest Income	87,966	78,645
Other	17,117	15,423
Total	\$7,734,855	\$1,554,840

Expenses	FY 2008	FY 2009
Programs	\$705,823	\$742,677
Operations	108,675	106,127
Annual & Capital Fundraising	195,473	406,076
Total	\$1,009,971	\$1,254,880

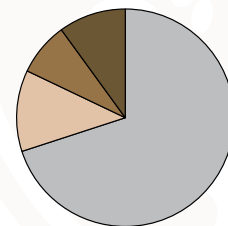
Change in Net Assets	\$299,960
Net Assets—Beginning of Year	\$8,780,639
Net Assets—End of Year	\$9,080,599

The income statement reflects revenues and expenses for all school activities, including our capital campaign and the development of the Buck Creek Campus. The pie charts to the right reflect FY 2009 expenses and revenues only related to annual educational activities. The financial statements of Gore Range Natural Science School for the period ending June 30, 2009 were audited by McMahon and Associates, independent certified public accountants. A copy of the complete audit report is available upon request.



FY 2009 Operating Revenues

Individuals	64%
Tuition & Program Fees	16%
Foundations	8%
In-Kind	3%
Corporate Gifts	4%
Government	Less than 3%
Other	Less than 1%



FY 2009 Operating Expenses

Programs	70%
Annual Fundraising	12%
Operations	8%
Special Events	10%



P.O. Box 9469
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Suite 202
Avon, Colorado 81620
(970) 827 - 9725
www.gorerange.org

Gore Range Natural Science School operates under special use permit from the White River National Forest and is an equal opportunity service provider.



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