



NORTH CASCADES INSTITUTE

Our mission is to inspire and empower environmental stewardship *for all* through transformative educational experiences in nature



Access to public lands is vital for education, recreation and renewal



Hands-on learning about the environment begins in childhood and lasts forever

Intimate contact with nature helps people lead healthy, well-balanced lives



Education, combined with critical thinking and civic engagement, can change the world



Transformative learning lives at the convergence of natural and cultural history, science, art and literature



Land Acknowledgement

North Cascades Institute acknowledges that our programs take place in the ancestral homelands of Tribes, Bands and First Nations, including most notably the **Upper Skagit Indian Tribe, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Samish Indian Nation, Nooksack Tribe, Lummi Nation, Stó:lō Nation, Nlaka'pamux Nation, Colville Confederated Tribes, and Syilx/Okanagan Nation.** We offer this acknowledgement as a first step in honoring their relationship with the land we share, and a call towards further learning and action.

Learn more at ncascades.org/acknowledgement



People

- We provide more than 27,600 learner days to 12,000 people of all ages from across the country each year for powerful, place-based learning that inspires environmental and community stewardship.
- We engage, support and empower the next generation of diverse, informed citizens, community leaders and environmental stewards to build a more vibrant future.
- We succeed by working with our partners, including the National Park Service, US Forest Service, City of Seattle, Western Washington University, Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission and many school districts.

Place

- Participants explore and experience public lands—including parks, forests and wildlife refuges—across Washington State’s North Cascades ecosystem. We offer experiential programs from the inland waters of the Salish Sea to the Cascades Crest and east to the Okanogan Highlands and Columbia Basin.
- The **North Cascades Environmental Learning Center**—our sustainable, 92-bed facility on Diablo Lake in the heart of North Cascades National Park—is a hub of discovery into one of the wildest, most biologically diverse landscapes in North America.



Learning Center

Programs

We help people of all ages and backgrounds experience and enjoy the mountains, rivers, forests, people and wildlife of the Pacific Northwest—so all will care for and protect this special place.

School Programs

Mountain School is an overnight residential education program serving diverse schools. Students stay at the Environmental Learning Center to connect to the natural world through hands-on interdisciplinary activities in science, math, art, social studies and conservation. *Snow School* is a day-long outdoor winter learning adventure combining applied science education with snowshoe-powered exploration at the Mt. Baker Ski Area. *Forest School* students use inquiry, observation and reflection to investigate themes of habitats, adaptations and interdependence at the Gordon Carter site on Lake Whatcom.

Youth Leadership

Youth Leadership fosters conservation values, community engagement, and appreciation for our public lands in underserved high school students. Summer offers *Youth Leadership Adventures*, week-long wilderness trips to empower the next generation of conservation leaders. Other opportunities include *Youth Ambassadors* and community programs.

Graduate Residency

Students earn a *Master of Education degree* and *Certificates in Nonprofit Leadership and Administration* and *Northwest Natural History* in this residential program at the Environmental Learning Center. In partnership with Western Washington University, courses emphasize field science, experiential learning, teaching strategies and non-profit administration.

Family and Adult Programs

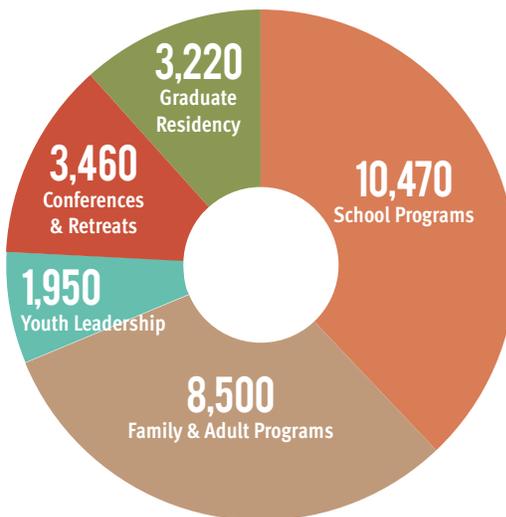
Family Getaways, *Base Camp* (learning and lodging), art, writing and photography retreats, *Skagit Tours*, natural history seminars and community events bring new audiences to the public lands of the North Cascades to learn, recreate and be inspired.

Conferences and Retreats

Custom educational programs, lodging and meals at the Environmental Learning Center inspire reflection and connection to the natural world as well as to each other. We welcome conferences, events, retreats, workshops, trainings, reunions and other gatherings.

Retail Bookstores

We operate six retail stores around North Cascades National Park. Over 75,000 customers purchase books, maps, apparel and gifts to help them learn about the North Cascades. This partnership reaches larger, broader audiences to positively affect their lives through a deeper connection with nature. All proceeds support youth education in the North Cascades.



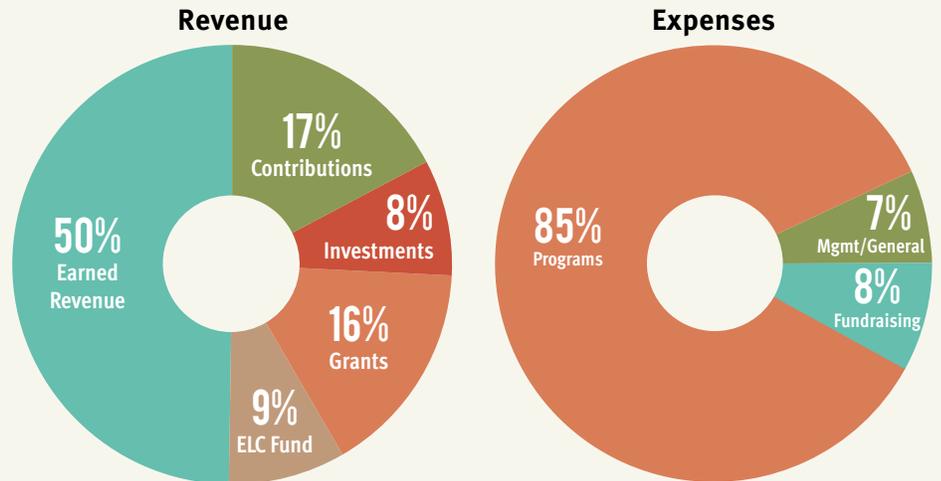
**Learner Days
(over 27,600 days per year)**



About Us

North Cascades Institute is a 501(c)3 educational organization founded in 1986 with a \$4 million budget, 16-member board of directors, 60 staff and 30 graduate students. We have earned 16 four-star ratings from Charity Navigator for sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.

Annual reports can be found online at ncascades.org/annual-report



STRATEGIC GOALS

- **Impact:** Strengthen the Institute’s impact and meet the needs of diverse communities by pursuing new opportunities for programs, partners and audiences.
- **Lifelong Learning:** Encourage and facilitate ongoing engagement with nature by offering programs for people from early childhood through adulthood.
- **Conservation in Practice:** Model environmental stewardship at North Cascades Institute by practicing and promoting conservation and sustainability.
- **Capacity:** Achieve sustainable growth and stability in core programs and operations while ensuring the Institute’s ability to respond to opportunity and challenge.

“North Cascades Institute introduces children—and reintroduces adults—to an increasingly remote outdoors. It introduces wonder. It reminds us why we should be amazed. Environmental education is not a luxury, it is the thing that can save us.”

— William Dietrich, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, author of *The North Cascades: Finding Beauty and Renewal in the Wild Nearby*

“The concept behind Mountain School sounds simple: In a three-day mountain camp experience, imbue in school children a visceral connection with this special place—the thumping, mountainous heart of Northwest wilderness. This is how it’s done at Mountain School. Has been, in fact, for 25 years as a program that sprouted in leaky Army surplus tents ... matures into a national model for wilderness education on public lands.”

— Ron Judd, *Seattle Times*

“People come to the North Cascades Environmental Learning Center to learn about the environment that shelters and sustains us—the natural systems that we do not own but to which we, as a species, belong—and those people grow up to be neither the destroyers nor the destroyed, but responsible citizens of a habitat, a food web, and a planet.”

— Barbara Kingsolver, author of *Animal Dreams*, *The Poisonwood Bible* and *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle*