



VOC Youth Programs



Volunteers For Outdoor Colorado

VOC motivates and enables people to become active stewards of Colorado's natural resources.





Engaging youth of all ages



- Family-friendly outdoor stewardship opportunities – ages 12 and up
- Young Stewards Program for children 4 - 12
- Youth SWATS – school aged programs
- Year-round high school Cairn program



How we do it...

- Hands-on Outdoor Volunteerism
- Youth Engagement
- Mentoring Opportunities
- Training and Leadership Programs: *OSI Working with Youth Training*





VOC Stewardship Opportunities

- Over 75 outdoor volunteer opportunities per season with 30-40% have a “family friendly” aspect that encourages children to accompany their parents for the day
- Age appropriate for 12 and older
- Two-hour evening as well as one-day weekend projects to accommodate busy lifestyle schedules





Young Stewards Program

Children ages 4-12 attend parallel programming involving recreation, stewardship education and a short age-appropriate project while their parents/guardians are involved in the VOC stewardship project nearby.



Cairn Youth Program

- Cairn started in 2008 as a way to extend VOC's mission to high school students in a year-round program.
- Cairn combines challenging outdoor leadership skills with rewarding hands-on stewardship projects to make an impact on the natural world.
- Cairn students explore environmental topics, address community needs and participate in adventurous outdoor challenges.





How Cairn Works...

- Cairn meets monthly from September to May.
- Programs are led by VOC and hosted by a variety of environmental organizations.
- Students design and implement their own volunteer event.





Typical Cairn Project Calendar

- **September:** Stapleton Urban Farm
- **October(Overnight):** Cheyenne Mountain State Park
- **November:** Wildlife Rehabilitation, Release and Education
- **December:** Ugly Sweater Party & Project Selection
- **January:** Winter Camping/Hiking Skills
- **February:** Elk Fence Construction in Boulder County
- **March:** Crew Leader Training/Site Visit/Project Preparation
- **April:** End-of-the-Year Student Led Project



Youth Summit August 1-4, 2013

- 100 high school students 14-18 years old from across the state – recruiting from VOC partnership offices
- Leadership and stewardship training; completion of large-scale stewardship project
- Continuing connections once back in their communities



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