

Find Your Place

Cairn Program

Founded in 2008, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC)'s Cairn Program engages 15-20 high school aged students throughout the school year in monthly outdoor activities and stewardship projects across the Front Range. Led by young adult mentors, students develop leadership skills, make new friends, learn about environmental issues facing Colorado, explore career paths, and have a hands-on impact as they plan and lead their own stewardship project (ex. trail building, planting, habitat restoration and park improvements)!



Since 1984, VOC has engaged more than 128,000 people to get involved in and become inspired to care for Colorado – a total donated labor value of nearly \$26 million.



"Cairn provided an opportunity for me to follow my passion for service learning and was instrumental in opening the door for me to pursue environmental work as a full-time career." - Eric Ellison, Cairn graduate, now a Senior Professional Research Assistant at CU Boulder's Geology Department and Board member of the Cottonwood Institute

Benefits for Students

As part of the Cairn Program, teens can:

- Gain leadership skills and build their college resume
- Learn about environmental issues facing Colorado
- Learn about careers in natural resources
- Participate with friends and make new ones
- Fulfill community service hours for school - outside!
- Make a real impact in caring for Colorado's outdoors
- Be eligible for the Grossman Scholarship

Requirements for Students

Students may participate in the Cairn Program over multiple years, if they:

- Are 14 - 18 years old **and** enrolled in grades 9 - 12
- Commit to once-a-month activities (September - May)
- Have an interest in environmental stewardship

Benefits for Mentors

Serving as a Cairn mentor is a great way to:

- Make a tangible difference in the lives of Colorado youth and the future of our outdoors
- Help youth learn about the environment and outdoor stewardship in a fun and engaging way
- Learn more about environmental issues facing Colorado
- Bolster your resume and leadership skills

Requirements for Mentors

Mentors may serve for several years and must meet the following criteria:

- Prior experience working with and leading youth
- Application, interview and successful background check
- Participate in Cairn Mentor Orientation (4 Hours)
- Attend monthly meetings and projects (approximately 7-10 Hours/Month) from September through May

Apply by July 31 to be a Student or Mentor for the 2022-23 school year at voc.org/cairn

303-715-1010 | voc.org

