Outdoors Empowered Network is a national network of community-led, youth-centered outdoor education groups that are dedicated to increasing access and diversity in the outdoors through gear libraries and outdoor leadership training. Together, we are working to increase our collective impact on the world, and create equitable access to nature.

A National Network of Members

OEN’s member organizations support access to outdoor adventures for tens of thousands of youth each year. Members partner with youth service agencies, schools, and other youth-centered groups to make transformative outdoor experiences through these core programs:

Training
Members provide experiential, skills-based trainings for teachers and youth workers, empowering them to take youth outdoors on their own. For every adult trained, 20+ youth get to experience the power of nature and the outdoors.

Gear
Members reduce one of the biggest barriers to getting outside—cost of gear—by providing community access to outdoor equipment libraries.

Community Support
Members often provide mini-grants, transportation subsidies, and community connections.

Members are Supported by OEN

Being part of OEN gives members the opportunity to build networks, share best practices, fundraise for gear, and see the national impact of collective work. Our core program model brings together a wide variety of members, all working together to bring equity and access to the outdoors. OEN supports core members wherever possible, including through:

Gear Acquisition
Outdoors Empowered Network supports our members through fundraising for in-kind and monetary donations, bulk purchases, and programmatic design.

Thought Leadership
We encourage year-round member engagement on various topics including DEI in the outdoors, best practices, and risk management.

Member Support
OEN staff provides members with free consulting support to create industry connections, problem-solve, and design new programming.

Professional Community
Regular engagements provide members with a professional community for exploring new ideas and programming.

OUTDOORSEMPowered.ORG
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**OEN’s Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Commitment**

At Outdoors Empowered Network we believe that all young people should have regular opportunities to recreate outside with their friends, family, and community.

Unfortunately, cultural and institutional racism too often claim the outdoors as a “white space”. Outdoors Empowered Network stands in solidarity with communities whom this form of white supremacy causes significant and lasting harm. Our DEIJ Framework focuses on increasing intersectional diversity, using actionable language in our programming and communication, trauma-informed programming, power-with culture change, and industry leadership.

**Growth & Equity in the OEN Community**

Over the last two years, OEN has created new programs in alignment with our DEIJ commitment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Emerging Membership Pathway</th>
<th>Grant Support</th>
<th>Member Programming</th>
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| This new pathway brings grassroots leaders into our professional community at the beginning of the gear library design process. We have removed written and institutional barriers, focusing instead on a strong commitment to our shared mission. | Because traditional non-profit funding may prove inaccessible for many BIPOC grassroots leaders, OEN identifies potential funding opportunities for members and supports the grant application process. | Our programming explicitly works to increase diversity in and decrease barriers to the outdoors.  
  • Access & Equity Working Group  
  • Equity-based Outdoor Leadership Trainings  
  • Technical and Language Support & Advocacy |

OEN has more than doubled its membership in the last two years; much of this growth is coming from BIPOC-led initiatives.

Many of our established members are hiring BIPOC directors and staff as well, making many of our member community spaces majority BIPOC.

Visit our website for a current list of members.

[OUTDOORSEMPPOWERED.ORG](http://outdoorsempowered.org)
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OEN gear libraries currently support more than 50,000 youth annually, but many communities, especially communities of color, still lack resources for outdoor recreation. Each year we support local organizations as they build capacity to manage a gear library and run training programs.

### Case Example

Indigenous Cultural Concepts is a Diné (Navajo) led environmental justice organization in Arizona that supports youth education and traditional cultural land practices. We have built a gear library for ten people, are providing outdoor recreation training support, and have facilitated their award of a Liberated Pathways grant from Youth Outside.

### An Investment in Community

#### The Impact

A gear library for 30 can support 1,560 weekend camping trips a year - 7,800 people over the course of five years.

#### Community Engagement

Each young person that encounters outdoor recreation in a positive way through the gear library and programing will have the skills and resources to continue camping and recreating with their family and community. In five years this could be as many as 30,600 people.

### Help Us Build New Gear Libraries!

- **$30,000** builds a gear library for 30 - a full classroom
- **$20,000** builds a gear library for 20 - an after-school program
- **$10,000** builds a gear library for 10 - support family camping
- **$5,000** supports program development & capacity building
- **$2,500** provides full instructor training
- **$1,000** provides full scholarship and travel to our Summit
- **$500** covers the cost of membership

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**AN INVESTMENT IN COMMUNITY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Investment Level</th>
<th>Youth</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
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**INVESTMENT LEVEL**

- **$10K**
- **$20K**
- **$30K**

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