



Our world has shifted...and so have we.

Only months ago, our campus was filled with classrooms of students - seeing, touching, and experiencing nature up close. Now, though our groups are smaller and everyone is masked, the impact remains just as powerful. Students who spend countless hours in front of a computer can come to our campus for a day of outdoor play with peers and meaningful interactions with the natural world. Nature and people – both strong forces

for physical, emotional and spiritual healing. Our youth need this. Our community needs this. So does our world.

Thanks to your support, WRI continues to inspire people to understand, appreciate, love, and care for the natural world. Your support is helping heal our youth and our community. Thank you. You make our world a better place.

Carolyn

Carolyn Griffin-Bugert
Executive Director

Images from the past and present



Then: Holding hands and playing together



Now: Masks, socially distanced, and still having fun!

Quotes from the field

"Thank you so much for being part of Sophia's most lovely week! I think that she is feeling an elation at being part of your program that has been waiting to be expressed since the school closing last year. We are much bigger fans now! Sophia and her little brother are our hearts."

– Stacey Barnhill (grateful grandma)

"I think I actually like your face better without the mask."

-1st grade camper

"It is one of the most funnest camps I've ever been to."

– 3rd grade camper

Our Landscapes Sustain Us In So Many Ways

Last winter, a group of snowshoers on a guided WRI trip were startled when some chickadees swooped down very close to them. Then they all appeared to have the same thought. “Oh, just chickadees.”

But disinterest turned to fascination when their WRI guide, Katie, pointed out something amazing: chickadees’ brains get bigger in the winter, so they can remember over 100 different hiding places for food.

At the end of the tour, the group returned to their cars a little out of breath, with pink cheeks and smiles.

If you don’t love the cold and snow, life in our region can be hard. It’s easy to feel down and disconnected, and unmotivated to get moving.

Rachel Bishop, Community Programs Manager, has heard people say that if these programs didn’t exist, they probably would spend the winter inside. She says plenty of people are nervous to get outside in the winter, but that getting out with a group and a guide gives them the confidence they need.

These trips are a way to show our community that there’s more to winter - and “ordinary” things like chickadees - than you might think. Stay tuned - we’ll be offering these trips again this winter!



*Snowshoe tour at
Leavenworth Fish Hatchery*



A tree trunk as an easel



Leaves - up close



Wow. This tree is big!

Moments in Education

Our curriculum was well designed - an observational activity based on a horse chestnut tree. Students would be challenged to use all their senses. They would make and record their scientific observations. What do you see? Smell? Feel? What can you count?

But as educators we also need to stay open to where our students' interests lead us.



And where did that enthusiasm take us?

Nature artwork!



"Making art with horse chestnut seeds was really, really fun!"

It's YOU that makes this possible!

COVID has had a devastating effect on the financial security of so many families. At WRI, we believe EVERYONE should have access to our programs, no matter their financial status. With our new "Pay What You Can" fee structure, anyone can register for our youth programs. We also reserve half of our youth camp slots for Black, Indigenous, and students of color.

Thank you to the Fordham Street Foundation, the William's International Fund, and YOU, our supporters, for making this possible!

Income: 2019 vs. 2020



Grants



Donations



Registrations

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion

Last spring we made a commitment to you. We pledged to fight systemic racism in our spheres of work and influence – education and environmentalism. Here are our actions so far:

- Website – translated key sections into Spanish
- Phone – added a Spanish option
- Campus signs
 - Welcome signs now in English, Spanish and Wenatchi dialect
 - Planning for signs with information about p'squosa people and ancestral lands
- Camps – 50% of camps held for low income, Black, Indigenous, & people of color (BIPOC)
- Fees – a 'Pay What You Can' structure to minimize financial barriers
- Outreach – focused recruiting of low income and BIPOC students with:
 - Dual language flyers
 - WRI staff at school free lunch drop off locations
 - Bilingual phone calls home
- Community Education
 - Co-hosted webinar on diversity in the outdoors
 - Scholarships for low income families

We are committed to continuing this work!



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Please let us know.

We want to make it right!