

Find Your Place

Cairn Program



For over 15 years, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado (VOC) has invested in the future of Colorado's youth through its Cairn Program for high school aged students. VOC's Cairn Program engages 15-20 students each school year in monthly outdoor activities and stewardship projects across the Front Range. These monthly activities foster leadership, community, and passion centered around Colorado's natural resources. Cairn students also get the opportunity to have a hands-on impact in local environmental needs as they plan and lead their own stewardship project by the end of the program (ex. trail building, planting, habitat restoration and park improvements)!



Since 1984, VOC has engaged nearly 134,000 people to get involved in and become inspired to care for Colorado – a total donated labor value of over \$27 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
Research Associate at CU Boulder's Geology Dept.
Former Board member of the Cottonwood Institute

Benefits for Students

As part of the Cairn Program, students can:

- ✓ Gain leadership skills and build their 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 - outdoors!
- ✓ Make a real impact in caring for Colorado's outdoors
- ✓ Apply for VOC's 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 (Sept. - April)
- ✓ Attend Student/Parent Orientation Aug. 23rd (2 hours)
- ✓ 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
- ✓ Build your resume and leadership skills
- ✓ Have access to early registration on VOC projects and discounted or free Outdoor Stewardship Institute trainings

Requirements for Mentors

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

- ✓ Prior experience working with and leading youth
- ✓ Successful reference and background checks
- ✓ Attend Cairn Mentor Training Aug. 22nd (2 hours)
- ✓ Attend once-a-month activities Sept. - April (approximately 7-10 Hours/Month)

Applications to be a Cairn Student or Mentor open in April and close on July 31st. Learn more or apply now at: voc.org/cairn