

Stories of Gratitude

How Your Giving Changes Lives

WINTER 2026



WILDERNESS
AWARENESS
SCHOOL

One Week Changed Everything

by Dawn Fornear

Last year, my son Boone was in a difficult place. His world had grown very small, and he was struggling to connect socially with other kids. He was withdrawn, having trouble at school, and I worried about how isolated he had become. When he told me he wanted to try the Salish Sea Expedition summer camp, I was hopeful, but nervous.

That worry disappeared the moment I picked him up. I watched him hug his new friends goodbye, and I immediately knew something had shifted. Boone climbed into the car, smiling, and said he couldn't wait to go back the following year. **After just one week at camp he was more open, confident, and proud of himself.** He talked excitedly about the group, exploring the island, and the challenges they faced together. He even laughed about how cut up his hands were from climbing on the rocks; it was like his badge of honor from the trip!



Boone came home from his week of camp a different person thanks to the scholarship you provided.

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Boone has loved the combination of adventure, community, and support WAS provides. He loves being outside, learning skills, pushing himself, and being treated as a capable young person. The Salish Sea trip gave him a sense of independence and connection that I had not seen in him before. **He came home a different person.**

“WAS helps young people understand what it means to be a caring human.”

Since that first experience, Boone has continued to grow in ways that feel directly tied to his time with WAS. He asked to join Wild Within, the monthly teen program, and now looks forward to every weekend there. He is more resilient, willing to step outside his comfort zone, and that confidence has carried into his everyday life—socially and academically, he is thriving. I'm so proud of the person he's become. He's even asked to volunteer at the summer camps for younger kids, something he never would have considered before joining WAS.

What WAS offers feels truly unique. **Boone gained community, mentorship, and respect for the natural world and for himself.**

Notes From the Eagle's Nest

by Warren Moon, Executive Director

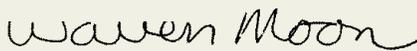
As I reflect on this past year, I am filled with deep gratitude for you—our generous and compassionate community. Because of your support, **2,662 students** were able to experience meaningful, nourishing, and transformative time in nature. Your belief in the power of nature, mentorship, and community to change lives, continues to inspire and humble me. Thank you.

This **Annual Report** edition of *Stories of Gratitude* offers a snapshot of what your generosity made possible across our programs this year. From youth and teen experiences to adult programs, volunteers, and essential infrastructure improvements, your support continues to strengthen our entire community. Thanks to you, we were also able to provide **\$89,115 in scholarships**, ensuring access for students and families who might otherwise have been unable to participate.

In *One Week Changed Everything*, you'll feel the heart of this work—a reminder of how mentorship, challenge, and belonging can change a young person's path. It is just one example of the impact you make every day.

Thank you for your unwavering care. Together, we are creating a healthier future for our students and the earth.

With gratitude,



Warren Moon
Executive Director



Boone is now more resilient and willing to step outside of his comfort zone.

As a circle keeper, I was especially moved to learn that circles are a part of the WAS experience. More than just outdoor skills, WAS helps young people understand what it means to be a caring human. Every part of the program feels thoughtfully designed to support kids at a critical time in their development.

“Confidence has carried into his everyday life—socially and academically, Boone is thriving.”

As a single mom working, living, and attending graduate school in Seattle, **the WAS scholarship has made all of this possible.** Without it, Boone would not have had access to these transformative experiences. I am deeply grateful to the community of donors who help make this accessible for our family.

WILDERNESS AWARENESS SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

September 2024 - August 2025



Accomplishments

\$30,736

toward diversity, equity, and inclusion training, initiatives, and scholarships.

\$191,415

on capital projects, including new administrative and program offices, starting the new restrooms, and a new van.

2,100 youth enjoyed fun adventures in nature throughout the year, including **1,775** in summer day camps.

Your support provided **\$89,115** in scholarships, giving **88** students the ability to attend our programs.

562 adults participated in a variety of programs, from our 9-month Immersion, to intensives, to weekend/weeklong programs.

306 volunteers gave **15,283** hours of invaluable time and energy, playing essential roles in our programs.

Financial Report

Other Revenue - 6% Retail Sales - 1%

Contributions - 15%

REVENUE

Tuition - 78%



Fundraising - 2%

Scholarships - 3%

Retail Sales - 1%

Management - 10%

EXPENSES

Marketing - 10%

Programs - 75%



Tuition	\$2,397,039
Contributions	\$457,669
Other Revenue	\$184,307
Retail Sales	\$16,013

TOTAL **\$3,055,028**

Programs	\$2,384,599
Management & General	\$313,767
Marketing	\$312,457
Scholarships	\$89,115
Fundraising	\$54,402
Retail Sales	\$16,009

TOTAL **\$3,170,349**

Your Giving in Action



Our new permanent restrooms are a big upgrade, thanks to you.

When Nature Calls

In the fall of 2024, we asked for your help bringing permanent restrooms to our land. Our students are hardy and resilient, but we didn't want them to keep "roughing it" with portable toilets. **Your generosity made it possible to build clean, quality, permanent restrooms.** We wanted to show you the finished product! Our students are loving the new heated facilities, which make things much more comfortable when nature calls.

Meet Merlin

This past fall, we shared with you just how tired Eagle, our 10 year old van, had become. After 120,000 miles of faithful service, Eagle was ready to retire, and we needed your help to replace her with a new and reliable van. **Thanks to you, we met our goal and purchased a new van to transport our students.** Meet Merlin, our beautiful new 12 passenger van. Merlin is already hard at work, carrying students to and from their nourishing adventures. Thank you again for making this possible.



Thank you for allowing Merlin to join our team!

Yes! I want to help people have life-changing experiences in nature.



- \$35
- \$50
- \$100

- \$250
- \$_____ - the possibilities are endless!



Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Donate securely online at wildernessawareness.org/donate