At MOSS, we follow and study seasonal cues to learn about our local environment. Just as the seasons turn, turn, turn the past year at MOSS brought both change and growth. Through hard work, teamwork, and laughter, we have circled the sun in our 26th year of inspiring curiosity and awareness of our natural world through exploration and learning.

This year has seen big changes to our small administrative team. In the spring we wished our Executive Director of four years, Jess Haas, a fond farewell. We also welcomed a new team member—our Community Engagement Manager, Tamara Knappenberger. You may have met her during one of many farmers’ markets or festivals around the Gallatin Valley and surrounding areas. Our summer team swelled to 25 instructors, and we were thrilled to promote a long-time instructor, Mellanie Lerum, to a new position—Education Specialist. Now, as fall turns to winter, we welcome our new Executive Director, Dr. Johan Erikson, into the fold.

In addition to staff changes, MOSS also moved offices this fall, and we were excited to open our doors to all our MOSS friends at our September open house event. Throughout these shifts, MOSS staff became an even stronger team with the support of our board members to adjust, adapt, overcome, belly laugh, load and unload horse trailers of educational materials, snakes, toads, turtles, a ton of shelves, and finally settle into a new normal.

Our steadfast commitment to high-quality outdoor education is at the heart of all this change. In addition to our ongoing school year programs and booming summer camps (biggest year to date!), we completed our first season of residential camp through the American Prairie Field School. We’ve added new partners in the Bozeman community, which have allowed us to expand our educational reach into more school yards and get folks out into new environments. We’ve made new friends and leaned on each other and the community. Our gratitude for your support is unwavering.

As MOSS turns the page into a new chapter, we are excited to continue in our strong traditions of outdoor science education, inclusion, and exploration and embrace the changes that keep things exciting and fresh. We aim to grow not only in numbers but also in the depth and breadth of our offerings and collaborations in 2023—to get more people outdoors and exploring in new and different ways.

The entire team at MOSS thanks you!

Molly Iversen, Education Director
Britney Gitch, Program Director
Tamara Knappenberger, Community Engagement Manager
Mellanie Lerum, Education Specialist
Yvonne Leung, Administrative Assistant
MOSS’s fabulous team of 25+ instructors
And welcoming our new Executive Director, Johan Erikson
2022 BY THE NUMBERS

8,487 LEARNING HOURS with 1,459 SCHOOL KIDS at 27 SCHOOL VISITS

31,000 EXPLORING HOURS in the summer + 1,139 campers + 79 camps

14 CERTIFIED Montana Master Naturalists

60 VOLUNTEER HOURS

$14,254 + $752 IN SCHOLARSHIPS awarded 50 FAMILIES served through our scholarship program

Over 7 COMMUNITIES met through outreach

Over 3,000 TOTAL NUMBER of one-on-one connections made through MOSS outreach programs

EXPENSES

85.2% PROGRAM EXPENSES

8.5% ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES

6.3% FUNDRAISING EXPENSES

REVENUES

2.7% EVENTS

15.8% CONTRIBUTIONS

50.4% PROGRAMS

31% GRANTS

With gratitude we acknowledge that our ability to educate in the outdoors hinges on the stewardship of these lands by indigenous peoples both past and present.
HIGH-FIVES TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS AND PARTNERS!

Abby Turner
Ari Blakewski Kelleher
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Melissa Pryor
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Stephanie Uter
Stone Glacier
Sue Daniels
Susen Jessop
Tamara
Knaapenberg
Community Engagement Manager
Mellanie Lura
Education Specialist
Yvonne Leung
Administrative Assistant

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