



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Building Resiliency, Broadening Horizons, Ensuring Skills for Success



“City Kids has taught me that it’s ok to feel uncomfortable at times or even homesick. But you should be proud when you try new things and test the waters with activities that you aren’t used to. **City Kids is a great opportunity to try new things, meet new people, and to be a part of a welcoming, caring family.**”

9TH GRADE
LEADERSHIP CAMPER

Dear Friends,

For the past 23 years, City Kids has provided extraordinary opportunities for youth, and in 2018, we made critical investments in the organization in order to sustain this work and our impact for many more years to come.

We are proud to share our strong progress in the past year towards achieving our strategic priorities: we expanded our leadership team to better support the work of our growing organization; opened our first DC program center for our youth and family programming made possible by a generous gift from Wendy Obernauer Damon; and launched our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force with staff, board, and outside advisors to support our priority focus on this work across the organization. In addition, we received a leading gift from the Scheidel Foundation to launch an expanded program to support our young alumni as they embark on post-secondary educational and career pursuits; we affirmed and strengthened our commitment to risk management by completing a comprehensive review through NOLS Risk Services; and we undertook a master planning process to review our facilities and operations at Broken Arrow Ranch in order to create a plan to best meet the needs of our growing camp and internship program.

It takes many talented, committed, and generous people to make this work possible, and we know that City Kids is only possible due to the strength of our community. While City Kids programs have grown and formalized over the years, the deep relationships and community ties that this work was founded on continue to be our greatest strength.

Thank you to our community of supporters, volunteers, partners, staff, JETs, and board. This work would not be possible without your inspiring commitment. Thank you for being a part of the City Kids family and for all that you do to support our youth and programs.

With heartfelt thanks,

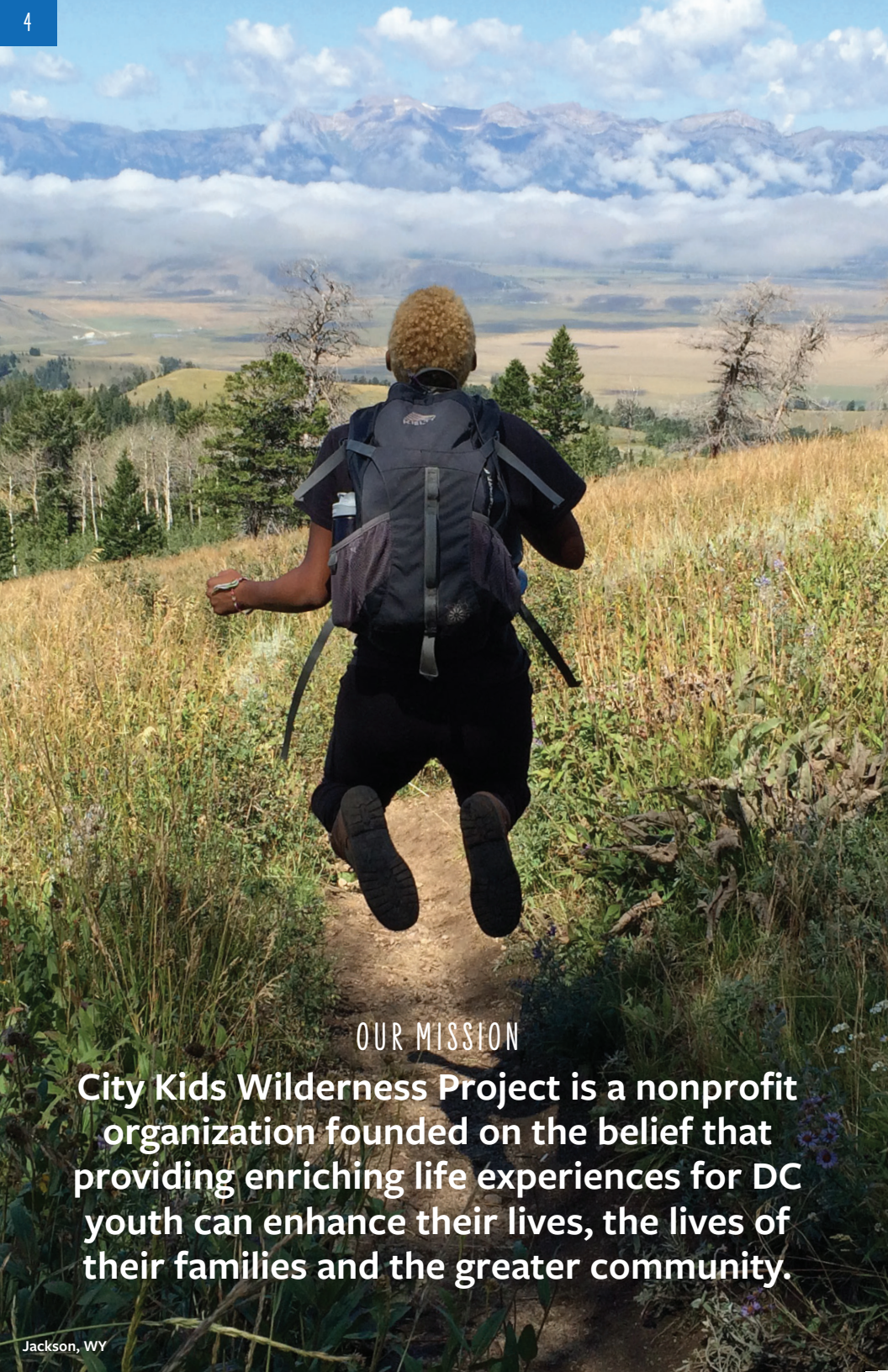


Eloise Russo
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR




Mary Speyer
BOARD CHAIR





OUR MISSION

City Kids Wilderness Project is a nonprofit organization founded on the belief that providing enriching life experiences for DC youth can enhance their lives, the lives of their families and the greater community.



OUR MODEL

Our program is based around three core principles: **long-term youth engagement, outdoor adventure and experiential education programming, and goal setting with a focus on future planning.** Youth develop a positive self-identity by overcoming challenges, building strong relationships with peers and adult mentors, and exploring personal possibilities.

OUR YOUTH

City Kids targets middle and high school youth who live in DC communities where, historically, access to resources has been limited, but where the potential to succeed and excel is unlimited. 73% of our youth live in DC's Wards 5, 7, and 8. The remaining 24% live in Wards 1, 2, 4, and 6, and 3% have moved to Maryland since first enrolling in the program. 94% of our youth self-identify as African American, and 6% self-identify as Latino or Hispanic.

OUR IMPACT

Of the youth who completed our expanded high school program in the last six years, **97% have graduated from high school.** In comparison, the DC graduation rate is currently less than 69%. In the last six years, **92% enrolled in college or other formal programs such as vocational training or the military** directly after high school. 90% of participants report that they think about their purpose in life often, 93% of youth report they are eager to do well in school and other activities, and 94% of families said their children more often try again when experiencing failure as a result of City Kids programming.



2019 CITY KIDS

97% of high school participants graduate

92% enroll in college, the military or vocational training

OVER THE LAST SIX YEARS

COLLEGE & POST-SECONDARY TRANSITION

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE
GRAND TETON CLIMB

CAREER EXPLORATION

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

SUMMER CAMP

OUTDOOR ADVENTURES

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

137
YOUTH

7 year cohort model

90% of participants report that they think about their purpose in life often

94% of families said their children more often try again when experiencing failure





THE CITY KIDS journey

The City Kids journey begins when youth enter the program in the sixth grade and continues through middle school, high school, and beyond. Programming is based on the positive youth development framework, and the program is carefully structured to provide age and stage appropriate support as youth mature. Each year brings new challenges, opportunities, and excitement as youth gain new skills, and explore Washington, DC, the wilderness areas of the Mid Atlantic, and participate in summer programming at Broken Arrow Ranch in Jackson, Wyoming.

**93% of our youth
report they are
eager to do well in
school and other
activities**



“

I've become better at problem solving. When something really hurt me before, I would just let it slide because I was nervous to speak up. But now, **I speak up and express myself.**”

RANGER CAMPER



RANGER & MOUNTAINEER

Be Courageous, Be Compassionate

Participants learn outdoor skills and try new things at summer camp, and during the school year through our afterschool and weekend outdoor adventure programming.

Outdoor adventures including canoeing, backpacking, horseback riding, and climbing

Study skills and homework support

AGES

11-13



Mountaineer Canoeing Trip
Bladensburg Waterfront Park, MD



I'm grateful that City Kids is **filling the gap for my son's exposure to wilderness and outdoor activities.** I think his overall exposure will be enriching for his academics as well.

CITY KIDS PARENT

Yellowstone Lake, WY



ELITE



Be Excellent

Participants tackle physical and mental challenges in the wilderness.

Backpacking in the Sawtooth Mountains and kayaking in Yellowstone

Weekend outdoor adventures

Week-long kayak trip in the rivers, swamps and ocean of South Carolina



Recreation Center, DC



Caribou-Targhee National Forest
Upper Palisades Lake Trail, Idaho

AGES

13-14



“

My experience with City Kids has helped me understand that I am **capable of accomplishing anything put in front of me.**

LEADERSHIP CAMPER

LEADERSHIP



Find Your Personal Power

Participants test their mastery of outdoor skills through high adventure activities, and demonstrate newfound leadership skills by exploring issues within their communities.

Rock climbing and white water kayaking

24 hour solo

Weekend outdoor adventures

Community service and volunteer programming

Social justice workshops

AGES

14-15



Columbia Heights Green, DC

JET

Job Experience Training

JET Grand
Teton Climb, WY



Create Your Vision

Year-round training opportunities lay the foundation for transferable job skills, and future focused planning provides youth with a clear road map after high school.

CAMP LEADER

Paid summer job opportunity as a peer mentor and program assistant, preceded by six weeks of training during the school year

CAREER EXPLORATION

Workshops, job shadows, and mini-internship placements to test and explore career and post-secondary education interests

CITY KIDS SERVE

School year service learning program

Weekend outdoor adventures

Post-secondary planning and college preparation support

Opportunity to be certified in CPR and Wilderness First Aid

Opportunity to attend a course through the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS), North Carolina Outward Bound School, or Wilderness Adventures

Opportunity to summit the Grand Teton as a culminating adventure

“

Over the past 4 years I have gained more leadership skills and have become a better person. Coming to Wyoming has made me see that there is more than just the city and a lot more experiences. **I have experienced things that some kids only dream of so I am different than most people.**

1ST YEAR JET

AGES

15-19



Jordan Taylor, Alumni

My experiences with City Kids, pushing myself both physically and mentally, inspired me to follow my dreams of starting my own business. My goal is to eventually own an athletic and urban clothing company, as well as a business that teaches skateboarding, personalized for people's different abilities. I've already started giving private skateboarding lessons and I currently work for a skate shop in DC. I also work with a non-profit, Cuba Skate, which cultivates youth in Cuba through skateboarding. In 2018, I went to Cuba for the first time to teach skateboarding to Cuban kids, and I've been back four times!

Jordan Taylor graduated from City Kids and Washington Latin Public Charter School in 2016. He is now pursuing his dreams of business ownership and improving the world through skateboarding.

ALUMNI

Alumni receive regular check-ins and support for at least two years after completing the program. All alumni are eligible for the following:

- One-on-one mentorship and career planning support
- Post-secondary education planning and job coaching
- Alumni outdoor adventures and networking gatherings
- Volunteer engagement and job opportunities with City Kids programs



“

I believe that as long as you have confidence in yourself, you'll be able to do whatever you put your mind to. As long as you think positively, you can accomplish your goals!

JORDAN TAYLOR
CITY KIDS ALUMNI

City Kids supports
me and makes me
feel comfortable, **as
if I was at home.**

RANGER CAMPER

OUR VALUES

Managing feelings in a
constructive way

Overcoming challenges

Non violent conflict
resolution

Mentorship

Goal Setting

Developing a positive
vision for the future

Community leadership
& civic engagement

Personal contribution &
leadership

Teamwork

Taking care of
self, others & the
environment

Mastering &
applying new skills



LEADING EXAMPLE

Davon Dukes, a 15 year old, 1st Year JET shared his reflections on his five years with City Kids.

When I think back to my first year with City Kids, my Ranger Year, I just remember really wanting to sleep in a sleeping bag out in the woods. All of the TV shows I watched always had kids having sleepovers in their backyard, I wanted to know how that felt. I remember my applicant overnight with City Kids in Virginia and the full day at the ropes course with all of my friends, it was fun to do this challenge with my friends and then we camped out. It was amazing!

My proudest moment at City Kids would be making it through the Elite year trip because of how hard and challenging it was. It was during the summer, and we went backpacking for half of the trip and then kayaking. We were barely on the ranch at all that summer, it was almost all backcountry camping. I remember that there was on-and-off rain during the entire kayaking portion and the waves were really big. I am proud of this moment because I felt like I achieved and accomplished the hardest part of the camper years.

That Elite year trip was also my most challenging moment at City Kids. I was able to get through this trip because of my friends, everyone motivated each other to keep going. I remember thinking how amazing it was to have such a

supportive team. Also, I remember the JETs saying that it was a tough trip, but I thought - they're still here to tell about it, so I know that I'll make it through it as well! I continue to think back to that trip whenever things are tough in my life and I remind myself that nothing could be harder, and that I can get through whatever I'm dealing with.

I continue to think back to that trip whenever things are tough in my life and I remind myself that nothing could be harder, and that I can get through whatever I'm dealing with.

City Kids allowed me to do something I never thought I would ever do-- white water kayaking. The waves just become so much bigger when you move from a raft to a kayak, and it becomes a lot scarier, especially

since I'm in water that I can't control. When I first kayaked, I felt really proud that I was able to overcome that fear.

I keep coming back to City Kids because of the staff, the JETs, and the rest of the campers. I feel a strong bond between everyone and it's something that I want to be around. If I could give advice to the younger City Kids, I'd say, don't quit just because something is hard. CK makes trips possible for you to succeed. If that wasn't the case, there wouldn't be any JETs in the program. We all are able to get through this-- we just have to remind ourselves of that.

LEADING EXAMPLE

Nakyia Wimbish, a 13 year old Mountaineer in her second year with City Kids, shared her thoughts about her experiences in the program so far.

When City Kids came to present at my school last year I thought, wow, I've never been camping before, and I didn't even know where Wyoming was! I wanted to try something new and different, instead of just staying in DC for the summer. I knew City Kids was going to be interesting and I was going to learn lots of new things.

My very first trip with City Kids, the applicant overnight trip, is so far one of my best memories. We went camping and we also went ziplining at Go Ape. Ziplining and doing the high ropes course was something I had never done before, and I was scared. But the City Kids staff encouraged me to keep moving and made me feel safe.

When I landed in WY for the first time last summer, I first thought to myself, it's June and it's cold! My second thought was, look at all the mountains! I had never seen mountains up close.

I also had my proudest moment last summer while hiking in Yellowstone—it was cold and wet the entire time we were hiking, but I made it through. I was proud of myself because it was my first experience outside of DC, doing something I'd never done before. Now, I like camping and I want to go again. I even came back to DC and tried to convince my parents to take us camping! This summer, I want to see if I can do a 15-mile-long hike without complaining.

I've learned through City Kids that when times get hard, and you really struggle, keep pushing forward, because in the end **you'll really feel good about yourself for actually doing it.**



Rock Creek Park, DC



Fort Dupont Ice Arena, DC



Sportrock Climbing Center, Alexandria, VA



FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2018

JANUARY 1, 2018 - DECEMBER 31, 2018

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES/
CASH FLOW ANALYSIS

SUPPORT & REVENUE

Grants and Contributions	\$1,585,465
In-Kind Donations	458,517
Rental Income	77,596
Other Income	(26,442)
Total	\$2,095,136

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$1,538,798
Management & General	217,520
Fundraising	313,814
Total	\$2,070,132

Change in Net Assets \$25,004

CASH BASIS ADJUSTMENTS

Depreciation	\$17,729
Purchases, sales of investments & equipment	(438,218)
Other adjustments	224,620
Net Change in Cash Position	(\$170,865)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL
POSITION - ACCRUAL BASIS

ASSETS

Cash	\$310,256
Investments	841,870
Grants, contributions receivable	118,972
Property, net of accumulated depreciation	105,222
Other Assets	40,944
Total Assets	\$1,417,264

LIABILITIES

Accounts payable, accrued expenses	\$39,105
Total Liabilities	\$39,105

NET ASSETS

Undesignated	\$453,011
Board Designated	\$841,870
Total Net Assets Without Donor Restriction	\$1,294,881
Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	\$83,278
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$1,417,264



Grand Teton National Park, WY



Rock Creek Park, DC

thank you

A deep and heartfelt thank you to our many donors, whose generous support makes it possible every day for imaginations to be sparked, academic success to be achieved, self-confidence to grow, and wilderness areas to be explored.

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The Taylor Family Foundation
The Teamtrio Fund
United Way of the National Capital Area
Washington Parks and People
The World Bank



GRAND TETON TRAILBLAZER \$25,000+

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Randy Luskey
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Mary and Jim Speyer

SNAKE RIVER CANYON RUNNER \$15,000+

Becky Claster and Steve Leroy
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Michael Kidder
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Kitty and John Resor

YELLOWSTONE LAKE NAVIGATOR \$10,000+

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Brian Smith

TOWPATH ADVENTURER \$5,000+

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ROCK CREEK EXPLORER \$2,500+

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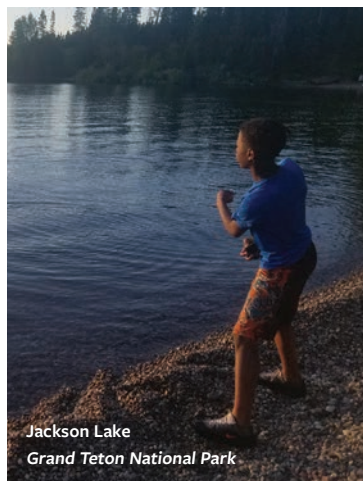
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CONTACT CITY KIDS

YEAR ROUND
202.525.4930 phone
888.317.8831 fax

City Kids Wilderness Project
2437 15th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

SUMMER AT BROKEN
ARROW RANCH
307.739.0859 phone

13055 South US Hwy 191
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City Kids is honored to have been selected once again in 2018-19 by the Catalogue for Philanthropy as one of the best small charities in the Washington, DC region.



Our sincere thanks to both our summer programs and school-year staff, and to our many volunteers, for their hard work and enthusiasm in supporting City Kids youth. You continue to make a critical difference.





“

City Kids has given me a chance to **broaden my horizons and skill set. I am doing things that I would never have even imagined doing** and I owe this to the push that City Kids gave me.”

LEADERSHIP CAMPER



City Kids Wilderness Project
2437 15th Street, NW
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