

EXPLORERS

In its tenth year, the Explorers program steered more elementary students than ever before to unique nature locations around Richmond each month. Second through fifth graders from our community's most disadvantaged neighborhoods were transported from their city block to inspiring green spaces to bring their classroom science concepts to life in nature. From learning about their impact on the James River at Belle Isle, to identifying tree species at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, to understanding animal adaptations at Pocahontas State Park - students sped off on the road to exploration and discovery that's crucial to a child's academic and character development during these young formative years.

3,102 Total Number of Students Served in 2018

21 Outdoor Locations

8 Schools Served in 2018

97% Positive experience in nature for the students

63% of students maintained a grade of B or higher in science

88% of teachers reported referring to lesson plans following the field trip

"I learned new things and always paid attention during Blue Sky Fund trips - every time we came back to school, we wrote about the things we learned."
 - Kay/Niemah Hilchman, 5th grade, Fairfield Court ES

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE CLUBS

Middle school students pushed to new limits each week in our Outdoor Adventure Clubs (OAC), overcoming the challenges and uncertainty of activities often beyond their comfort zone. Students met 1-2 times per week to cycle through outdoor adventure sessions such as hiking, rock climbing, biking, paddling, and then parked at destinations beyond the city for an overnight camping trip each semester. Middle school can be a turbulent season with stormy weather, no matter your circumstances - through OACs, the outdoors provide an outlet for students to gain confidence in their ability to rise above challenges with the support of staff trained to manage trauma. Middle schoolers navigated the changing tides at First Landing State Park and scouted out summits in the Blue Ridge Mountains, crossing plenty of adventures off their map within the city as well.

230 Total Number of Students Served in 2018

23 Outdoor Locations

10 Partner Sites in 2018

27 Weekly Outings Per Club

49% Students showed increases in resiliency according to the Child & Youth Resiliency Measure

"I first volunteered at Blue Sky to share my passion for rock climbing, but I found that the real joy is helping these kids embrace moving out of their comfort zones to try something new and scary. The joy is in how they face their fears, how they cheer each other on. It's in the triumph on their faces when they top a route and their determination to try again when they don't. It's what they take away from the rock wall: not just stronger muscles, but stronger minds and a stronger sense of self, the tenacity they need to face the world."
 - Sarah Fite, 2018 Volunteer of the Year

OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Our Outdoor Leadership Institute (OLI) students traveled the furthest and spent the most time in nature - driving 300 miles to Grayson Highlands State Park for five days of wilderness immersion while summiting Mount Rogers. OLI is a year-long leadership program for high schoolers that intentionally brings together students from diverse backgrounds and sets their wheels in motion to become inclusive and service-oriented community leaders. The program started in the summer, ignited by team-building and leadership sessions that fuel the outdoor expedition, followed by monthly sessions throughout the school year to complete community service projects. Thirteen students graduated from the OLI program in June and were inducted into the alumni family, which embarked on an epic adventure to bike from Pittsburgh to Washington, D.C. along the Chesapeake and Allegheny Canal.

37 Total Number of Students Served in 2018

2 Expeditions
 » Grayson Highlands State Park
 » C&O Canal and the Great Allegheny Passage

336 Total Miles Hiked

2,970 Total Miles Biked

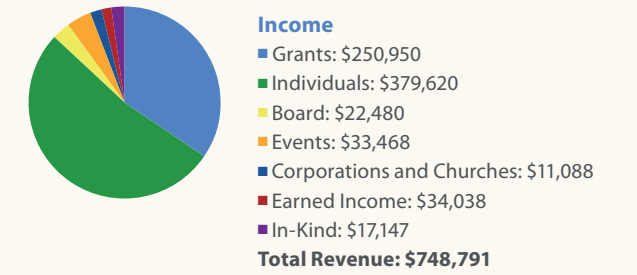
200+ Hours Spent Outside Per Student

60+ Hours of Community Service Per Student

21 Highschools Across Richmond Represented

"Nature makes me feel so much more relaxed and I become the best version of myself!"
 - Hannah Sjovold, Douglas Freeman HS

FINANCIALS



2018 financials as reported on audited year end statements of revenues and expenses.

BLUE SKY FUND TEAM

We are endlessly grateful for our dedicated team of both volunteer Board of Directors and staff that work tirelessly to push the Blue Sky Fund mission forward and change the lives of an ever increasing number of children in our community.

Board of Directors

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Kyndall Williams
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 Phil Wood

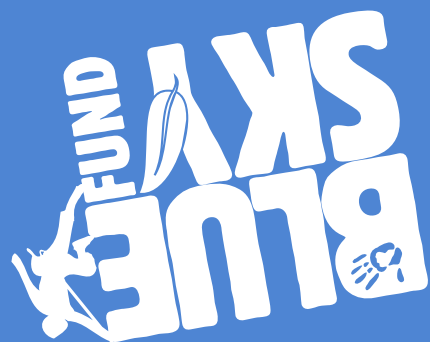
*Full-time staff in bold





Providing transformational experiences to urban youth through outdoor education.

WE'RE ON THE ROAD!



OUR NEXT DESTINATION

Blue Sky Fund is on the road to more exciting outdoor adventures in 2019! In both the elementary and middle school space, we've aligned with the community-wide focus to ensure that ALL children in Richmond - no matter their race, gender or zip code - experience quality out-of-school programming opportunities to support a positive educational experience. We're also doubling the capacity of our leadership program for high schoolers, with a goal to serve 40 students in this year-long immersive experience.

Hop aboard the Blue Sky Fund bus to help underserved youth across Richmond discover inner growth through outdoor adventure! Get involved this year in the following ways:

» Make a donation with ongoing impact by setting up a recurring monthly gift online at www.blueskyfund.org/donate

» Support our annual #BlueSkiesAhead online crowdfunding campaign

» Register for our annual Hike For Kids fundraiser - always the last Saturday in October

» Experience the transformative power of our outdoor programming firsthand by signing up to volunteer at www.blueskyfund.org/get-involved/volunteer

» Increase the impact of your gift by registering for your corporation's matching gift program

www.blueskyfund.org | [@blueskyfund](https://www.facebook.com/blueskyfund)

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Our work would simply not be possible without the support of generous community partners and volunteers, donating their time, energy and resources to help Blue Sky Fund's vision come to life.

Partners

Adventures in RVA
 Anna Julia Cooper Episcopal School
 Armstrong High School
 Bellevue Elementary School
 Blackwell Elementary School
 Boys and Girls Club of Metro Richmond
 Chesterfield County Parks and Recreation
 ChildSavers
 Chimborazo Elementary School
 Church Hill Academy
 Church Hill Activities and Tutoring (CHAT)
 Communities in Schools of Richmond
 Elkhardt-Thompson Middle School
 ERM Group Inc.
 Fairfield Court Elementary School
 Franklin Military Academy
 Friends of Bryan Park
 George Mason Elementary School
 Henderson Middle School
 Henrico County Recreation and Parks
 Housing Families First
 James River Association
 James River Park System
 Kayak Richmond
 Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens
 Lucille Brown Middle School
 Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School
 Maymont
 Miles Jones Elementary School
 Neighborhood Resource Center
 New Kent Forestry Center
 Next Up RVA
 Oak Grove – Bellemeade Elementary School
 Peak Experiences
 Randolph Macon College

Richmond City Parks and Recreation
 Richmond Public Schools
 Richmond Slave Trail
 Richmond SPCA
 RISE for Youth
 Riverside Outfitters
 Robinson Theater
 Roslyn Retreat Center
 Sacred Heart Center
 Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club
 Science Museum of Virginia
 Shalom Farms
 Side by Side
 Thomas C. Boushall Middle School
 Tredegar Iron Works and American Civil War Museum
 Tricycle
 University of Richmond
 Urban Hope
 VCU ASPIRE Program
 VCU Department of Chemistry
 VCU Mary and Frances Youth Center
 VCU Outdoor Adventure Program
 VCU Rice Rivers Center
 VCU School of Psychology
 VCU School of Social Work
 Virginia Capital Trail Foundation
 Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
 Virginia Outside
 Virginia State Parks
 Woodville Elementary School
 YMCA Camp Thunderbird
 YMCA of Richmond

Volunteers

125 volunteers
 712 volunteer hours
 \$19,032.63 Value of Volunteer Hours*
*Based on VA 2017 average hourly rate o volunteer hours at \$26.75/hour

\$500-999

Michael and Lisa Anania
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Armstrong, Jr.
 Jeffrey Bailey and Kathi Carigan
 Bank of America Charitable Foundation
 Cary Ayers
 Jonathan Bahe
 Mr. John B. Bailey
 Sarah Baker
 Steven Baker
 Kitty Ball
 Dominic Barrett
 Margaret Barrett
 Ellen Miller Basinger
 Baskerville
 John Bates
 Natalie Batten
 Doug and Andrea Becker
 Kelly Beekman
 Brian Beiro
 Natalie Beiro
 Brian Bell
 Russ and Jennifer Bencks
 David Benz
 Abbie Bernard
 Brenda Bird
 Leah Blachman
 Michael Blackwell
 Joel Blain
 Laura Blair
 Russell Blair
 Blanchard's Coffee Roasting Company
 Marjorie Blanton
 Blue Bee Cider
 Roy Ewing
 David and Audra Boardman
 Tyler Bodlak
 Robin Boisseau
 Mr. and Mrs. Karver Bolton
 Frank Bond and Sandra Spratley
 Christa Bonini
 Lisa Borchert
 John Borgelund
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 Jennifer Kuykendall and Jonathan Botts
 Mr. and Mrs. McGuire Boyd
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 Bernly and Katie Bressler
 Sara Brockman
 Donna Brodd
 Amy Broderick
 Diane Brown
 Michael Brown
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 Daniel Buenostro
 Rebecca Bulman
 David Bulman
 Matthew Burdick
 Agnes Burmeister
 Georgia Busch
 Jason Butler
 Yeva Byzek
 Jess Cadwallender
 Mr. Christopher Caesar
 Julia and Paul Calamita
 Ace Callwood
 Joseph Campbell
 Doug and Ann Campbell
 Bryan and Stephanie Campbell
 Brian Cannon
 Elsie Canup
 Capital One
 Chad and Sara Cariano
 Matthew Carpenter
 John Carpin
 Sarah Cartwright
 Carytown Cupcakes
 Ame Gilbert
 Katherine Gilbert
 Janet Kraft
 Victor Gilmer
 Angelia Givler
 James Golder
 Kathryn Finch Godbold
 Good Street
 Travis Goodwin
 Mr. David Gorman
 Nathan Gorman
 Kelly Gottschalk
 Rachel Gottschalk
 Charles Gottwald
 Sydney and Matthew Gottwald
 David and Meade Grandis
 Paul Granger
 Tara Gray
 Doris Green
 Amy Griffin
 Brandon Griffin
 Glencora Gudger
 Becky Gwynn
 Roby and Ashby Hackney
 Jordan Hackworth
 Adam and Allie Hake
 The Hale Family
 Will and Amie Hall
 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Sarah Hall
 Ryan and Julianne Hamlet
 Anthony Hamlet
 Charlie Hamm
 Todd Janeski and Karin Hansen
 Edward Hansen
 Cherissa Hanson
 Kimberly and Kevin Harris

James Crenshaw

Lisa Crisman
 Jessica Cullen
 David Cullen
 Elizabeth Dadds Ashley
 Awaken Massage
 Cary Ayers
 Jonathan Bahe
 Mr. John B. Bailey
 Sarah Baker
 Steven Baker
 Kitty Ball
 Dominic Barrett
 Margaret Barrett
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 Baskerville
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 Anthony Hamlet
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 Colvin Hedgpepeth
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 Elizabeth Herrmann
 John Hessian
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 Urila Hinds
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 Stephen Hogan
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 Brooke Park
 Pearl Parks
 Dustin and Lindsay Parks
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 Elizabeth Parziale
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 Emeline Phipps
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 Tracey Pollock
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 Matt Powell
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 Robert and Barbara Priddy
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 Michele Pugh
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 Sean Ramage
 Elizabeth Rambo
 Randall Branding Agency
 Julie Ranson
 Daniel Rearick
 Will Rearick
 Red Eye Cookie Company
 REI
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 Richmond Region Tourism
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 Darlan Rieth
 Lariza Rife
 Thomas W. Rigby
 Richard and Elizabeth Rinehardt
 Kyla Roach
 Bria Robertson
 William Romesburg
 Patricia Roncales
 Marc Rondeau
 Jennifer Rosen
 Julie Rosson
 Matt Rowe
 Lindsey Rowe
 Cash and Susan Rucker
 Lisa Ruggles
 rvaMORE
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 Kathleen Sadler
 Kelsey and Dave Salley

Brenda Sampe

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 Mike and Amy Schad
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 Stephanie Schunder
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 Amanda Scime
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 Carrie Seeley
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 Melanie Seigler
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 Joey and Kate Sherrard
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 The Shugart Family
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 Katye Snipes
 Cary Sorah
 Dot Spencer
 Nicole Spencer
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 Christen Strickler
 Scott Strickler
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 Mariah Terry
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 Paige Trivett
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 Saskia Turpijn
 Jayne and Bobby Ukrop
 Ashley Van der Waag
 Jacobb Van Scyoc
 Tony Van Vugt
 Matt Vogel
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 Ava Wagner
 Walkabout Outfitters
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 Allison Walton
 Savannah Walton
 Yan Wang
 Daisy Wang
 Kaitlin Watkins
 Scott Wayne
 Willis Weber
 Stephen and Stacey Weir
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 Manikka and Aruna Wijesooriya
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 Aaron Woloshin
 Ann Wood
 WorldView Solutions
 Raghav Wusirika
 Brendan Yetter
 Ryan Yeung
 Sara Young
 Kathleen Young
 Merva Young
 Abigail Zeiler
 Jana Zeiler
 Eric Zwemer

A LETTER FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

With your generous support, Blue Sky Fund rolled into its eleventh year in 2018, cruising to exciting new places with students across Richmond. Your passion for youth, education, and the outdoors has propelled Blue Sky in a strong direction to make a meaningful impact on the kids in our community - without you, our buses would be parked, students' learning stifled, and parks around town void of youthful energy. With each dollar donated or volunteer hour served - you are fueling a child's inner growth by going places to enjoy blue skies.

Blue Sky's core focus remains exposing urban youth to unique natural locations beyond the confines of their often concrete bubble. Each month, the Explorers program transported 3,102 elementary school students from their drab classrooms to 21 natural locations within the Greater Richmond Metro Area to enhance their comprehension of science concepts. In our Outdoor Adventure Clubs, 231 middle school students rotated through weekly sessions of activities such as hiking, biking, climbing and paddling at 23 spots around town to develop confidence in overcoming challenges of new adventures. Our year-round high school leadership program of 37 students traveled to far-away destinations of Mount Rogers, the C&O Canal and the Great Allegheny Passage to be immersed in wilderness and unearth leadership skills along the way.

While this year brought a leadership change, our 3,370 students - the most students that Blue Sky Fund has ever served in one year - spent more time outside than ever before, experiencing over 1,000 total hours of outdoor programming delivered in a safe and supportive environment. Our journey has only just begun - we are en route to transporting even greater numbers of kids in need to the outdoors to experience the power of nature - and we hope you'll continue supporting us along this road.

Happy Trails,
 Matt Perry

Blue Sky Fund Board President (2017-2018)

MISSION

Blue Sky is on a mission to provide transformational experiences for urban youth through outdoor education.

VISION

We will give every young person the opportunity to discover themselves by actively engaging the natural world.

PROGRAM GOALS

1 Help children achieve academic success, especially in the sciences, through active outdoor education that is appropriate for their current science curriculum.

2 Develop character and leadership through outdoor experiences that expand horizons, increase confidence, and build collaboration skills.