

FOUR CORNERS SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION

CANYON COUNTRY DISCOVERY CENTER

Media Kit 2016



WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1984, our **mission** is to create lifelong learning experiences about the natural and cultural treasures of the Colorado Plateau for people of all ages and backgrounds through conservation, adventure, service, and education programs.

Our **vision** is to build a diverse community of people who are committed to conserving the natural and cultural resources of the Colorado Plateau through hands-on engagement in place-based programs.



WHAT WE DO

The Four Corners School resides on the campus Canyon Country Discovery Center a science and nature facility, with indoor and outdoor learning stations. Developed for culturally diverse audiences, the campus allows children and adults to explore and discover the natural history and landscapes, people and places, land use and energy, astronomy, water and climate of the Colorado Plateau. The campus has been creatively designed as a place-based facility with an informal science center, riparian area, visual art installations, nature play-scape, classroom, night sky observatory, research lab, conference area, cultural pavilions, and staff offices.

Four Corners School of Outdoor Education's programs encourage visitors to get outdoors and experience the natural world of the Colorado Plateau.



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Teacher Continuing Education: Teachers of all grades levels can participate in interactive, science-based professional development at our Discovery Center campus and through outreach; K-8th grade teachers across the Colorado Plateau can join our PLATEAU Project, a professional development outreach program.



Student Learning: Kindergarten through college students can engage in interactive, inquiry-based, onsite and outreach, informal science-based programs at the Discovery Center campus and in area schools.

Young Adult Development: Young adults can participate in service-learning projects. Diverse youth ages 15-25 can join the Canyon Country Youth Corps, a workforce development program that completes conservation projects on public lands.



Lifelong Learning: Visitors of all ages can join campus activities, citizen science, research, and astronomy programs. Southwest Ed-Ventures offers adventure education trips throughout the Colorado Plateau.



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OUR IMPACT

The Canyon Country Discovery Center provides a new home for the Four Corners School of Outdoor Education to expand educational programming and to offer adventures across the Colorado Plateau to thousands of visitors each year.

Additionally, the Discovery Center campus aims to breathe new life into our region and create positive economic development for San Juan County, Utah. Formal economic studies of the Discovery Center have projected that once open and fully functional, the new campus will:

- Create 20 new jobs and sustain 10 old jobs;
- Fill 9,391 motel rooms annually;
- Increase TRT and Sales Tax by \$229,376 annually;
- Have a one-time influx in wages from construction of \$2,282,995;
- Pay \$862,449 in annual wages for new jobs created (\$477,344 for old jobs); and
- Produce an estimated potential Social Return on Investment of \$9.8 MIL annually.

Four Corners School has been honored 21 times locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally since 1992. Awards include:

- Governor of Utah's Medal for Science and Technology in science education (2001);
- North American Association for Environmental Education for Outstanding Service to Environmental Education at the Regional Level (2001);
- Olympics Committee Spirit of the Land Environmental Education Award (2002)
- Prescott College Desert Star Award (2003);
- Governor of Utah's Watershed Improvement Award (2004);
- Utah Society for Environmental Education's Program and Educator of the Year awards (2005);
- National Geographic Traveler Magazine's 50 Great Tours of a Lifetime for our Southwest Safari Camps (2008);
- Public Lands Service and project of the Year awards from The Corps Network for our Dolores River Restoration Project (2009);
- Phil James Conservation Award from the Nature Conservancy for our Canyon Country Youth Corps' work in the Dolores River Restoration Partnership (2013); and
- Outstanding Service to Environmental Education Award from the Environmental Education Association of New Mexico (2013).

Since 1984, Four Corners School has provided:

- A wide range of place-based outdoor education programs for over 114,500 participants, ranging in ages six to ninety years old
- Over 265,000 hours of youth and adult service on public lands
- 937,000 hours of youth outdoor education
- 418,000 hours of adult outdoor education
- 186,460 hours of teacher training in outdoor education
- Awarded 200 teacher scholarships for our outdoor programs; repaired or rehabilitated hundreds of miles of roads, springs, and trails; and worked to protect over 40 archaeological sites on public land





CONTACT US:
FOUR CORNERS SCHOOL OF OUTDOOR EDUCATION
1117 N. MAIN ST.
MONTICELLO, UT 84535
435-587-2156
info@fourcornersschool.org

