

# OUTDOORS EMPOWERED NETWORK

## JOIN OUR COMMUNITY



Outdoors Empowered Network is a national network of community-led, youth-centered outdoor education groups that are dedicated to increasing access and diversity in the outdoors through gear libraries and outdoor leadership training.

## OUR PROGRAMS

OEN's member organizations support access to outdoor adventures for tens of thousands of youth each year. Members partner with community-based youth service agencies, schools, and other youth-centered groups to make transformative outdoor experiences happen through the following core programs:

### TRAINING

Members provide experiential, skills-based trainings for teachers and youth workers in their regions so they are empowered to take youth outdoors on their own. For every adult trained, 20+ youth get a chance to experience the power of nature and the outdoors. For many young people, this is the first time they'll see the Milky Way, hear a rushing waterfall, or experience an environment free of the urban cacophony of horns, sirens, and cell phones. Nature-based experiences change lives.

### GEAR

Members reduce one of the biggest barriers to getting outside—cost of gear—by curating and providing access to outdoor equipment libraries that cater to schools, youth service organizations, and families. Gear libraries can look different in different communities, using a wide array of partnerships. Read through our member descriptions on the next page to explore the cultural and locational diversity.

**WE SEED AND SUPPORT  
A TIME-TESTED MODEL  
FOR CONNECTING YOUTH  
WITH THE OUTDOORS  
THROUGH THE ADULTS  
THEY TRUST.**

### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Members often provide mini-grants, transportation subsidies, and connections through social media and listservs. Some also provide campgrounds, simplifying the preparations required for teachers and youth mentors as they plan their trips.



# A NATIONAL NETWORK

Our member programs are at the heart of the work of Outdoors Empowered Network. These eleven regional organizations actively support youth service organizations and schools with outdoor leadership training and gear libraries. Together, we are working to increase our collective impact on the world, and create equitable access to nature.

## OUR MEMBERS

### APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB

AMC's "train and support" model sustains over 400 educators per year, who in turn engage tens of thousands of young people across New England and the Greater New York City region.

### BAY AREA WILDERNESS TRAINING

A non-profit supporting the greater Bay Area, BAWT provides non-profits, non-formal educators, school districts, and families with gear lending and training programs.

### DETROIT OUTDOORS

A collaborative bringing together Detroit Parks and Recreation, YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit, and the Sierra Club to reactivate Detroit's only campground: Scout Hollow.

### FAMILIES IN NATURE

Based in Austin, FIN's nature-based Guide Development Program trains and supports parents, teachers, and leaders in getting families out into nature.

### FOREST PRESERVES OF COOK COUNTY

Based in Chicago and neighboring suburbs, the Forest Preserves of Cook County has 5 campsites throughout the district and the Camping Leadership Immersion Course training.



### FRESNO BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Fresno BHC's provides equitable outdoor access at the gateway to Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon National Parks. Their gear library supports families and partnering programs.

### GET OUTDOORS LEADVILLE!

GOL's programs include workshops and courses to build outdoor leadership skills. The Get Outdoors Leadville! community Gear Library is a resource for the whole community.

### INDIGENOUS CULTURAL CONCEPTS

ICC supports Cultural Educational and Learning for Diné (Navajo Indian) youth in northeastern Arizona. They provide outdoor education, camping, and cultural training.

### MIDCOAST CONSERVANCY

The largest regional conservation organization in Maine, Midcoast provides community programs and gear for families and organizations wanting to get outside.

### THE MOUNTAINEERS

The Mountaineers is a nonprofit outdoor community in the Pacific Northwest. The Mountaineers partners with youth-serving programs and runs a community gear library.

### WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION

WTA is the voice for hikers in Washington state. Their Outdoor Leadership Training offers access to their gear lending libraries, funding assistance, and community support.

# A DYNAMIC COMMUNITY



Being part of OEN gives members the opportunity to build networks, share best practices, fundraise for gear, and see the national impact of collective work. Our core “train and support” program model brings together a wide variety of members, all working together to bring equity and access to the outdoors. OEN supports core members wherever possible, including through:

## **GEAR DONATIONS**

Our members are responsible for twenty gear libraries throughout the United States, reducing one of the biggest barriers to access for hundreds of thousands of young people. Outdoors Empowered Network supports these gear libraries through fundraising for in-kind and monetary donations, bulk purchases, and programmatic design.

## **MEMBER SUPPORT**

From designing new programming to applying for grants, running an outdoor education organization can involve a lot of hard and lonely work. OEN staff works hard to create connections, problem-solve, and support new program design.

## **THOUGHT LEADERSHIP**

We encourage year-round member engagement on topics connected to our work like diversity, equity, and inclusion in the outdoors, best practices, and risk management, creating opportunities for growth and leadership. We also engage external thought leaders during our annual Summit.

## **PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY**

From monthly calls, to ad hoc virtual meetups, to our annual Summit, OEN cultivates a professional community for outdoor educators and administrators. Our network model gives members a community to work with as they explore new ideas, develop programming and best practices, and face inevitable challenges.

# MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

## GEAR PROCUREMENT

Discounts from Partner Companies	We offer a number of discounts ranging from 20% to 50% through our various corporate partners. Thermarest, GSI Outdoors, Eureka, Big Agnes, and Marmot are examples.	✓
Optional Add-On: In-Kind Gear Fundraising	In 2020, OEN secured in-kind gear donations averaging about \$7,500 per participating member. With this add-on, OEN helps fundraise for your gear needs	Varies by program size

## PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITY

All Member Meetings for staff	4 to 6 community oriented meetings for all interested member staff each year.	✓
Representation on Advisory Council	A seat on the Advisory Council, where OEN members work out best practices, collaborate responses to industry wide issues, and support new member development	✓
OEN Community Members Google Group	All interested staff are able to participate on a closed google group for members, allowing for continued collaboration	✓

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Summit Invitations & Discounts	The Summit is our core conference and gathering opportunity that happens each fall. It is an opportunity for professional development, community building, and engaging sponsors and potential members.	50% discounts/scholarships available
Regional Conferences/Workshops	We foresee yearly regional workshops once our membership has grown large enough to accommodate	
Ad-hoc Working Groups	With an ever changing industry, we often put together ad-hoc groups of members to work	✓

## MEMBER SUPPORT

Online Membership Platform	Central place for gear discounts, shared resources, best practices, and gear discounts.	✓
Community Jobs Board	Sponsors, members, and affiliates can share job opportunities.	✓
Optional Add-On: Gear Library Software	OEN provides access to gear library software to support program management	Varies by library size
Optional Add-On: Consulting	Discounted consulting for program development, design, and DEI/cultural assessments and trainings	40% Discount

# MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

## MISSION ALIGNMENT

Youth-Centered

All member programs must be focused on young people.

Committed to Increasing Access & Diversity

- OEN members increase access and equity by:
- Loaning quality outdoor gear free or at reduced costs
  - Providing outdoor skill training opportunities for youth-facing adults
  - Exploring and modeling decolonizing language and practices

## PROGRAMS

Gear Libraries

Operate one or more gear libraries that training graduates may access to borrow equipment.

Outdoor Leadership Skills Training

Training courses focus on camp-craft and/or wilderness travel, with emphasis on safety, group leadership skills, and cultural sensitivity.

Community Support

Continue to support graduates through mini-grants, continued training opportunities, professional connections, and help navigating permits

## BUILDING COMMUNITY

Participate in Member Meetings

Monthly Advisory Council meetings and quarterly all member meetings.

Attend Summit & Regional Conferences

In-person opportunities to meet, learn, share, and collaborate.

Share Resources w/ Members

Each member brings its own unique perspective and experience, creating an abundance of resources.



# MEMBERSHIP PRICING

## ANNUAL DUES

Based on operational budget of member program/department

<u>PROGRAM BUDGET</u>	Less than \$500K	\$500K - \$1.5M	More than \$1.5M	Organizational Sponsorship (Includes sponsorship benefits)
<u>DUES</u>	\$500	\$1,250	\$2,000	\$5,000

## IN-KIND GEAR FUNDRAISING

Based on projected increase of library size/people served. *Optional.*

<u>PROJECTED GROWTH</u>	Up to 15 people	15 - 30 people	30 - 50 people	50+ people	Ongoing Maintenance
<u>FEES</u>	\$2,500	\$3,500	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$1,500

## LIBRARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

MyTurn software, pricing based on number of items in library. *Optional.*

<u>NUMBER OF ITEMS</u>	250 items	1,000 items	5,000 items	15,000 items
<u>FEES</u>	\$250	\$500	\$1,500	\$2,000



## OUR SPONSORS

### TREKKERS



### MOUNTAINEERS



### CAMPERS



### HIKERS



## JOIN OUR COMMUNITY

Join Us!



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