

A night photograph of a snowy mountain landscape. In the foreground, there are large, snow-covered rocks and a path. In the background, a building with a balcony is illuminated with vibrant blue and purple lights. The word "YETI" is visible on the balcony railing. The sky is dark, and the overall scene is illuminated by the colorful lights of the building and the ambient light of the night.

# OURAY ICE PARK

2022-2023 END OF SEASON REPORT

A photograph of an ice climber in a yellow jacket and black pants, wearing a helmet and using ice axes to ascend a vertical ice wall. The climber is positioned on the left side of the frame, with a red rope visible on the right. The background is a vast, textured expanse of blue and white ice.

# Our Mission

**Ouray Ice Park, Inc. creates and operates a world-class ice climbing park that inspires and enhances the lives of the communities we serve.**

**Since 1994, the Ouray Ice Park has been the largest man-made public ice climbing park in the world, right next to the small town of Ouray, Colorado. Each winter, we open our gates for three months to thousands of ice climbers from around the globe, and with over 200 ice and mixed routes spanning almost two miles of the Uncompahgre Gorge, we are the ice climbing capital of the world.**

**The Ouray Ice Park is operated by the nonprofit organization Ouray Ice Park Inc. and is a free and public park. In order to keep the park free, we raise money every year to operate the park through a combination of donations, memberships, events, and sponsorships. The majority of our funding comes from our largest fundraising event of the year: the annual Ouray Ice Festival and Competition, which takes place every January.**

# **Opening Letter**

## **From Our Executive Director**

The Ouray Ice Park, Inc. (OIPI) is pleased to present this 2022/2023 Ouray Ice Park Post Season Report. OIPI is charged first and foremost with funding, constructing, maintaining and managing the Ouray Ice Park each winter. Our efforts throughout the season focused on ensuring that we maintained our world-class ice climbing venue and provided safe and climbable ice for as long a period of time as weather and water supply allowed. The driving force behind our efforts was to provide this venue – one that is recognized as the gravitational epicenter of ice climbing in North America – to ALL our users, including recreational climbers, commercial guiding services and educational entities, and therefore helps to keep our local economy vibrant and thriving during the winter.

As in previous seasons, and because of a phenomenal team effort, with so many people going above and beyond the call, the Ouray Ice Park thrived this season. We close this fiscal year with OIPI in a very good financial position. We will end the year with enough of a surplus to continue operating during the summer and early fall to prepare for the 2023/2024 season, and to continue work on Our Water Our Future capital campaign.

This report presents a summary of our activities and highlights from our 2022/2023 season. We hope you find this information informative and useful. We also hope that this report demonstrates that the Ouray Ice Park, a unique and special City asset, is in good hands, and is being well stewarded by the staff and board of directors, in the interest of the whole community.

**Peter O'Neil | Executive Director**

A person in an orange jacket and black pants is ice climbing a frozen waterfall. The climber is using ice axes and is positioned on the right side of the frame. The background is a mix of white snow and dark, shadowed rock crevices.

# Table of Contents

<b>TEAM</b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b>OPERATIONS</b> .....	<b>6</b>
<b>FUNDING</b> .....	<b>12</b>
<b>OUR WATER OUR FUTURE</b> .....	<b>18</b>
<b>FINANCIALS</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>ICE PARK SUPPORTERS</b> .....	<b>21</b>

# Our Team

## Ice Farmers

4 Seasonal

- Tim Foulkes
- Steve Imhoff
- Sarah Goodnow
- Jason Watkins

## Ice Rangers

4 Seasonal

- Jacob Raab
- Tres Barbatelli
- Corey Gera
- Ally Bloom

## Admin

4 Seasonal FT

- Pete Davis: Operations Manager
- Christina Lujan: Office Manager, Event Coordinator
- Bayley Wood: Marketing Director
- Peter O'Neil: Executive Director

## Board

6 Volunteers

- President: Lora Slaw
- Frank Robertson
- Bill Leo
- John Hulberd
- Brian Briggs
- Jenny Hart

# Park Operations

OPENING DAY

December 24, 2022

CLOSING DAY

April 2nd, 2023

TOTAL DAYS OPEN

100

OPENING ANCHOR  
COUNT

172

Our opening anchor count was the largest in Ice Park history this season.

By increasing the amount of terrain available in the Ice Park, our overall anchor count leapt by almost 50% from last year. With the total number of users in the park flat from the previous winter, ice climbers were more dispersed this season and we experienced less overcrowding.

Most of this terrain increase can be attributed to an overwhelmingly favorable winter for ice farming, as well as multiple expansion efforts undertaken by our Ice Farmers. New plumbing was run in the Two-Eyed Dog, Between the Bridges, and Lead Only areas; and the far northern end of the park (Shithouse & Gazebo Walls) was farmed for the first time in nearly a decade. Additionally, the Yelomine water delivery system we use to deliver water throughout the park to farm ice was downsized in the southernmost climbing areas of the park from 4" to 2" in diameter so as to maintain flow velocity and reduce freeze-up issues.

# DATA COLLECTION

Our Rangers not only enforce our rules, but they also collect all the data on our users. They do this through twice-daily walks through the park: one morning walk, and one afternoon walk, always beginning in the Deep South area. Every climber encountered is recorded, both within the designated climbing areas and elsewhere throughout the park.



Users are categorized into three main groups: recreational users, Commercial Guiding Operators (guides and their clients), and Institutional Group Events (organizations and their clients).



Morning counts commence between 09:00-10:00; afternoon counts between 13:00-14:00. This schedule accounts for anchor establishment times, later morning arrivals, and early afternoon departures; the spacing between counts guarantees that a single anchor can't be occupied by the same party during both counts (assuming they follow park regulations), and therefore the two data "snapshots" are completely unique from one another.



The Ice Rangers also track the number of open anchors in each area of the park and record all rules violations encountered.

# ICE PARK USERS

**239**

**Avg. Daily Users**

**5.3%**

**Institutional Group Events**

Any organization that offers organized group trips

**15.5%**

**Commercial Guiding Operators**

Traditional climbing guide services; 13 are permitted to operate in the park

**74.8%**

**Recreational Users**

Any climbers using the park facilities without organizational involvement

**4.4%**

**Ouray Ice Festival**

OIF users are recreational users split off into their own category

**23,918**

**Total User Count**

## Users By Month:

December: 1,547 | January: 13,550 | February: 8,527 | March: 2,186



# ICE PARK ANCHORS

**186**

**Daily Average  
Open Anchors**

**215**

**Maximum Daily  
Open Anchors**

## Top Climbing Areas:

1. South Park + Deep South
2. New Funtier
3. School Room
4. Scottish Gullies
5. Kid's Wall
6. Pic O' Vic
7. Five Fingers
8. Between the Bridges
9. Two-Eyed Dog
10. Shithouse Wall

**80%**

**Route Anchors  
Open**

As of Opening Day

**32%**

**Route Anchors  
Open**

As of Closing Day

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Our staff completed various infrastructure repairs and improvements throughout the season from heavy tree removal on the Black Diamond Access Trail to adding additional signage throughout the park as part of a multi-year project which is now almost complete.



Updated canyon access into School Room, Scottish Gullies, and Lowest Bridge (Gazebo and Shithouse) climbing areas.



Reopened the historic Trestle Bridge entrance into the School Room in late January after a closure that lasted nearly two years.



Installed four new anchor tripod structures in the Pic O' Vic area to replace dead and dying trees. \* All labor and material costs were donated in-kind by Skol Studios.

# Funding

## CONCESSIONAIRE PROGRAM

One of the various ways we raised money to operate the Ice Park is our Concessionaire Program. This program issues permits to guide services and large organizations that visit the park and collects fees based on their usage. Our concessionaire is divided into two main groups: Commercial Guiding Operators and Institutional Group Events.

**CGOs  
Permitted:**

**13**

**Climbers Visiting  
with CGOs**

**3,706**

**Percent of  
Total Users**

**15.5%**

**IGEs  
Permitted:**

**16**

**Climbers Visiting  
with IGEs**

**1,279**

**Percent of  
Total Users**

**5.3%**

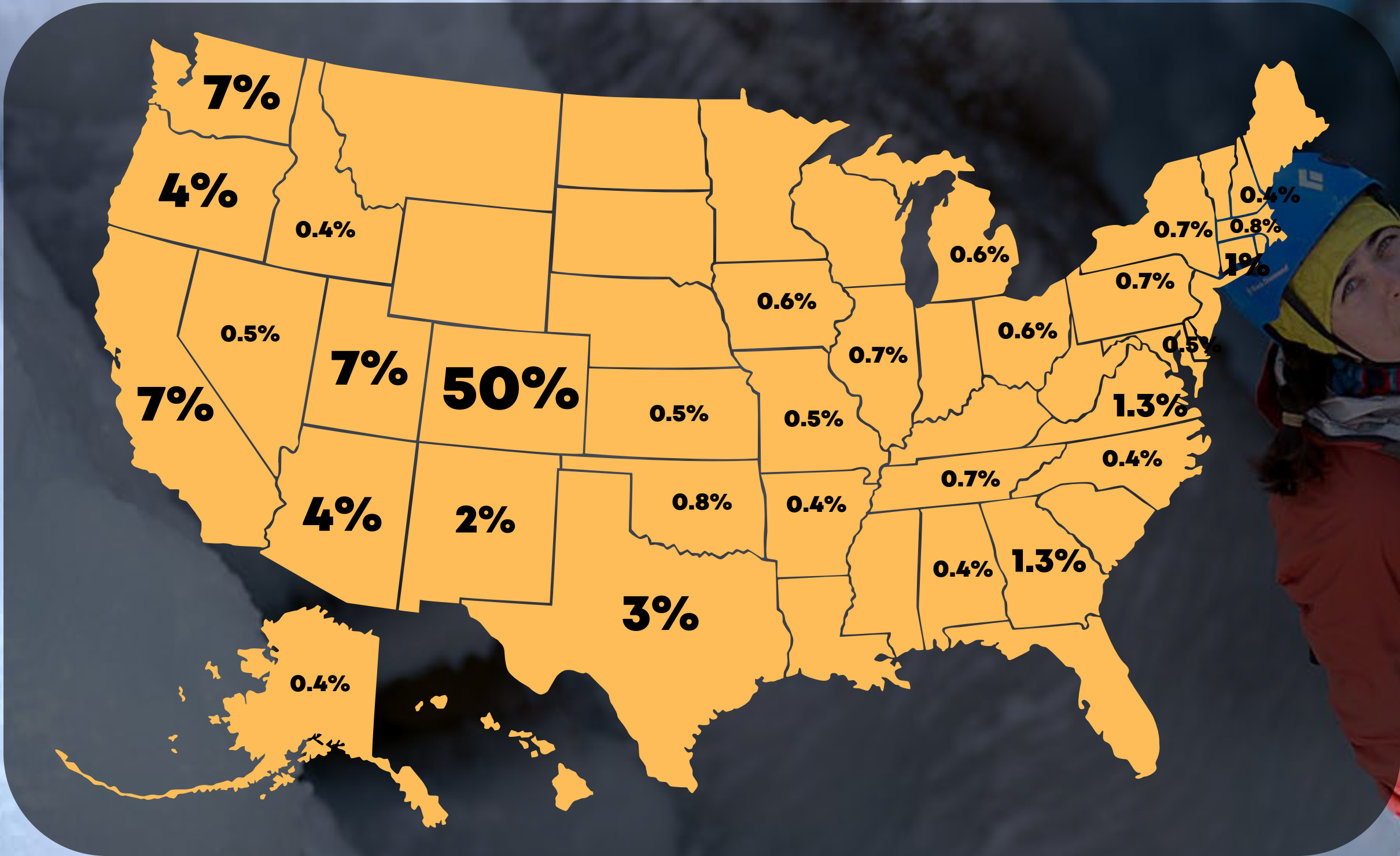
# MEMBERSHIP

**837**

**Total Members**  
+104% increase

**\$73,684**

**Revenue**  
+94% increase



# SPONSORSHIP

**26**

**Community  
Sponsors**

**36**

**Corporate  
Sponsors**

**\$17,750**

**Revenue**

**\$109,500**

**Revenue**



# Events

## Ouray Ice Festival



JANUARY 20TH  
**Friday**

Attendees  
(Park Only):

**4,283**



JANUARY 21ST  
**Saturday**

Attendees

(Evening Events):



JANUARY 22ND  
**Sunday**

**732**

# Ice Fest

Clinic  
Participants:  
1,044

229

Demo Gear  
Cards Sold

162

All Access  
Passes Sold

200

Auction  
Bidders

162

Total  
Volunteers

42

Mixed Comp  
Athletes

26

Speed Comp  
Athletes

# Events

## ALL IN ICE FEST

JANUARY 6TH - 8TH, 2023

All In Ice Fest grew exponentially this year from its inaugural launch in 2022. Participant numbers jumped from 30 to over 120 climbers from around the country for the second annual event, and the stoke was high.

Evening events included presentations from the Southern Ute museum and Full Circle Everest, panels, films, and even a hidden talent show. Key sponsors were Arc'teryx, La Sportiva, Osprey, Rab, Scarpa, the North Face, Mammut, and Latino Outdoors.



**ALL IN**  
**ICE FEST 2023**  
**JANUARY 6-8**  
OURAY ICE PARK, COLORADO





# ALL IN

Clinic  
Participants:  
120

11

Athletes

+83%

12

Clinics

+20%

17

Guides

+54%

23

Volunteers

+130%

# **Our Water Our Future**

## **A CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR OUR OWN WATER PIPELINE**

As a nonprofit organization, our mission at the Ouray Ice Park is to create and operate a free, public ice climbing park – every season. But building an ice park every year comes at a cost, as well as A LOT of water.

Currently we use overflow from the City of Ouray storage tanks to farm the Ice Park every winter. However, we are capped at how much water we can use. By building our own water pipeline, we would have access to 5X more water than we have now, which means: more ice, more terrain, and less crowding. The best part? This pipeline would have no environmental impact.

Our Water Our Future has already raised over \$1 million of our \$1.4 million dollar goal from private individuals, foundations, and donors. We have already begun laying the pipeline, and plan to have the new system online by next season.

# Financials

## REVENUE



**OUR WATER OUR FUTURE**  
**\$306.8K**

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**\$72.4K**

**MERCH**  
**\$49.4K**

**DONATIONS**  
**\$46K**

**OURAY ICE FESTIVAL**  
**\$199.4K**

**ALL IN ICE FEST**  
**\$33K**

**CONCESSIONAIRE**  
**\$46.6K**

**COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIP**  
**\$17.7K**

**OTHER**  
**\$80.6K**

\*Summary subtotals as of 5/10/2023. Fiscal year end is 6/30/2023.

# Financials

## EXPENSES

OURAY ICE FESTIVAL  
\$74.3K

ALL IN ICE FEST  
\$36.3K

OPERATING  
\$52.8K

OTHER  
\$114.7K

OUR WATER OUR FUTURE  
\$341.4K

ADMIN & OVERHEAD  
\$362.8K



\*Summary subtotals as of 5/10/2023. Fiscal year end is 6/30/2023.

# Our Supporters

## DONORS

Benevity Community Impact Fund,  
American Online Giving Foundation  
Cymaron Foundation, Cyril F and Marie  
O'Neil Foundation  
Cymaron Foundation, Karen O'Neil  
Stone and Jonathan Stone  
The Jessica Langmaid Charitable Fund  
Lauderdale Family Charitable Fund  
Madmone Inc., Mark O'Neil  
Raikes Foundation Kori Dunaway  
RMI Expeditions  
Western Colorado Community  
Foundation

Anne Duperault  
ay & Jackie Lauderdale  
Norman Townsen

Rose Aldrich  
Sara Barker  
Carrie Bishop  
Artem Borovinskikh  
Natakit Bourrod  
Sheilah Bryan  
Kegan Buchhop  
Pawel Buczek  
David Burda  
Zach Chrisman  
Celeste Cizik  
Ali Clark  
Jill Corrente  
Jonathan Cushing  
Robert Daigler  
Maple Damien  
Michael Eberle  
Rizlie Etcobanez

Ian Francis  
Joseph Freeman  
Dominic Gonzalez-  
Padron  
Allen Halbrook  
Christopher  
Hanrahan  
Rick Howell  
Grant Kiessling  
Nell Kirchhoff  
Joseph Lanzetta  
Melissa McClendon  
Paul Meehan  
Charlotte Monson  
Michael Orth  
Kenneth Parker  
Scott Perdan

Andrew Rodriguez  
Gregory Roliardi  
Lorna Savella  
Bruno Schull  
Stephen Sears  
Ellen Sebastian  
Stuart Smith  
Lukas Steinrueck  
Joseph Stollsteimer  
Nancy Streza  
Charles Swann  
Ross Thompson  
Eli Tyo  
Aaron Valenti  
Matthew Vera  
Jeff Verges  
Joseph Wilson

# Our Supporters

## OUR WATER OUR FUTURE

Great Outdoors Colorado  
Intel Match, Frank Robertson  
League of Mild Inconvenience  
Mountain Trip  
San Juan Mountain Guides,  
LLC  
Summit Sealants  
TO Trust and Levine Family  
Western Colorado  
Community Foundation, Dave  
and Mary Wood Fund

Greg & Renee Alaniz  
Jonas Anckarman  
Ken Balson  
Jeff Banks  
James Barnum  
Daniel Benyshek  
Mike Berkow  
Jim Bodoh  
John Boen

Arthur Brooks  
Kevin Brooks  
Mike Brown  
Cameron Bunt  
Will Butcher  
Jonathan Bybee  
Enrico Calvanese  
Matthew Christensen  
Aaron Ciuffo  
Bill Clendenning  
Gary Daab  
Sam & Melanie Davis  
Matt Dawes  
Logan Dean  
Mia Derstine  
Michael Dillon  
Olga Dobranowski  
Dragan Dokic  
Doris Downey  
Anne Duperault

Robin Ferris  
Illina Frankiv  
Ken Gibby  
Stuart Gillespie  
Russel Greer  
Joshua Gruener  
Douglas Hansen  
Jenny Hart  
Alison Hickok  
Ben Hoselton  
Majid Imani  
Isaiah Janzen  
Jake, Megan, & Bash  
Kahn  
Nikolay Karasev  
Karen Kelley  
Scott Kime  
Rob & Shelly Klus  
Jay & Jackie  
Lauderdale

Jonathan Landvogt  
Micah Lewkowitz  
Kyle Lidberg  
Mark & Andrea  
Luppenlatz  
Kevin Mack  
Tanguy Marquis  
John Martersteck  
Kevin Martin  
Caroline McAndrews  
Connie Miller  
Sara Moles  
James Nickel  
Paul Oppenheim  
Michael Orth  
Russell Owen  
John Pedlow  
Samantha Pelletier  
David Porter  
Christopher Rhoads

Frank & Jeanne  
Robertson  
Chad Rossmeissl  
William Skinner  
Lora Slawitschka  
Rachel Smith  
Stuart Smith  
Jordan K. Smith Jr.  
Christopher Snyder  
Rebecca Stouges  
Karen Vernier  
Cris Villarma  
Heather Volz  
John Wolford  
Gary & Bayley Wood  
James Wood  
Alexis Yeh  
Cyrill Zagar

# OUR SUPPORTERS

## COMMUNITY SPONSORS

ABRAM INN & SUITES  
ALPINE BANK  
ARTISAN BAKERY  
CIE CREATIVE CO  
KJ WOOD DISTILLERS  
MATTERHORN INN  
MOUNTAIN FEVER  
SHIRTS & GIFTS  
MOUNTAIN TRIP  
OURAY BOOKSHOP  
OURAY BREWERY  
OURAY GLASSWORKS &  
GIFTS  
OURAY GROCERY  
OURAY HOT SPRINGS  
POOL  
OURAY MAIN STREET  
INN

OURAY MOUNTAIN  
SPORTS  
OURAY MOUNTAIN TRAIL  
RUN LLC  
OURAY RIVERSIDE  
RESORT / OURAY RV  
PARK & CABINS  
QUALITY INN  
ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
CANNABIS  
SAN JUAN MOUNTAIN  
GUIDES  
SKOL STUDIOS  
SUMMIT SEALANTS, LLC  
TWIN PEAKS LODGE &  
HOT SPRINGS  
WIESBADEN  
WHITTWORKS PAINTING

## CORPORATE SPONSORS

ALTO GEAR  
ARC'TERYX  
ASOLO  
BAR-U-EAT  
BEAL  
BIG AGNES  
BLACK DIAMOND  
BLUE ICE  
CAMP CHEF  
CAMP USA  
CELSIUS  
COLORADO LOTTERY  
FIRST ASCENT COFFEE  
ROASTERS  
FURNACE INDUSTRIES  
GRIVEL  
HIMALI  
HYPERLITE  
LA SPORTIVA

LOWA  
MOUNTAIN EQUIPMENT  
NW ALPINE GEAR  
OSPREY  
PAGOSA CREATIVE  
COMPANY  
PETZL  
RAB EQUIPMENT  
ROCKY TALKIE  
SAMAYA  
SANTERO APPAREL  
SCARPA  
STERLING ROPES  
THE NORTH FACE  
THIRTY SECONDS OUT  
TRANGO  
UPSLOPE BREWING  
WRIGHT OPERA HOUSE  
YETI



## CONTACTS:

**PETER O'NEIL**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

PETERONEIL@OURAYICEPARK.COM

**BAYLEY WOOD**  
**MARKETING DIRECTOR**

BAYLEYWOOD@OURAYICEPARK.COM

**CHRISTINA LUJAN**  
**EVENT COORDINATOR**

CHRISTINALUJAN@OURAYICEPARK.COM