



# 2023 Annual Report

# Grant Programs 2023

We provide small grants to individuals and nonprofit organizations to increase BIPOC participation in rock climbing and outdoor recreation activities.

Offered 4 distinct grant programs aimed at increasing diversity in high impact areas in our industry

Awarded over \$60,500 in grants in 2023, to help over 250 people participate climbing/outdoor recreation activities.

A third of the \$ total in grants given last year actually helped 2.5x more people in 2023 by changing our strategy.

*Grant partnerships with adidas Outdoor, CLIF Bar and Black Diamond*

# Grant Programs 2022

We provide small grants to individuals and nonprofit organizations to increase BIPOC participation in rock climbing and outdoor recreation activities.

Offered 8 distinct grant programs aimed at increasing diversity in high impact areas in our industry

Awarded over \$90,500 in grants in 2022, to 54 individuals or organizations

The 54 grants helped 100+ people to participate in climbing/outdoor recreation activities.

*Grant partnerships with adidas Outdoor, New River Alliance of Climbers, CLIF Bar, Black Diamond, and Central Rock Gym.*

# CLIF Leadership Grants



# CLIF LEADERSHIP GRANTS

Trip Report Included	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	Award Value	Gear Only	Leadership Courses	Event/Trip Coordinator	Participants	Good Stories
X	Ivy	Leung	\$1,200		AMGA		1	AMGA course to build skills
	Jenna	Lee		\$ 1,000			1	Black Diamond gear
X	Crystal	Rose-Hudelson	\$1,500		SPI		1	Course to lead BIPOC outdoors
X	Tiffany	Blount	\$4,000			X	75	BLK Out Festival leader and event
X	Gerry	Egbalic	\$875		AMGA WFA		1	WFA course to lead BIPOC outdoors
	Robert	Smith	\$350		REI WFA		1	WFA course to lead BIPOC outdoors
X	Kahlea	Pendleton	\$1,000		AMGA		1	Rock climbing course to lead BIPOC outdoors
X	Shondeen	Chavez	\$1,270		AMGA SPI		1	Rock climbing course to lead BIPOC outdoors
X	John	Davis	\$800		USAC		1	Routsetting course
X	Wilson	Barajas	\$720		AMGA SPI		1	Course to lead BIPOC outdoors
X	Andre	Chiquito	\$1,100		AMGA SPI		1	Course to lead BIPOC outdoors
X	Carmen	Shippy	\$1050		NOLS/REI		1	WFA as leader for Destination Hikes
X	Jay	Louie	\$650			X	6	Therapeutic courses for women recovering trauma
	Esteban	Usuga	\$1,000		SPI&WFA		1	Courses to lead BIPOC group outdoors
	Henry	Ko	\$1,200		AMGA SPI		1	AMGA SPI Test-Red Rocks
	Bennet	Rahn	\$428				1	Ouray BIPOC Guide Opportunity-
	Carlin	Reynolds	\$428				1	Ouray BIPOC Guide Opportunity-
	Danielle	Johnson	\$428				1	Ouray BIPOC Guide Opportunity-
X	Nat	Vorel	\$428				1	Ouray BIPOC Guide Opportunity-
	Gabs	Clark	\$428				1	Ouray BIPOC Guide Opportunity-
	Mari	Simpson-Hirata	\$428				1	Ouray BIPOC Guide Opportunity-
	Matty	Jones	\$428				1	Ouray BIPOC Guide Opportunity-
	Mel	Fernandez	625				1	Non-Profit start up for sexual violence in the outdoors
	David	Lee	\$1,200		AMGA Alpine		1	AMGA Alpine courses – Negus co-founder
			<b>\$21,311</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>			<b>106</b>	

**\$22,311 total**

# Therapeutic Climbing sessions for Women of Color

Purpose: Empowerment and healing through Therapeutic rock climbing.



## C4C gave out 6 grants for attendees.

Jay Louie - coordinator

Background: Unzi is an accomplished boulderer but has anxiety and panic when she tries roping up, especially trad. Two years ago, she was in an accident following a moderate alpine trad route where the leader fell and had injuries that required SAR rescue. Unzi wanted to overcome her trauma response to roped climbing, especially addressing the 'freeze' response.

Unzi: 'My goals were to: 1) Better understand and listen to my body's risk tolerance. 2) To minimize fear associated with trad lead climbing.'

I think it was a huge success! During my following trip back to Red Rocks, I was able to successfully lead a pitch on Big Bad Wolf. It was the best I've felt on outdoors lead in a while. Additionally, indoors this week I noticed drastic differences in how my body reacted to fear. My body no longer disassociated with me. We were able to remain present and still focus on the remainder of the climb.

Angel: Just being able to realize that I could do it. I thought because I'm a big girl that I wouldn't be able to do something like that and I watch other people do it and I was able to do it. It felt good. Been successful at something then I thought was only for small people navigating the wall mentally, and knowing that I have a safety net down there protecting me. I enjoyed myself. I had a wonderful time and a wonderful day. It gave me a sense of freedom not to limit myself just because of my size. I've never really been insecure about it in too many things but I used to be about rock climbing, not now thank you.





# Ouray Ice Festival

Granted in 2023 with the festival in January 2024. We are helping 8 BIPOC/Adaptive guides to attend and teach ice climbing to help build more diversity in the ice climbing areas.

**C4C gave out grants for 8 attendees.**

Christina Lujan – Coordinator

Grant funds, sourced from Climbing 4 Change via CLIFF, have been instrumental in bolstering the participation of marginalized communities in All In Ice Fest. This collaboration between Climbing 4 Change and CLIFF underscores a commitment to social impact and community empowerment. By channeling resources through these avenues, nonprofits such as us gain access to funding specifically designated to support initiatives that promote inclusivity and equity in outdoor recreational activities. The partnership facilitates not only financial assistance but also creates networks and opportunities for collaboration, amplifying the reach and effectiveness of grant-funded projects. Thus, the impact of these funds extends beyond the immediate support provided, fostering sustainable change and promoting greater diversity and representation in outdoor spaces like the All In Ice Fest. Just look at the faces in the photos.... pictures speak a thousand words they say.





# Guides to Ouray festival attendee

Nat Vorel

Paraclimber



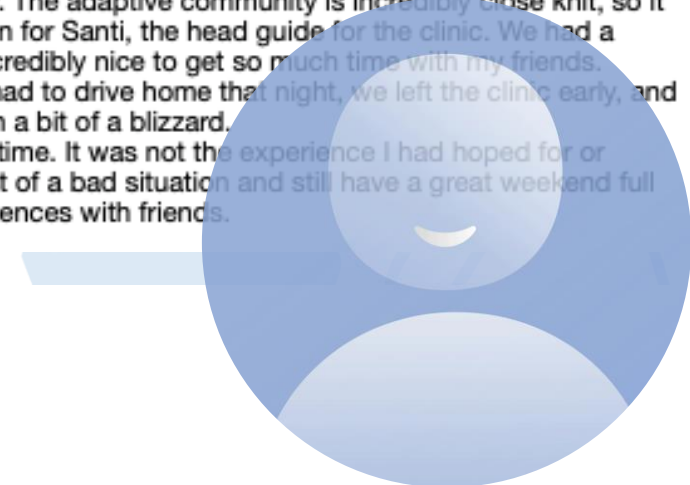
On January 3rd, I headed off from Oklahoma to Ouray, Colorado for the All In Ice Festival. Unfortunately, due to an insurance issue, I was informed during the drive to the fest that my certifications were not enough for a paid guide role. This was incredibly disappointing after being told that my certifications would be fine, but I was willing to shift into a volunteer role, essentially doing what I would have before.

Early on Friday morning, I went out for a few quick pitches with my friend Santi, another guide. I was slated to guide the beginner adaptive clinic with my friend Dave, but due to low signups, we cancelled and just had a one on one with the client. This provided the opportunity to work directly with her, and focus on her specific needs. Her disability symptoms display similarly to mine, so it was a very great opportunity to work together, and I ended up learning a bit about my technique from watching her climb. Once she was done for the day, I was able to get a few quick pitches in with my aid and a friend, and then head out to hang out with friends.

The next day was similar, with some time with the adaptive clinic. After the clinic, I headed off with a few friends to get some promotional shots for Trango, who very kindly gave me a pair of ice tools for the fest. We ended the day with the ice fest talent show, where I demonstrated my very unique talent of Reciting The Nicole Kidman AMC Pre-Movie Speech, with dialect. We then went out to the karaoke bar with some friends.

Since I was now in a diminished role for the intermediate adaptive clinic, I was able to join up with them the next day a bit later. The adaptive community is incredibly close knit, so it was mostly just hanging with friend, even for Santi, the head guide for the clinic. We had a great deal of fun climbing, and it was incredibly nice to get so much time with my friends. Because a storm was rolling in and we had to drive home that night, we left the clinic early, and started our drive back to Denver through a bit of a blizzard.

All in all, the festival was a great time. It was not the experience I had hoped for or planned, but I was able to make the best of a bad situation and still have a great weekend full of fun ice climbing and wonderful experiences with friends.





# BLK Out Festival

2023 festival is this November, and we are helping 75 participants to attend. Last year we helped 50 participants.

“The mission of the Blk Out Retreat + Boulderfest is to carefully curate and create a safe space for building community amongst Black climbers along with celebrating and uplifting the accomplishments of Black athletes, entrepreneurs and filmmakers.”



# BLK Out Festival

Tiffany Blount

From the time we arrived at the group campsite in Chattanooga, the magic of Blk Out Fest was tangible! Our crew immediately got to work scoping out the new camp site, decorating the bunkhouses, stuffing swag bags, and preparing for registration to open.

Registration felt like a family reunion. Even for first-timers, everyone was immediately enveloped in the love and community that only comes from identity-specific spaces like that at Blk Out Fest. As folks arrived, settled into their bunks, and got acquainted with others, some went off for a sunset hike, others did a cooking class, and many newer and gym climbers went to the "Bouldering 101" clinic. And once the sun set, the festival was in full swing! Spades! The Cupid Shuffle! Soul Food! We had it all that night and it was such a beautiful way to kick off the weekend. As the dancing died down and prepared for bed, for some, the night ended with fireside wellness chat because we nurture all parts of the soul.

Come Saturday morning, early risers warmed up with yoga, the less-early risers shuffled over to the incredible plant-based breakfast to get ready for the day ahead. Our incredible community partners at LookOut Mountain Conservancy (LMC) made the typically challenging process of finding the crag incredibly easy and seamless. To celebrate the first full day of the festival, we took a Blk Out Fest 2023 group picture— the smiles and cheering were heartwarming!

After a warm welcome from the LMC team and talking through the schedule, folks did what they came to do— climb at Old Wauhatchie! Blk Out Fest crashpads, afros, locs, and melanated peoples of all hues walked out into the crag— and what a beautiful sight it was! The morning was filled with cheering, spotting, and beta-sharing. Come the afternoon, instructors were welcomed to teach workshops and folks gathered to learn from them. With the first day of climbing coming to an end, we returned to the campground for a Sound Bath followed by an opportunity to support the entrepreneurs among us at the Blk Market Shop! As folks rested and recovered and cleaned up for dinner, we gathered again for a delicious plant-based meal and took in the wisdom during the panel discussion from the incredible athletes and influencers amongst us. The dinner ended with a crowd favorite: raffle prizes! Later, to wind down, the evening ended with another fireside chat and deep conversation.

We saved the best for last on Sunday. This day was dedicated to Mentorship and Conservation. The day started with breakfast back at LMC and breaking up into groups with LMC volunteers and youth from WeClimb, another community partner. Old Wauhatchie is maintained by the dedicated Lookout Mountain Conservancy team and volunteers. Though not originally intended as a bouldering hub, LMC's passion has transformed it into one and more! We built retaining walls, we cheered, and ate pizza. Young people who were initially rather apprehensive about the whole "bouldering

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Fest Crew



INSTAGRAM: BLKOUTFEST | WWW.BLKOUTFEST.COM

aned up for the Downclimb— our after party. In 72 hours, strangers became friends, friends became family, and we were one because what other colors would you use to celebrate Black Excellence loudly and proudly?!

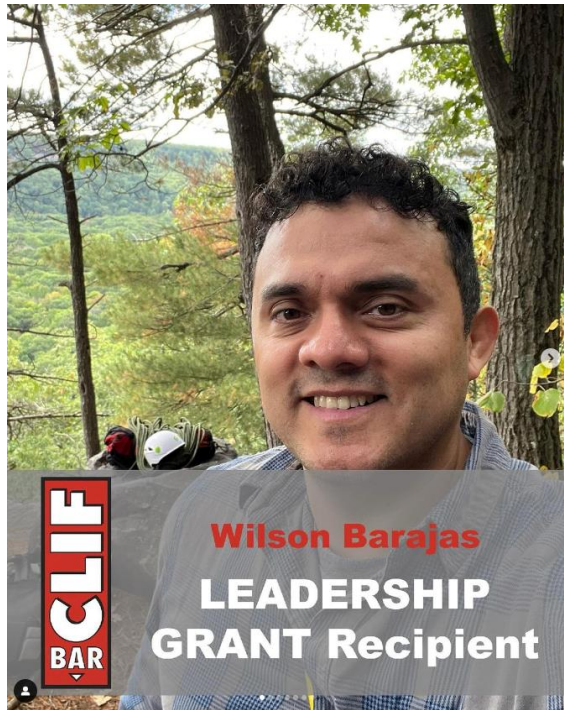
s time to say goodbye to more than 80 of our new friends... at least until next year. From the feedback collected, everyone close out the second festival, we frequently reflect on what we've learned as well as our mission.

ers and celebrates Black climbers and outdoor adventurers. Through our festival, we are committed to combating climate ating pathways to support athletes, entrepreneurs and creatives.

Black excellence for rock climbers and outdoor enthusiasts. And that's exactly what we did during the 2nd Annual Blk Out try to gather in Chattanooga, TN for climbing, fellowship, conversation, and community. This event would not be possible if or Change— and it's with gratitude for past support and optimism for the future. Now with three co-organizers, the Blk Out

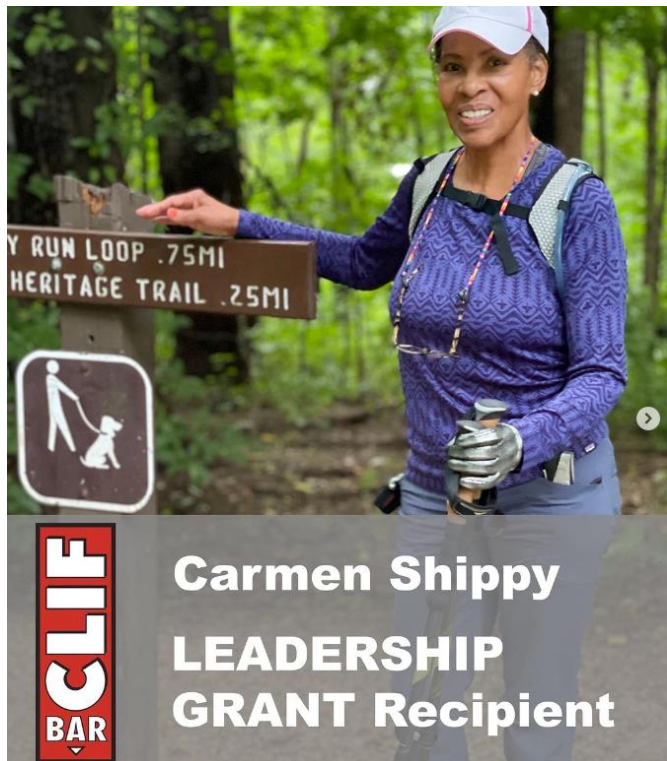






“Currently I work part time for an organization called After School Matters where I teach an “Intro to Rock Climbing Course”. The course is 10 weeks long with 9 weeks of bouldering and 1 week of rope climbing. The rock-climbing program is a collaboration between After School Matters and a non-profit organization called Chicago Climbs which seeks to make spaces more accessible for inner city youth.

I attended the three-day AMGA SPI course at Devils Lake hosted by the Devils Lake Climbing Guides. The course was amazing, everyone in the course was super motivated to learn, and collaborate with others, which truly made it an amazing experience. Four out of the six individuals who attended the course were from the BIPOC community. On day one we got a chance to practice our anchor building skills and overall technical skills. Day two involved top-site management where I got a lot of practice belaying from the top, lowering individuals, assisting climbers, and everything rappelling. Day three involved bottom site management, rescue skills, and everything working with clients. On the final day we got feedback from the instructor and things to work on moving forward. The instructor mentioned I am on my way to pass the AMGA SPI exam, but he would recommend taking time to practice and climb as much as possible over the next two -three months. After having completed the course, I feel that passing the AMGA SPI exam is within reach. I am motivated to finish the suggested number of trad climbing routes and take the exam within the next 4-6 months.”



“What this Wilderness First Responder course does is provide a safer outdoors community. Because as an outdoors enthusiast and having years assisting others in different activities this course will be another example for me to give back because of the Climbing for Change (C4C) grant. I am not trying to solve a problem, but to fill a gap by being a certified person to assist my group, others, and me while hiking, camping and/or backpacking in the wilderness.

The wilderness has become overwhelmed with people who lack the outdoors experience since the 2020 Coronavirus: especially day hikers and beginner backpackers...There are not enough certified WFR out on the trails that can extend assistance for minor injuries and assess someone to be rescued...With my WFR certification I am more of an asset to the wilderness community and outdoors groups who I organize, and it should make other individuals safer...Without the Climbing for Change’s grant, people like me probably would not be able to take the course. I would like to thank all the decision-makers and the organization as a hold for funding the course that I have currently completed.”

# CLIFF Leadership grants – USAC Routesetting



**JD** John Davis  
Re: C4C Trip Reports  
To: Diane Kay

Inbox -...gmail.com May 13, 2023 at 5:10 PM

**Siri Found a Contact**  
John Davis  
john.davis@momentumclimbing.com

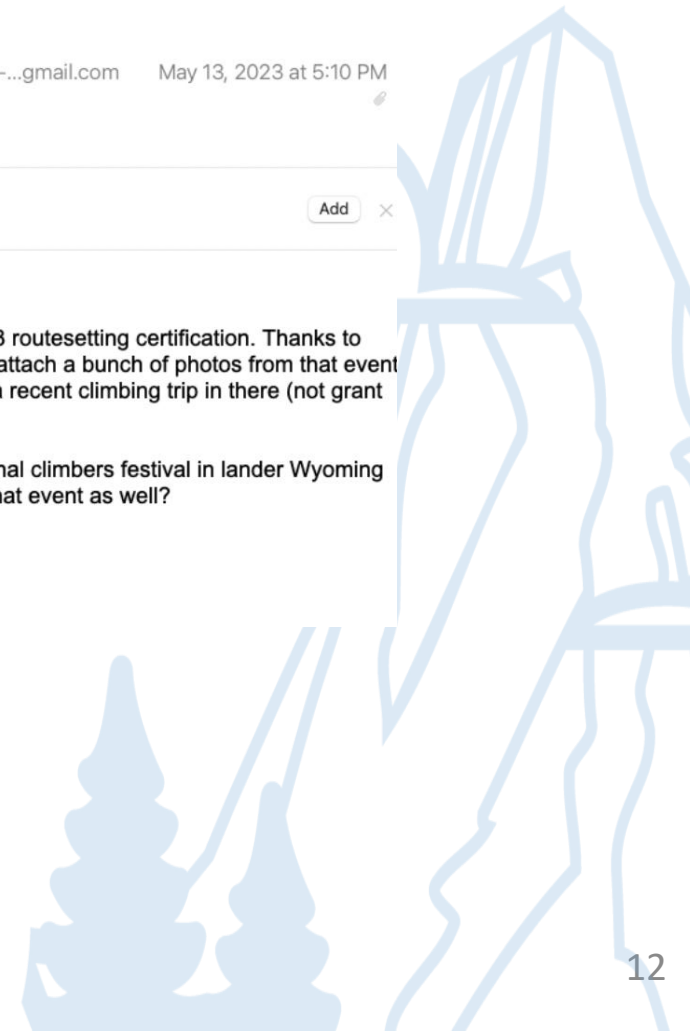
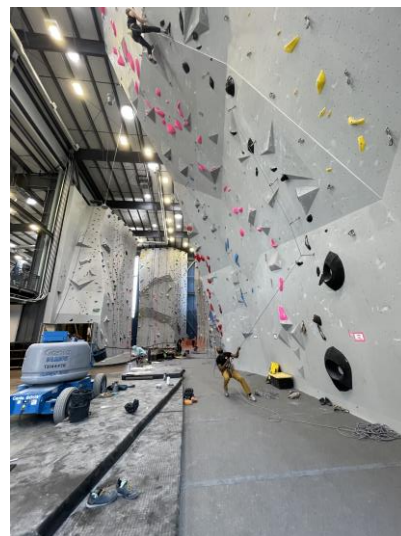
Add X

Hey Diane

I just got back from another setting trip where I received my level 3 routesetting certification. Thanks to you all this process has been fun, rewarding, and simplified. I will attach a bunch of photos from that event and let you all choose from. I also included a random photo from a recent climbing trip in there (not grant related).

I also wanted to let you know that I would also be at the international climbers festival in lander Wyoming where I saw Kai is going to be a keynote speaker. Will c4c be at that event as well?

Thanks





# CLIFF Leadership grants – AMGA course

Kayleah Pendleton

Instructor, Jim Taylor, demonstrate top-managed site and belayed rappel fundamentals at Red River Gorge,

Kentucky. The AMGA Rock Instructor Course enlightened me on how to be the best climbing professional as it

significantly improves the instructor's skill sets and integrates into the next level of training as an active rock climber.

This is definitely the class to take if you have a true desire to teach rock climbing to novices in a single pitch

setting. Learning at Muir Valley, a rock climbing area, was truly a safe space to review fundamental principles, apply

previously learned knowledge, receive feedback from instructor Jim and practice what we learn. Jim was very

patient, funny and knowledgeable. He made the SPI setting comfortable, and this will only enrich how I work within

my own community of women of all walks of life.



# CLIFF Leadership grants – AMGA course



**Shondeen Chavez**

**“The course gave me the confidence to continue my trad training at a proficient level and to take the SPI exam next spring. It would be a gross understatement to say that, none of this would be possible without Climbers for Change. The financial barrier of getting into trad climbing is substantial, I exhausted my personal funds, held fundraisers and collected donations just to get started. I made plans to train for and eventually take the SPI course much further down the line when I had the money, until I saw a post from an awesome organization... Climbers for Change! Their assistance blessed me with course costs, gas, gear and lodging to attend the course, all for which, I am eternally grateful.**

**Having dreams, goals and access to the outdoor industry is rarely easy for underprivileged and underrepresented communities, with financial and social barriers being the greatest challenges. Climbers for Change addresses both with the beautiful work they do, they created a organization that prioritized my tribal goals and distributed the funds I needed to help make the little slice of the world we have left a better place for my people.”**



# CLIFF Leadership grants – SPI course



Ivy Lueng

“The class was amazing! It was the best climbing class I've ever taken and it was such an amazing experience to be learning/climbing with others who are at the same level and with similar knowledge already. It was a great networking opportunity too. Jon Richards was an excellent instructor! I gained so much more confidence in my skills and knowledge after the course.

It is difficult to keep up with outdoor climbing skills living in the midwest through the winter unless you travel far, but I usually am not able to do that. So I will have to practice a lot when Spring comes.

Thank you again for this opportunity. And I cannot wait to be able to bring my program's teens to experience outdoor climbing!”



# CLIFF Leadership grants – AMGA/WFA course



Gerry Egbalic

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# CLIF Leadership- Personal education & Trips



## Andre Chiquito

"I just passed my SPI exam over the weekend on December 10th! The horrendous weather created challenging conditions for both the course and the exam, but that simply added to the experience by giving us real world obstacles to overcome.

While I've been an avid recreational climber for five years, I learned so many techniques and principles in the course that I never would have even known to look for otherwise!

The course and certification will be a huge help to help me hit the ground running when I start working as a guide at Seneca Rocks in March, 2024 to work towards my dream of being an adventure therapist.

Thank you so much Kai and C4C, I'm so excited to share the joy of climbing professionally!"

# C4C Gym to Crag Grants



# BLACK DIAMOND GYM TO CRAG GRANTS

Trip Reports included here	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	Award Value	Gear only	Leadership Courses	Event Coordinator	Participants	Good stories
X	Ashley	Chow	\$ 1,500		NOLS		1	All In Festival and Ouray
	David (Langstyn)	Lee		\$ 3,000		X	15	Managing clinic training for outdoors climbing
X	Liz	Carey		\$ 1,200			1	Transitioning from gym to Outside Trip/Clinic
X	Andrea Campos	Campos	\$ 3,250			X	20	Color The Wasatch event/Clinics - 20 people
	Rebecca	Perez	\$ 300				1	Transitioning from gym to Outside Trip/Clinic
	Jacar	Baldwin	\$ 1,330			X	8	Houston HBCU Club leader
X	Jeanelle	James	\$ 600				1	Attending United Event/Clinics in Yosemite
	Cindy	Su	\$ 1,000				1	Attending United Event/Clinics in Yosemite
	Marc-Anthony	Llosa	\$ 100				1	Attending United Event/Clinics in Yosemite
	Tayyaba	Tahir	\$ 400				1	Attending United Event/Clinics in Yosemite
? AGREEMENT	Cassandra	Ayoungman	\$ 500				1	Attending United Event/Clinics in Yosemite
X	Ishmail	Azimulla	\$ 400				1	Attending United Event/Clinics in Yosemite
	Giselle	Tungol	\$ 150				1	Attending United Event/Clinics in Yosemite
X	Tuere	Lawton	\$ 750				1	Attending United Event/Clinics in Yosemite
X	Erica	Rodriquez	\$ 100				1	Attending United Event/Clinics in Yosemite
	Alice	Pang	\$ 955		SAANO		1	5 Classes from SAANO to climb Mt Moran
	Tara	Montgomery	\$ 428				1	Ouray Ice Festival to bring diversity
			<b>\$ 11,763</b>	<b>\$ 4,200</b>			<b>56</b>	



# United in Yosemite

A collaborative project between Yosemite National Park, the American Alpine Club, Yosemite Conservancy, Queer Crush Climbing, Brown Girls Climb, and ParaCliffHangers

C4C gave out 11 grants for attendees.





# All In Festival

Langstyn Avery

C4C gave a grant to take 15 to the event.



# United in Yosemite Attendee



 **Ishmail Azimulla**  
**GYM TO CRAG**  
**GRANT Recipient**

“I had the pleasure of meeting incredible individuals, both climbers and fellow outdoor enthusiasts, who made the [@unitedinyosemite](#) festival an extraordinary adventure I will cherish forever.

Upon arriving at [@yosemitenps](#), I was immediately captivated by its awe-inspiring landscapes and towering granite cliffs. The festival atmosphere was electric, with climbers from all around the world converging upon this magnificent location. The air was filled with excitement, anticipation, and a shared love for the art of rock climbing.

Scaling Yosemite's iconic granite walls under the guidance of experienced climbers was an adrenaline-fueled adventure unlike any other. Every climb presented its own challenges, requiring strategic thinking, physical strength, and mental resilience. Conquering these obstacles alongside newfound friends created an unbreakable bond and an immense feeling of achievement.

Beyond the climbing, the festival offered various activities that fostered a strong camaraderie—from campfire gatherings to late-night conversations under the starry sky. These shared moments forged deep connections among the participants. We traded stories of triumphs and failures, laughed together, and inspired one another to embrace the sheer joy of the climbing lifestyle. The experiences and memories made during this rock climbing festival at Yosemite National Park are unique and irreplaceable.

Yosemite National Park was an extraordinary adventure that introduced me to remarkable people and left me with cherished memories. The combination of the park's natural wonders, the festival atmosphere, and the shared love for climbing made this experience truly one of a kind. I am grateful to have been a part of it. The impact will resonate with me for a lifetime.”



**Jeanelle James**  
Her grant was used to join the United Yosemite trip to learn trad climbing.

# United in Yosemite Attendee



 **Tuere Lawton**  
**GYM TO CRAG**  
**Black Diamond GRANT Recipient**

“I had the time of my life at the [@unitedinyosemite](#) summit—truly... Truth be told I was quite nervous for my Yosemite trip because I didn’t know what to expect. It was my first climbing trip ever and I was worried about a slew of things—not being prepared enough, not being experienced enough, not having the right gear 3000 miles from home, and not making friends. Even though I had a partner with me who was just as new to the experience as I was, it proved to be quite a hurdle leading up to actually getting on the plane and going. Much to my surprise, the second me and my friend turned that valley corner and saw the face of El Capitan, all of our shared worries melted away. After we checked in with the lovely volunteers and set up our tents we started to meet some of the people who would be joining us on our Yosemite experience, each person we met was just as warm as the last and any residual nerves we had were completely dissolved.

The next few days were a blur of sleeping in my (almost too cozy) sleeping bag, bug spray, chalk and laughs. I can’t describe fully how it felt to fall asleep every evening to the soft thunderous sounds of the waterfalls, overflowing this year because of snowpack. I had many moments where I was awestruck over my luck and how I was able to experience something like this. Now I can only hope that as many others as possible are able to experience similar things.

I had lots of firsts on this trip, first time on the west coast, first time seeing professional climbers do their thing, first time top roping outside (on a crack climb....it was a flash 😊) and my first climbing scholarship!

I will never forget the week I spent in Yosemite and I will forever be grateful for the help I had in getting me there! Words aren’t enough, but thank you.”



# United in Yosemite Attendee

Erica Rodriguez

I was fortunate enough to have gotten a space for the bouldering clinic on Saturday and the Big Wall clinic on Sunday. I'm really new to climbing and I have not had many opportunities to go climbing. On Saturday during the bouldering clinic that was taught by Nina Williams and Shondeen Stone Chavez, I spent the majority of the time trying to top out on a boulder. It seemed as though everyone around me was able to do it on the first or second try. I stayed at that boulder for hours trying over and over again and finally took a break after Nina came by to check on me. After the break I asked a volunteer at the event if I could take a pad over to the same slab to give it a few more tries. Keith the volunteer went with me and stayed with me while I attempted to top the boulder. I was distracted by keeping up a conversation and also trying to boulder at the same time that after the about the fourth try, I finally topped the boulder. I didn't anticipate what happened next but I started to cry. I was overwhelmed with emotions that I could not hold back the sobs. I had to take some time after climbing down to gain my composure. I never thought I would have had that sort of emotional awakening and experience. I still can't explain it myself. It was a very special moment that will stay with me forever. I still can't explain the magical experience of bouldering outside in Yosemite. Yosemite is magical and so healing in so many ways. I am grateful the opportunity.





# HBCU Outdoor Club Houston

## Gym to Crag Training

C4C has partnered with the Leader of the HBCU Outdoor campas group in Houston to facilitate and fund a group **“Intro to Rock Climbing Course”** in Austin Texas! To be held at Reimers Ranch a welcoming rope and bouldering area. Grant will be used for BD equipment for the club.

**C4C gave out grants for 8 attendees.**

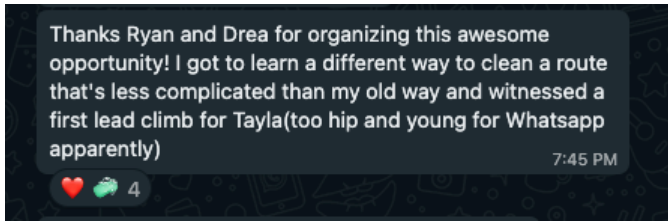
ASKED FOR PHOTOS AND QUOTES 2/7/24



# Color the Wasatch- Gym to Crag Training

C4C has partnered with Color the Wasatch to facilitate and fund a group “Intro to Rock Climbing Course” this Fall! The event will be guided by Sawtooth Guides in the City of Rocks and will be the launch of a new grant/partnership approach for us

C4C gave out 20 grants for attendees.



Hi Kai!

Wow, still reeling from a beautiful weekend. In awe of what an amazing time & crew we had. Many people learned new climbing techniques and got to climb some of the most epic rock I've seen. Everyone had only positive things to say about Sawtooth mountain guides and their professionalism, friendliness, patience and knowledge. It was so lovely to see that the guides saw what we see in our community, calling it "the most supportive group they've had."

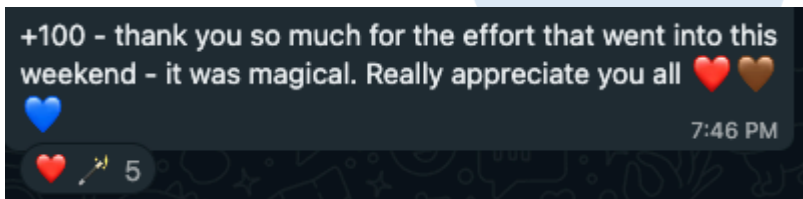
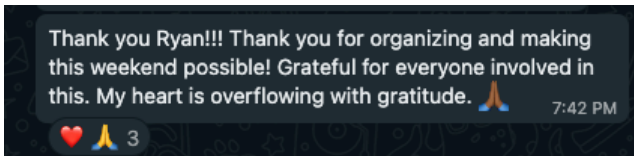
I had guides Erik and Kam. They were very patient with our group that had a little bit of all levels (the "in-betweeners") and was able to teach a little something to all of us. It was super special hearing from Kam at the end how impactful it had been to be with our group which is something he hadn't had a chance of doing in his 25+ years of climbing. What an honor knowing how mutually impactful both teams were to one another, guides to participants alike.

The participants shared so many words of gratitude. Let us know how they made new friends, reconnected with old. We made and shared food with one another, music, conversations, games, dancing, lots of joy and smiles.

Feeling and sending so, so much gratitude to the team at Climbing 4 Change, Sawtooth Mountain Guides and Black Diamond Equipment from myself and the team at Color the Wasatch.

PS.

Here are some of the sweet messages we received & a picture of our group doing the cute LNT symbols Kam showed us!



# Color the Wasatch Attendee



“Wow, still reeling from a beautiful weekend. In awe of what an amazing time & crew we had.

Many people learned new climbing techniques and got to climb some of the most epic rock I've seen.

Everyone had only positive things to say about [@sawtoothguides](https://www.instagram.com/sawtoothguides) and their professionalism, friendliness, patience and knowledge. It was so lovely to see that the guides saw what we see in our community, calling it "the most supportive group they've had."

I had guides Erik and Kam. They were very patient with our group that had a little bit of all levels (the "in-betweeners") and was able to teach a little something to all of us.

It was super special hearing from Kam at the end how impactful it had been to be with our group which is something he hadn't had a chance of doing in his 25+ years of climbing.

What an honor knowing how mutually impactful both teams were to one another, guides to participants alike.

The participants shared so many words of gratitude. Let us know how they made new friends, reconnected with old.

We made and shared food with one another, music, conversations, games, dancing, lots of joy and smiles.



# BD Gym to Crag - Personal education & Trips

Liz Carey



I packed my bags with some shiny new gear and headed out to follow two trad baddies up the classic multi-pitch route, Corrugation Corner, at Lovers Leap. Thank you to @Ev\_tram & @Melizhaira for being most patient, passionate, and kind friends who took time to show me the ropes.

During the approach, I scoped out our climb on the towering Main Wall and pondered if these grand routes would still feel as rewarding in the safety of a gym, over a nicely padded floor. The heightened risk of learning at a crag teaches you to respect mountains and constantly assess the complexity of ever changing outdoors conditions, in a way that gyms simply cannot.

At first glance, climbers seem to be motivated by an endless desire to travel higher and challenge gravity. But as we started climbing with some funky movements up a dihedral, I realized that climbing meant so much more. I was not rushing or jumping into the unfamiliarity of climbing outdoors, trad, or multi-pitch. Rather, I found grounding in each breath, and every step up was slow and methodical. My movements were intentional and cautious in this new space. As I climbed I constantly re-centered my focus, my self-talk, and reaffirmed confidence in myself. At Lover's Leap, I discovered this grounding practice to be just as important as learning new technical skills; and felt deeply how empowering it can be to do it in a group with two strong POC women.

The @climbing4change Gym to Crag grant was transformative in my personal climbing journey, and gave me access to explore nature with my community in wild ways..

# BD Gym to Crag - Personal education & Trips



## Ashley Chow

With my grant money, I was able to travel to Ouray, Colorado for All In Ice Festival. Where they elevate and highlight historically marginalized folks- including BIPOC, LGBTQIA2S+, and Adaptive climbers. I was able to attend an ice climbing essentials clinic and learn about mountaineering skills in alpine conditions . We learned about making anchors in the ice and how just how much gear ice climbing really needs. All taught by folks that looked like me; with a safe container I was able to really push myself in an environment outside my comfort zone.



The All In Ice Fest seeks to elevate and highlight marginalized communities including black, indigenous, and people of color ([#BIPOC](#)), [#LGBTQIA2S+](#) communities, and [#adaptive](#) climbers.

# C4C Adventure Outdoor Grants





# C4C ADVENTURE OUTSIDE GRANTS

Trip report included here	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	Award Value	Gear Only	Leadership Courses	Event Coordinator	Participants	Good Stories
	Delvon	Hogg	\$945		REI/AMGA		1	REI WFA and SPI course
X	Matthew Carrillo	Vincent	\$1,200		REI	X	10	10 Girls REI outdoors to Stoney Point
X	Nyree	Noel	\$600		REI WFA		1	Destination Hike Utah
X	Natasha	Bryan			REI WFA		1	Dest Hike trip
X	Carmen	Shippy	\$600		REI WFA		1	Destination Hike Utah-71 yr old woman leader
X	Camille	Fiducia	\$2,000				16	Embark outdoors - Utah team trip
	Mylea-Jessica	Britton	\$900			X	15	BIPOC Humble Hikes Club trip to Utah
	Sage	Alford	\$550				1	Grit Festival - Rachel Olzer Leader
	Atieno	Ouma	\$450				1	Grit Festival - Rachel Olzer Leader
X	Brianna	Hurt	\$450				1	Grit Festival - Rachel Olzer Leader
	<b>Itayetzi</b>	Gomez	\$550				1	Grit Festival - Rachel Olzer Leader
	Vanessa	Bowen	\$350				1	Grit Festival - Rachel Olzer Leader
	Sheila	Mahadevan	\$350				1	Grit Festival - Rachel Olzer Leader
	Angelica	Rubio	\$350				1	Grit Festival - Rachel Olzer Leader
	Tia	Moore	\$550				1	Grit Festival - Rachel Olzer Leader
	Lenora	Caldera	\$1,690			X	10	GS Leader - 10 girls to REI Climb course
X	Kory	Lamberts	\$1,000			X	3	To take 2-3 people to All In Festival
	Langston	Avery	\$2,200			X	10	Team to Ouray and workshops-Estimated 10
	Ikeena	Ikeotuonye	\$600				1	Workshop at Ouray-part of Negus in Nature
	Liz	Carey		\$500			1	\$500 is BD gear - Ice Climb Gear only
	Jon	Hawk	\$2,000			X	4	4 to Michigan Ice Fest
			<b>\$ 18,560</b>	<b>\$ 500</b>			<b>82</b>	

# GRIT Festival C4C Adventure Outdoor Grant

C4C has partnered with the coordinator of this who aims to provide low cost programming to deconstruct the exclusionary cycling culture by building a support learning environment for diverse women.

**C4C gave out 8 grants for attendees.**





# GRIT Festival C4C Attendee



## Brianna Hurt

Grit Fest was my first mountain bike event and my second time ever on a mountain bike. Overall the camp was amazing!! They created a safe space for all levels of riders and for trans men and women, cis women, and non-binary riders and BIPOC individuals and I absolutely plan on going back. I was able to meet a lot of like minded individuals and my confidence grew on the bike in a short amount of time. The beginner instructors did a great job of making sure everyone felt comfortable on the bike and were very supportive. I am so thankful to be provided this grant because getting to event like these can be pricey. There needs to be more programs like Grit Fest and C4Cto improve access to outdoor activities. I will never forget this weekend.



# BIPOC Girls school - day outside C4C Adventure Outdoor Grant

C4C has partnered with the this teacher, who is at an all girls school. He took 10 girls along with REI guides to a local climbing area in Los Angeles Stoney Point to teach them the basics to climb outdoors.

**C4C gave out a grant for 14 attendees.**



Per Matthew Vincent:

“The girls headed out to Stoney Point Park in Chatsworth for a half-day adventure of roped climbing on the crag! All but two had never climbed before at all, but with the support of the group, all experienced some great successes. With expert instruction from a team at REI, we learned the basics of tying in, climbing, and belaying. And the instructors didn’t go easy – we had a range of climbs with varying levels of difficulty, everyone belayed for each other, and all were challenged to push themselves just out of the comfort zone. ”

# BIPOC Girls school day Attendee



Matthew Carrillo-Vincent

“On June 2nd, 14 young women of color from around Los Angeles County (and who just graduated from Ramona Convent Secondary School!) headed out to the birthplace of American outdoor climbing with the help of a [@climbing4change](#) Adventure Outside Grant.

The girls headed out to Stoney Point Park in Chatsworth for a half-day adventure of roped climbing on the crag! All but two had never climbed before at all, but with the support of the group, all experienced some great successes. With expert instruction from a team at [@REI](#), we learned the basics of tying in, climbing, and belaying. And the instructors didn’t go easy – we had a range of climbs with varying levels of difficulty, everyone belayed for each other, and all were challenged to push themselves just out of the comfort zone.

In the end, it was a truly joyful day – and it was honestly hard to leave at the end! We are so deeply grateful for C4C for this opportunity, and we can’t wait to get back on the wall.”

Thanks to [@ramonaconvent](#) English teacher and climber Dr. Matthew Carrillo-Vincent for applying on behalf of these young women and for encouraging them to climb outdoors.

# Destination Hike C4C Adventure Outdoor Grant

C4C has partnered with the coordinator of this event Destination Hike, LLC is a community of BIPOC hikers that meet up monthly to hike in various places across the country.

We have also given grants to their leaders for WFA courses.

## C4C gave out 4 grants for attendees.



Natasha Bryan

"I first want to say thank you to climbing for change for your assistance. Due to the grant I received I was able to have an experience I can only try to put into words. I hiked the narrow at Zion national park were I an an amazing spiritual experience. When I thought it couldn't get any better than that the next day we hiked Bryce Canyon national park that place is none other on earth I feel like everyone should have the opportunity to visit there, it's breathtaking so beautiful and peaceful. I'm grateful for the opportunity and experience I had."

Nyree Noel

"Destination Hike to Southern Utah. where I visited Zion and Bryce Canyon National Park. Hiked "The Narrows" trail at Zion National Park and Queens garden/Navajo loop at Bryce Canyon National Park."



Carmen Shippy

September 20th our day on the Narrows was an incredible experience: The day that we hiked the Narrows at the start the weather was in the high 70's and a clear sky, and the park has a required shuttle to take you to each stop in the park. The last stop number 9 the Temple of Sinawava we departed, then hiked a one-mile concert walkway before we saw the entry into the water. The water current was flowing at a 62.5 CFS and it was very cold. My experience walking with the recommended stick on slippery various size rocks was very difficult. Some of the river was deeper and had a undertow that caused zigzagging from one side to the other in whitewater was exciting and a bit unnerving. I believe it was an excellent experience. I



# All-In Ice Festival

We funded 10 members of Negus in Nature attend the All-in Ice Festival this January, an event celebrating the history and culture of ice climbing.



C4C gave out a total of 15 grants for attendees.  
Granted in 2022 for festival in 2023

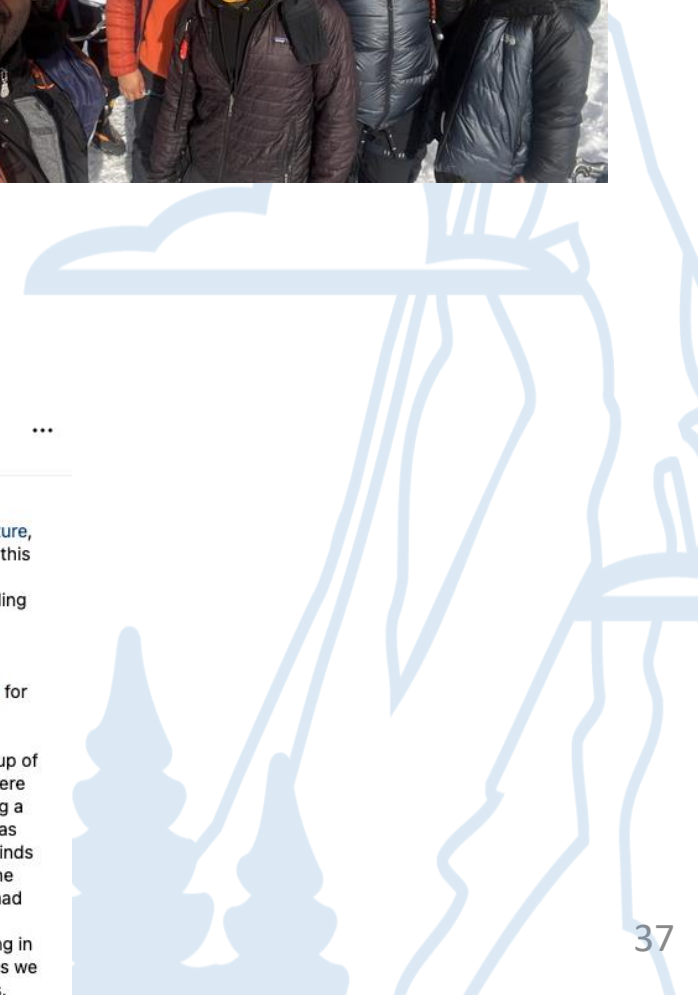


**climbing4change** Ouray Ice Park

**climbing4change** One of our recent C4C Adventure Outside awardees, @negusinnature, got to check out the first All-In Ice Festival this past January, an event that elevates and highlights marginalized communities including #BIPOC, #LGBTQIA2S+, and #adaptive #climbers.

"Thank you so much to @climbing4change for allowing us to attend the All In Ice Festival (@allinicefest). With the help of @blackdiamond, we were able to get a group of 10 explorers out to the ice, a lot of which were first-timers. This was not an easy lift getting a national group together like such. As soon as we arrived, we were greeted by the brisk winds of the night. We spent the day to explore the town before the festival started. Day 1 we had the privilege of collaborating with @browngirlsclimb for an intro to ice climbing in clinic. This was very helpful for our group as we learn new techniques and new life skill sets. Day 2 we had the confidence to climb the kitty

Liked by ko.henry and 134 others  
FEBRUARY 16



# All In Festival C4C Attendee



## Kory Lamberts

The excitement of trying new challenges and gear sometimes overshadows the true essence of these activities. The realization that spending time with community and family is what makes these trips memorable. Working with Negus Nature and Climbing for Change, not only helps introduce the community to new experiences but truly contributes to the decolonization process, bringing peace and allowing our souls to climb free in the outdoors. We had the honor of attending a clinic with Phil Henderson, he added a layer of skill development, focusing on lead climbing, setting anchors, and ensuring safety on the wall. Watching some of the group members attempt the wall for the first time brought back memories of my initial ice climbing experience. Despite the fear and excitement, this time, the familiarity and comfort on the wall were evident, signifying personal growth and a deeper connection with the challenge.



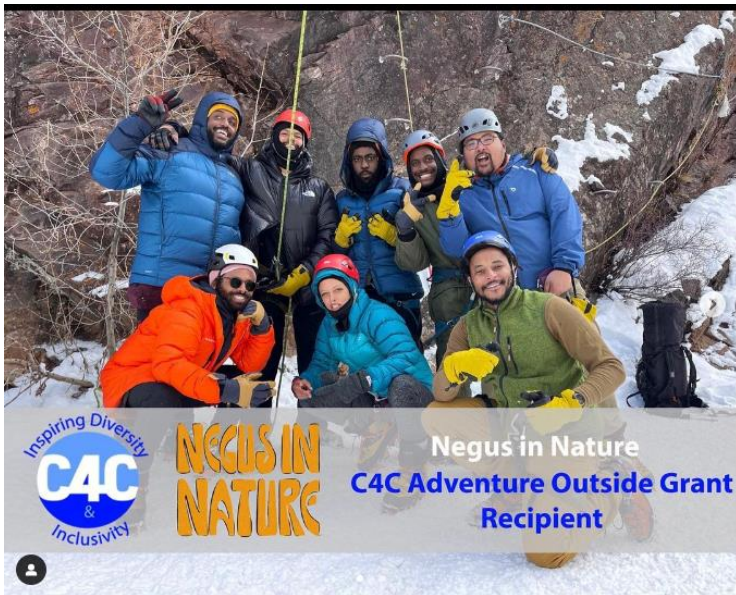
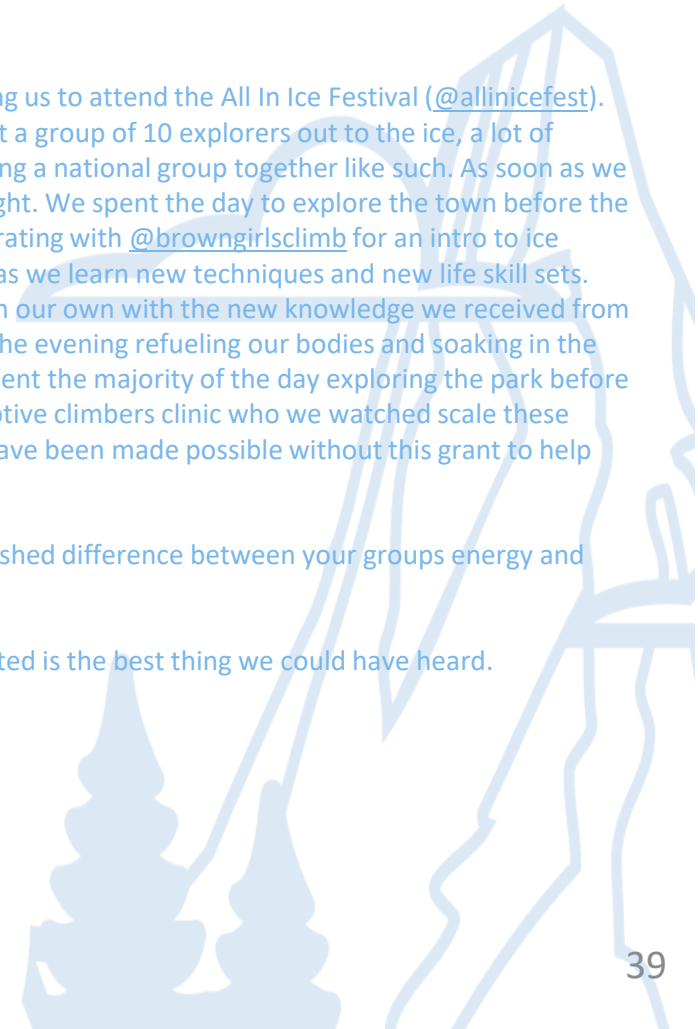
# All In Festival C4C Attendee

“Thank you so much to [@climbing4change](#) for allowing us to attend the All In Ice Festival ([@allinicefest](#)). With the help of [@blackdiamond](#), we were able to get a group of 10 explorers out to the ice, a lot of which were first-timers. This was not an easy lift getting a national group together like such. As soon as we arrived, we were greeted by the brisk winds of the night. We spent the day to explore the town before the festival started. Day 1 we had the privilege of collaborating with [@browngirlsclimb](#) for an intro to ice climbing in clinic. This was very helpful for our group as we learn new techniques and new life skill sets. Day 2 we had the confidence to climb the kitty wall on our own with the new knowledge we received from the clinic. After we got back to our lodging we spent the evening refueling our bodies and soaking in the hot tubs. Day 3 was our last day of adventures. We spent the majority of the day exploring the park before we ended up in the ice crag accompanied by the adaptive climbers clinic who we watched scale these massive routes. The day was inspiring and wouldn't have been made possible without this grant to help get us there.

My favorite quote of the trip was “There is a distinguished difference between your groups energy and others in this park.”

I believe getting a compliment on the energy we created is the best thing we could have heard.

We thank you all for helping make this possible.”





# Trauma Victims C4C Adventure Outdoor Grant

C4C has partnered with a licensed psychotherapist who specializes in working with women of color who experienced violence and trauma.

**C4C gave out grants for 6 attendees.**



“Building trust was essential. Participants talked about being consistently underestimated and having ingrained beliefs of ‘weakness’ due to body size, whether that be smaller or larger than the average. Participants referenced having been dismissed as women of color and then internalizing that. The session affirmed their abilities and helped build body confidence.

‘Now I am more able to be in my body, it feels good about how I am responding to this challenge. I am not weak, I am strong.’

‘I didn’t know I could even do it or get on the wall, and now we are showing ourselves that we are capable of doing something we didn’t think we could.’

‘It took a lot for me to even get here in this gym. This is all new for me.’”

# Embark Outdoors C4C Adventure Outdoor Grant

C4C has partnered with the coordinator of this trip to Zion October 2023. Utah is home to of 60,000 refugees from all over the world. Embark is an outdoors education based program serving young women who have started a new life in Utah.

**C4C gave out 16 grants for attendees.**





# Embark Outdoors Attendees

My name is Khadija Abdinasir, I am  
Program Embark. I join this year  
the Embark.

It's been lovely doing something that  
I love with girls from different countries.  
The fun things is that we all went  
to the same school and this with  
them is an amazing journey that  
Self growth with girls that make me  
happy.

↓

Having problems at home, when I am  
around them I feel peace and at home  
again being with them is my happy  
place.

The peace that I feel when I am  
with them makes remember that  
help me grow stronger self love.  
and self love is what something  
that put in my family. Being here  
my self love is again Alhamdulillah.

In 2019, I made the decision to try new activities.  
I started searching and asking around about a program that was  
until I got to know the Embark nonprofit organization, and met with  
Camille. As we talked about the program I told her that I don't know the  
basics of climbing, but she made me feel comfortable and relieved.  
Camille told me more about the Embark and that all the members of  
the program are beginners just like me, since then I started climbing,  
the idea of climbing was crazy to me at first, I decided I'm going  
to do it anyway. Now climbing became one of my best activities.  
I enjoy climbing. I always have fun when I met with Embark  
members. Embark members made me feel like I have strong community  
that always by my side. I'm definitely feel climbing has made  
me feel more confident in myself. I'm grateful for my climbing  
experience and the great community he created.

This is Manjika. One of the students of the Embark Outdoor group. I joined this group during the summer of 2021. My time with embark was the most incredible experience of my life because they taught me how to be physically and mentally strong. Every time we do outdoor activities with embark, I feel welcomed. It's a place where I can freely express my views and feelings to the group without fear of being judged. Embark is significant to me since it taught me not only about wilderness and outdoor activities, but also about myself. I also learnt about people's diverse cultural, linguistic, and religious experiences, as well as the challenges they face. I've learnt to appreciate people's thoughts and viewpoints as a result of their experiences, and to love everyone. I am grateful to everyone that is a part of this program, and I can truly call it my second home.



# Humble Hike Club

## C4C Adventure Outdoor Grant

C4C has partnered with the coordinator of Humble Hustle Company's (THHC) program, aimed at exposing, educating, and empowering inner-city black youth by creating innovative and inclusive spaces that inspire hope and promote giving. Humble Hikes aims to address the lack of representation and access to outdoor recreation for this underrepresented group.

**C4C gave out 15 grants for attendees.**



# Outdoorsy Black Women C4C Adventure Outdoor Grant

C4C has partnered with the coordinator of this very diverse mountain biking event.

C4C gave out 2 grants for attendees. Granted in 2022 for May 2023 event

NEED RECAP FROM VALESE OR DESTINY COLEMAN OR JYSTYN FITZGERALD



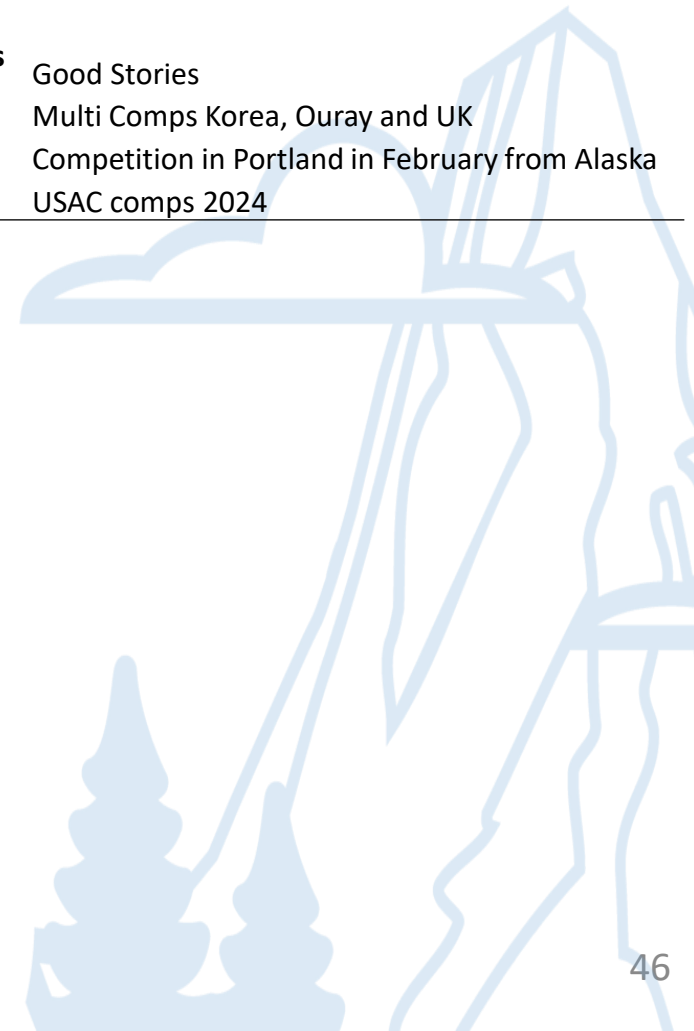
# C4C Competition Grants





## C4C COMPETITION GRANTS

Trip report included here	FIRST NAME	LAST NAME	Award Value	Participants	Good Stories
	Jessica	Perez	\$1,200	1	Multi Comps Korea, Ouray and UK
X	Janeen (Brendan)	Wilkins	\$1,200	1	Competition in Portland in February from Alaska
	Michael	William Dansie	\$500	1	USAC comps 2024
			<b>\$ 2,900</b>	<b>3</b>	



# C4C Competition Grants

Brendan Wilkins  
February 17, 2024

## Bouldering Divisionals

Bouldering Divisionals was a great learning experience for Brendan. As mentioned in our application, Brendan must travel for all his events. Things happen in life and this competition was full of surprises. Due to a large storm that hit the West Coast in January, his Regionals event was canceled. All athletes were given a bye to divisionals. Brendan has been competing for a long time, but there were several variables that he had to navigate on his own that he learned a lot from.

The competition was held in the Flash format on the qualifying day, Saturday. This was the first event that Brendan participated in as a solo competitor not part of a team. The event was huge and presented some complex variables to navigate. There were two sessions, each with two waves of climbers. Brendan learned that he must organize his entire day backward from his climbing time and monitor his schedule carefully on game day. He also learned that with so many people using the same routes, going in the afternoon presented unique challenges on the problems.

The positives of the trip were that there were no weather-related problems and the hotel worked out great (which is not always the case.) Brendan got to visit other gyms in the area for more exposure as well. Although Brendan did not make it to Nationals, he is still back at it in the gym preparing for Rope season. We thank the Climbing for Change Foundation for its support of Brendan's climbing and we continue to be a big fan of Kai's work. Thank you!



Going  
for it at  
Divisionals!

## Jake Sanchez



“I started climbing a year after I lost my leg. It was the only sport that I could do that didn’t hurt my residual limb. Like most who climb I became obsessed. Once I was introduced to competitive climbing, I knew I had found my passion.

As a climber advocate, I was invited by [@accessfund](#) and [@americanalpine](#) to participate in Climb The Hill, lobbying for various causes. I have been part of climbing tribal forums where the climbing community and tribal community of Joshua Tree discuss different issues and try to bridge their interest. Most recently, as a member of [@socalclimberscoalition](#), I helped organize a crag clean up at our local climbing crags. My goal is not just to become number one in my category but to introduce climbing to as many adaptive people as I can so they can also feel as empowered as I do when I climb.

[In 2021] I had the opportunity to compete in the [@usaclimbing](#) Para National Championships. I placed 2nd in my climbing category and was invited to compete in Moscow, Russia at the [@ifsclimbing](#) Para Championships. I did not do as well as I would have liked in that competition, but I learned a lot and was grateful for the experience. In the last [@ifsclimbing](#) cup of the season, which took place in Los Angeles, I brought my A game and won silver.

I have had an amazing year and have gotten closer to my competitive climbing goals. This was possible because of the grant I received from [@climbing4change](#). Because of the grant, I was able focus on my training and less on the expenses that come with competitions. Expenses that I typically can’t afford.”

Granted in 2022



# C4C Grantee social media posts

2/13 to do one

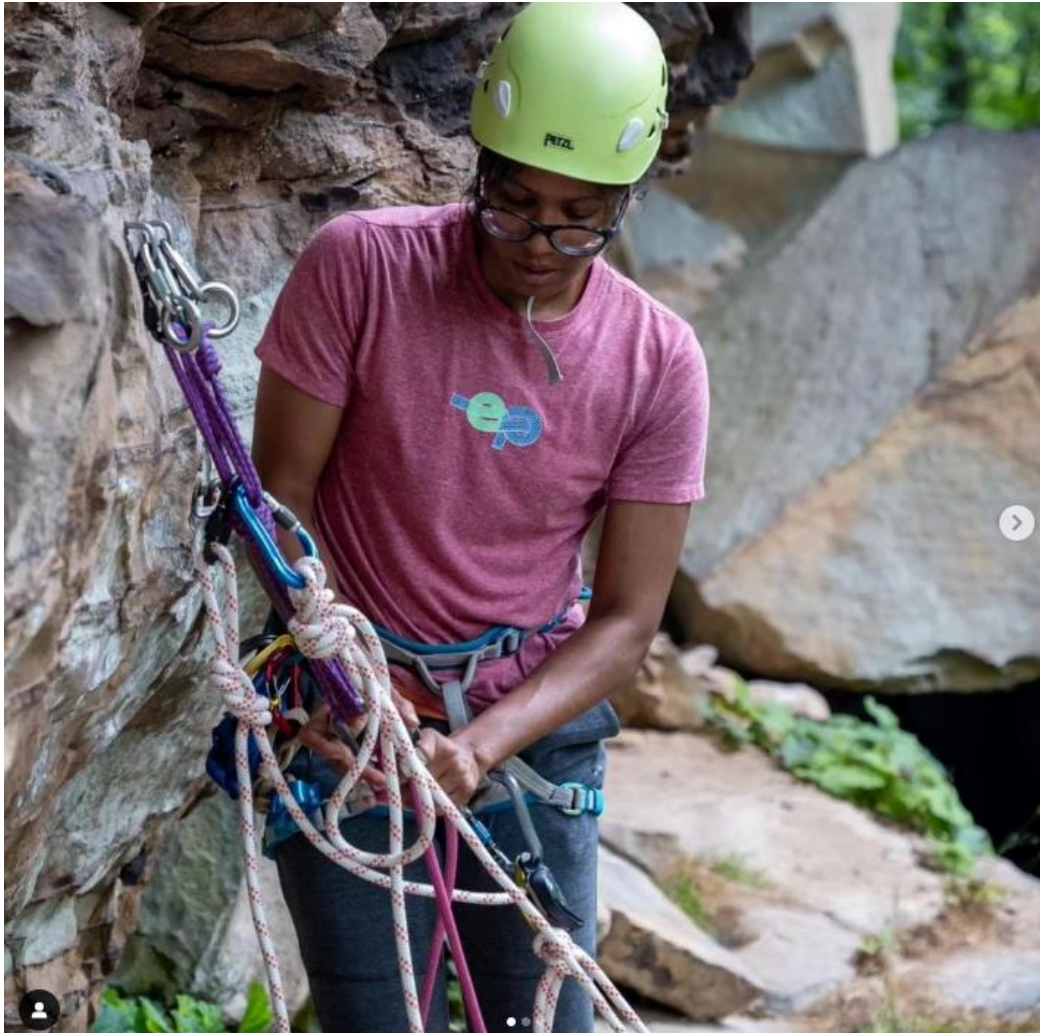
Esteban Usuga

2/12/24 Adeline Wright

Jay Louie



# C4C Grantee social media posts



**kahleapendleton**  
and  
**climbing4change**  
Red River Gorge, KY

**kahleapendleton** Throwback to an unforgettable adventure last July with Appalachian Mountain Guides in the breathtaking landscapes of Muir Valley, Red River Gorge, Kentucky. Thanks to the generosity of @blackdiamond, @clifbar, and @climbing4change, I had the opportunity to dive deep into the world of climbing through a transformative Single Pitch Instructor course. 🧗❤️

Under the guidance of instructor Jimmy, we covered everything from the art of knot tying to rope management, mastering rappelling techniques, anchoring, and crucial rescue operations. The course was a blend of challenge and discovery, pushing boundaries while fostering a profound connection with nature and the vibrant climbing community.

The support from two Brown Girls Climb grants and The CLIF Bar Leadership Grant not only made this journey possible but also highlighted the importance of making the outdoors



Liked by **climbing4change** and 35 others  
11 hours ago

Add a comment...

Post





# C4C Grantee social media posts



**aroseontherock** Edited · 4h  
@climbing4change is the main reason I was able to attend an AMGA Multi Pitch Instructor course in 2023.

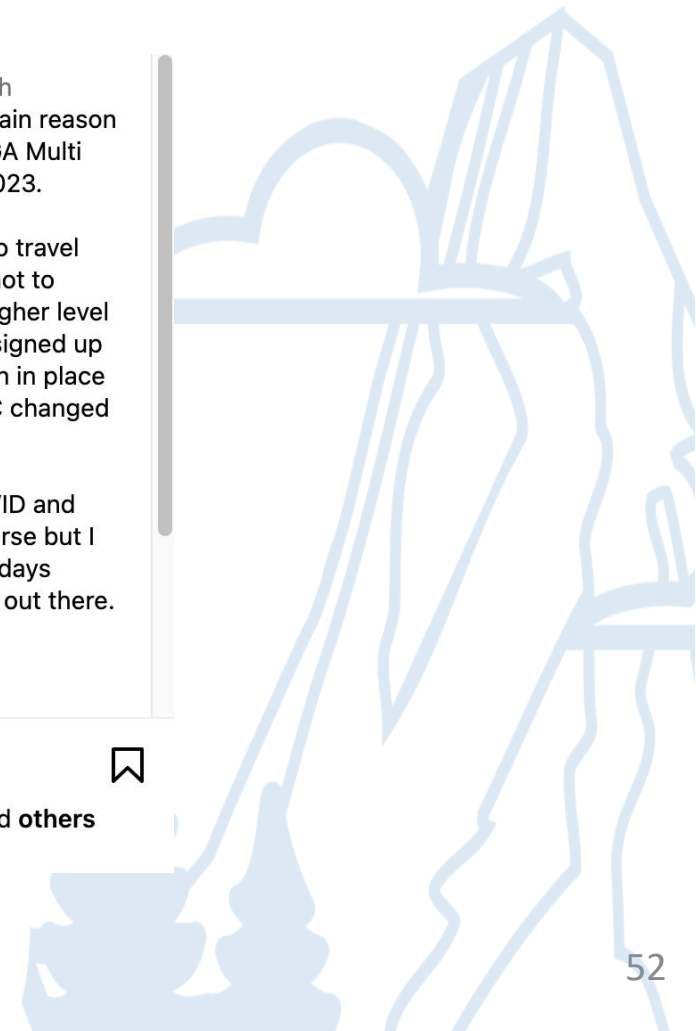
It's helf on the easy coast so travel alone was an undertaking, not to mention tuition and gear. Higher level certifications are spendy. I signed up for the course without a plan in place of how to pay for it and C4C changed that for me.

Unfortunately, I caught COVID and was unable to finish the course but I will be doing a few makeup days locally. I'm glad I put myself out there. Thanks @climbing4change

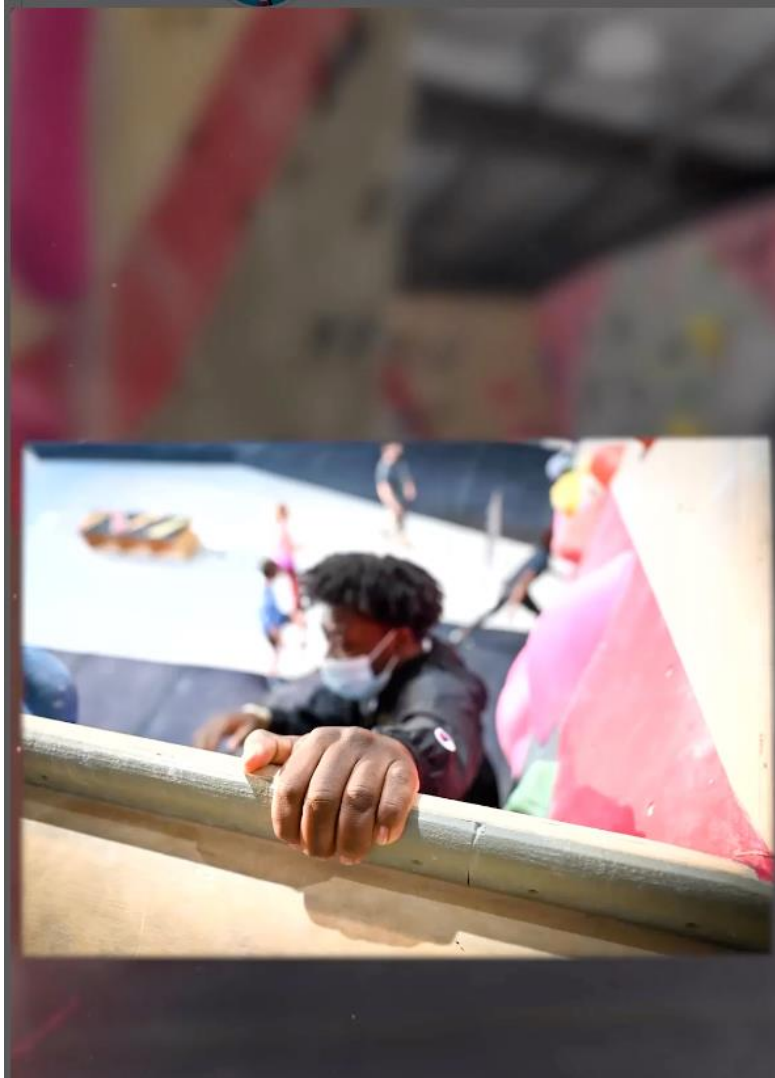
#Climbing4Change



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4 hours ago



# C4C Grantee social media posts



**blackdiamond and climbing4change**  
Original audio

**blackdiamond** Miguel Brown helped found @clevelandclimbersoutreach in Shaker Heights in 2021 with the intention of diversifying the climbing scene—starting right in their very own gym.

"Climbing has allowed me the freedom that I hadn't had in the past. The freedom to explore my fears, to conquer my fears, giving me the opportunity to, y'know, open up my mind to other people. And I found my place in the climbing community."

For the last three years, we've been working with @climbing4change to offer the Gym to Crag Grant. Through this grant, we offer financial and product support to help cover program fees, product costs, and travel related expenses for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color transitioning their indoor climbing skills to the outdoors.

Last year, our friends at @clevelandclimbersoutreach were able to utilize the BD x C4C Gym to Crag Grant to provide programming and purchase gear they need.

"[This] grant has provided us with equipment, and that equipment has allowed us to share it with our participants in our program, and with that the whole community has embraced us."

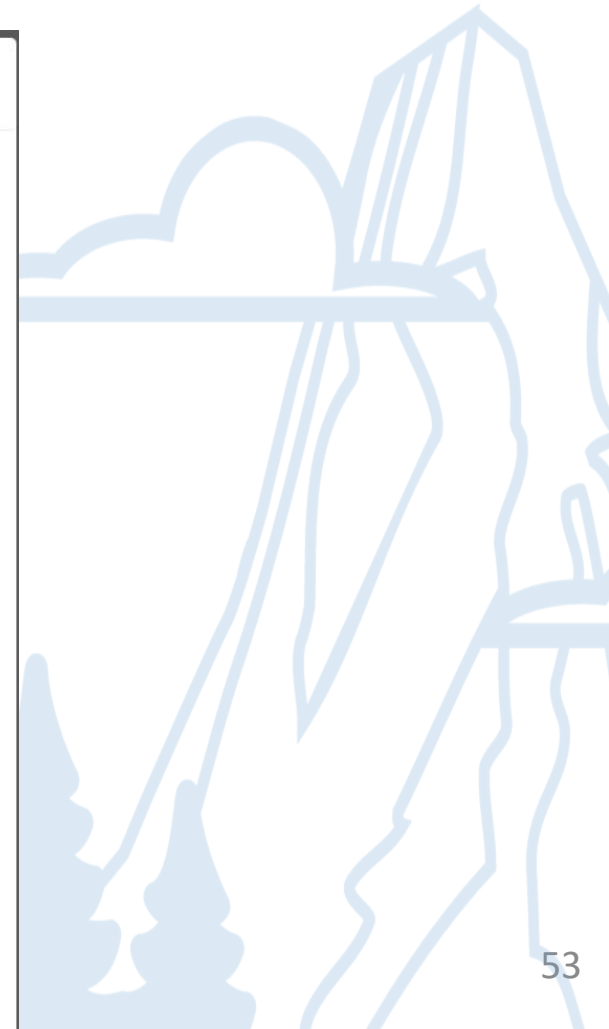
Learn more about Cleveland Climbers Outreach and how you can support by visiting their page.

These grants are awarded quarterly! Apply today using the link in our bio.

1w

**certifiedroofingcle** That's awesome  
4d Reply

**memethegoddess** 🔥🔥🔥  
4d Reply



# C4C Grantee social media posts



**captain\_choss** Another divisionals in the books! What a fun week and amazing crew to have worked with. The laughs and goofiness filled the gym which always helps for a blast during comp weeks. Can't wait for the next time our paths cross for work or fun! I'd also like to give a huge shoutout to @climbing4change @clifbar and @blackdiamond for their continuous support though my routesetting journey. Without them a lot of things that have transpired in my life the last few years would not have been possible. Whether it be financial support from grants, references or just products, it has been an amazing journey! I seriously can't thank yall enough and can't wait for what's to come!!

#routesetting #routesettersofinstagram  
#region51 #region52 #usacimbing #dafs  
#climbsoill #divisionals

38m





# Granted in 2022 posted 2023



# Adventure Outside - Personal education & Trips



Emelyn Chiang

"I started climbing in college where there was a rock wall students could use for free, and was hooked to the sport! I started going nearly every day, took two climbing courses at my school, got a membership to [@centralrockgym](#) that summer. I have been an avid climber ever since...[With the C4C Adventure Outside Grant], I participated in a 2-day guided multi-pitch climbing tour with Red Rock Climbing Guides ([@redrockclimbingguides](#)), and got to explore and climb in Red Rock Canyon! I also got to try and learn about multipitch climbing fo

Granted in 2022



**Matthew Clermont**  
**LEADERSHIP**  
**GRANT Recipient**

“On April 2nd, 2023, a group of 11 students and 3 adults embarked on a trip from Innovation High School to Estes Park, Colorado. Only 2 members of the group had prior experience with mountains. The journey was filled with excitement, as cheers erupted when we crossed the Kansas-Colorado border and caught our first glimpse of the mountains. Upon reaching Estes Park, the students enthusiastically captured photos of elk in a local park. After settling into the YMCA of the Rockies Camp ([@ymcarockies](#)), we prepared for a hike the next day.

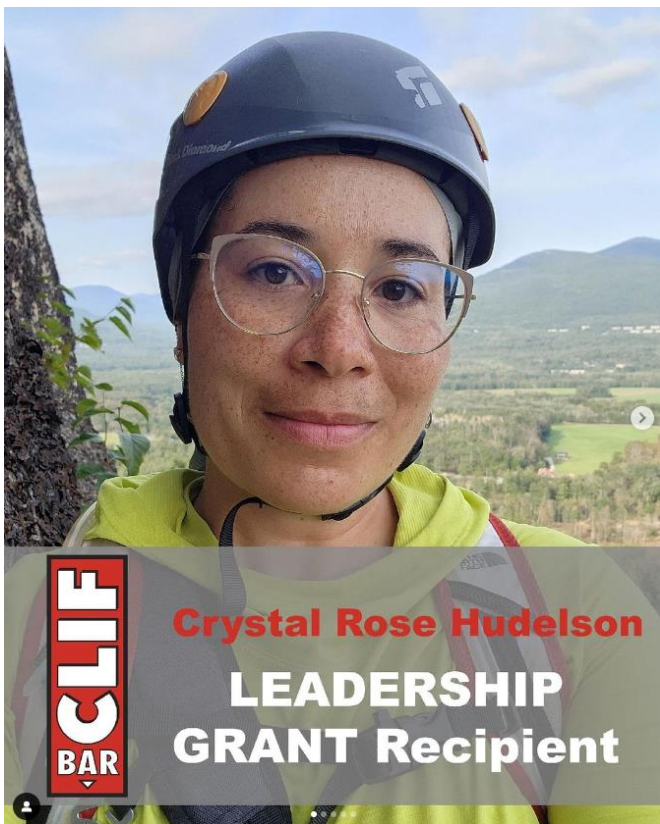
Due to an impending snowstorm, we decided to hike on our first full day in Colorado, instead of acclimatizing slowly. Equipped with winter traction spikes for our shoes, half of the group tackled Lily Mountain while the other half explored Lily Lake. Seven members successfully summited Lily Mountain, with many of them immediately FaceTiming their moms to share the achievement.

The following day brought heavy snowfall, leaving the group confined to our cozy cabins, with occasional visits to the cafeteria, gym, and pool.

Friday, our last day in Colorado, brought favorable conditions for a hike to Emerald Lake in [@rockynps](#). The snowy trail had been packed down, allowing them to use our winter traction spikes. As some members chose to turn back, a smaller group continued to the end, captivated by the natural beauty and wildlife along the trail. We reached Emerald Lake, relishing the breathtaking views and promising to return with loved ones.

On Saturday morning, we began our journey back to St. Louis, arriving that night to an excited and celebratory welcome from our families. The trip had left a profound impact on both the students. I believe their lives were changed for the better by this trip.





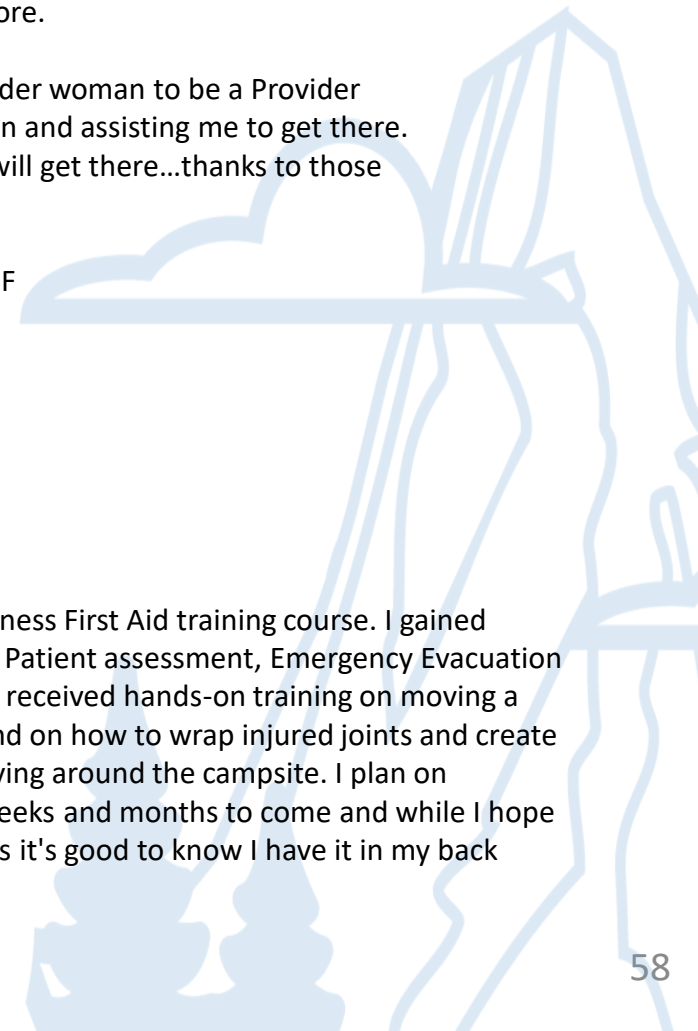
“I want to become the first Black woman to become an [@amga1979](#) Single Pitch Instructor Provider.

I am so grateful C4C put faith in me to go get this certification otherwise it may not have happened. After this certification I will be eligible to apply to the Single Pitch Instructor Provider program so that I may eventually certify guides for single pitch terrain. Being a Provider will enable me to train and certify BIPOC in a way I haven't experienced in any AMGA courses before.

I believe I will be the first Black cis gender woman to be a Provider and thank you C4C for seeing this vision and assisting me to get there. The journey has not been linear but I will get there...thanks to those who support me.”

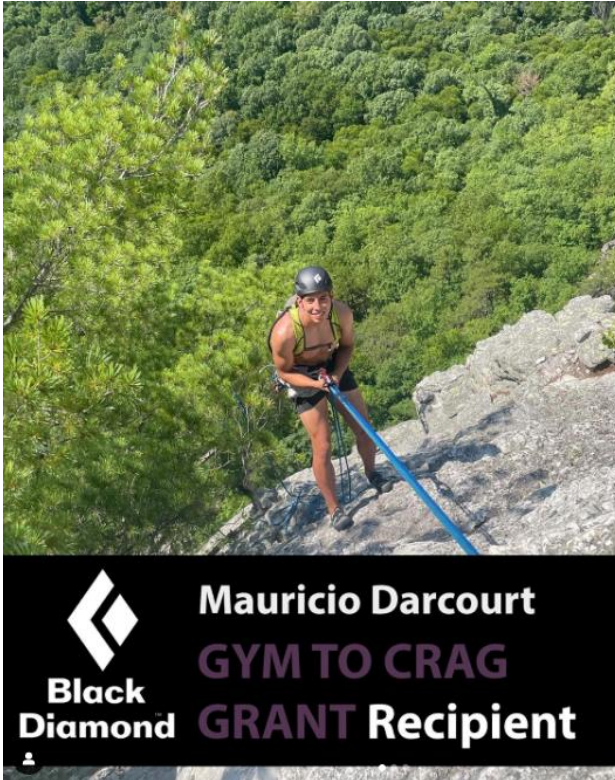
2/12/24 Posted story on IG tagging CLIF

Granted in 2022



“I had a great time at the NOLS Wilderness First Aid training course. I gained valuable knowledge and experience in Patient assessment, Emergency Evacuation Plans, and Wound management. I also received hands-on training on moving a patient suffering from a spine injury and on how to wrap injured joints and create a splint from materials that might be lying around the campsite. I plan on practicing all that I've learned in the weeks and months to come and while I hope I never have to use my new-found skills it's good to know I have it in my back pocket.”

Granted in 2022



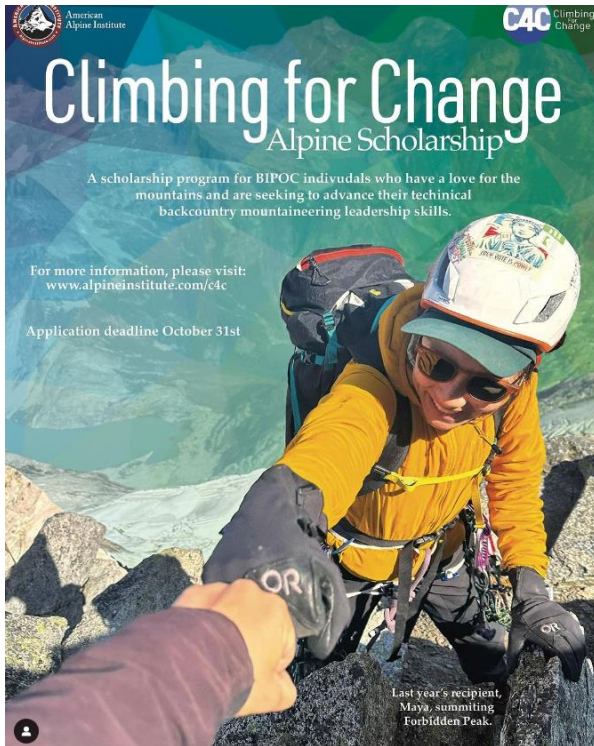
“The grant has been crucial for climbing outdoors this past 7 months. Since I got the grant and gear I have been able to start setting up my own top ropes, sport climbing, and leading very easy trad outdoors. I am yet to lead trad in the gunks but am confident once the weather improves that I will be able to. Super thankful for the resources and support from you guys.”

Granted in 2022

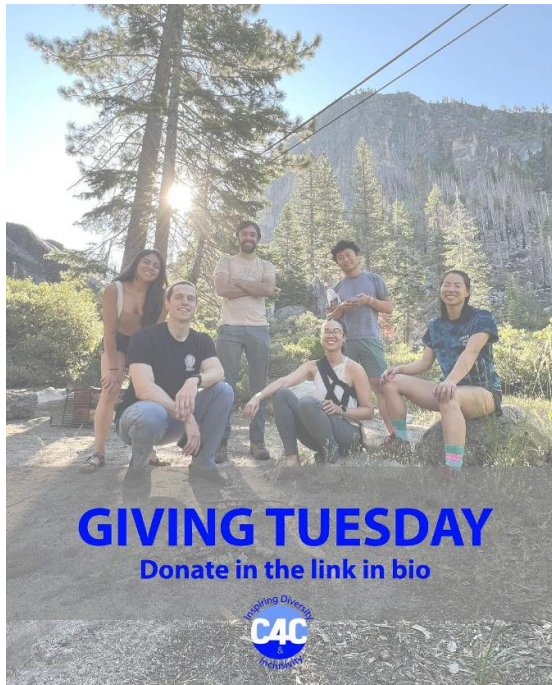
# C4C Miscellaneous Social Media posts







We're excited to be continuing our partnership with the American Alpine Institute ([@alpineinstitute](https://www.alpineinstitute.com)) in offering this scholarship of up to \$2800 towards AAI courses. Qualifying programs include Alpine Mountaineering & Technical Leadership, AMGA ([@amga1979](https://www.amga.org)) SPI Course/Exam, AIARE ([@aiare official](https://www.aiare.org)), and more. Click the link in our bio to learn more and apply.



On this [#GivingTuesday](#), please consider donating to Climbing 4 Change to help elevate and uplift underserved minorities in the outdoor industry.

So far in 2023, we've awarded more than \$35,000 in grant funding with an estimated impact of over 200 people. We helped many attend [@unitedinyosemite](#), [@allinicefest](#), and [@blkoutfest](#). We've also supported those pursuing [@amga1979](#) guiding and instructor certifications. We're excited to continue our work, but we need your help!

# Memphis Rox - Roxfest ??? In 2023?? Jon Hawek

## **Trips**

Roxfest is a fundraiser/festival being held by Memphis Rox on the same weekend in the same city (Chattanooga, TN) as Blk Out Fest. Although no financial donations, We have provided help through strategic planning meetings, in-kind donations through Clif Bar, and a speaking engagement from Kai. Both Kai and Connie will be in attendance to facilitate both events simultaneously.

