



Great Basin
National Park Foundation

Annual Report

2023





Message from our Executive Director

Great Basin National Park is unique for so many reasons. One aspect I find truly exciting about the Park is the in-depth science and research that takes place here. GBNP managers and university scientists study the plants, animals, and ecological systems that make this place singular. Great Basin Observatory scientists research aspects of our universe from the darkest of skies. These investigations create an incredible opportunity for learning experiences and personal connections. *We will only work to save what we love, and we will only love what we know.* I hope you will continue joining us as we *learn more* and *connect more deeply* to the vast and wondrous Great Basin.

Aviva O'Neil

Great Basin National Park

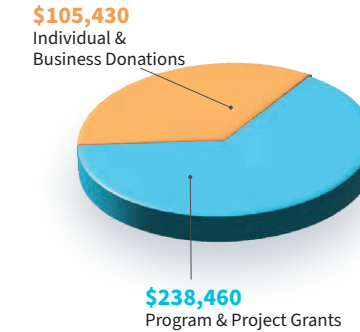
At Great Basin, you can walk among the world's oldest living trees, gaze at the cosmos from the darkest night skies, explore subterranean passages, and find inspiration in a wilderness of solitude. From 13,063-foot Wheeler Peak to sage-covered foothills 7,000 feet below, Great Basin National Park is a sample of the incredible diversity of the larger Great Basin region. Great Basin National Park Foundation works to preserve, enhance, and protect Great Basin National Park for present and future generations.



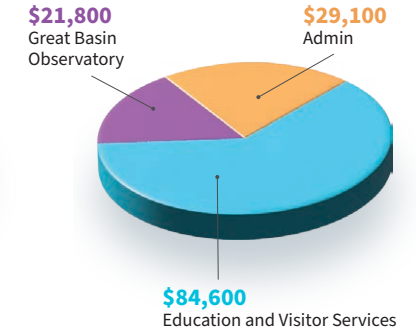
Every Guardian Is Making an Impact

As the official nonprofit partner of the Park, we can only fulfill our mission because of Great Basin Guardians like YOU. Guardians support innovative research, dynamic educational programs, and needed Park infrastructure improvements. Guardians enhance the Park visitor's experience while helping to inspire the next generation of Great Basin National Park stewards. In 2023, 79% of our budget was invested directly into Park research, interpretation, preservation, and education.

2023 Total Revenue \$343,890



2023 Total Expenses \$135,500



"I have worked with several Friends groups in my time in the NPS, but I can think of no other that so outperforms the size of the park. Great Basin National Park Foundation works within the boundaries of a medium-sized park but plays like it is in the big leagues."

- James Woolsey



Superintendent James Woolsey retired in 2023. His vision and partnership was a true gift for Great Basin. We are excited to welcome Great Basin's new Superintendent, Ashley Adams!

Education

In the 2022/2023 school year, GBNPF supported science learning in 59 3rd – 8th-grade classrooms, reaching over 1,200 students with Great Basin education. We delivered in-person and virtual classroom programs, Park field trips, and expanded our outreach with an emphasis on Title 1 schools and local tribal communities. Currently, we are on track to reaching 100% of 4th graders in White Pine County with in-depth curricula on the Great Basin's geology, ecology, and natural history.



Astronomy and the Great Basin Observatory

With the darkest and most pristine skies in the contiguous US, Great Basin National Park is a gateway to the cosmos. The Great Basin Observatory – the only research-grade observatory located in a national park – is remotely operated and provides world-class research opportunities to young aspiring astronomers and research enthusiasts. In 2023, 20 students used the GBO to conduct original research resulting in three research papers published in the *Journal of Double Star Observations*.



Photo: Paul Gardner

Great Basin Explorers

National parks are one of America's best ideas, but they do not benefit all Americans equally. Most national park visitors are caucasian, have ample vacation time and extra funds for travel. BIPOC (black, indigenous, and people of color) communities, however, are greatly underserved at our national parks, especially remote ones like Great Basin.

This is why we created Great Basin Explorers. GBE brings underserved communities to the Park for a 3-day/2-night camping experience. Youth learn about Great Basin's ecology, geology and biodiversity, and have the opportunity to hike to high mountain lakes, touch the oldest trees on Earth, explore underground caverns, and view the Milky Way. In 2023 GBE helped groups from the Duckwater Shoshone, Ely Shoshone, Blacks in Nature, and kids from Las Vegas experience *their* national park.



"The Great Basin adventure informed participants about ways of protecting some of the state's most precious and prized cultural and natural resources. The adventure also benefited the participants with the outdoor environment's aesthetics, recreational, and spiritual influences. To sum up the experience in one word, WOW!"

- JT Reynolds, Las Vegas Great Basin Explorers trip leader

"Our campout at Great Basin was a journey of exploration, wonder, and connection with nature. This unique region left an indelible mark on our hearts, reminding us of the importance of preserving our natural resources for generations to come."

- Blacks in Nature



"It was beautiful. And I think the new experiences for the kids, what they learned from the different resources, will be a memory they will cherish forever."

- Teacher Tsiannia, Duckwater Shoshone School

The National Park Experience

As Great Basin National Park's nonprofit partner, we improve the Park visitor experience beyond what congressional budgets allow. GBNPF supports Great Basin's astronomy programs, Astronomy Festival, and International Dark Sky Park designation. Guardians make it possible for 10,000 Park visitors to view the cosmos each year and increase the number of Lehman Caves tours. Guardians also make it possible for the Park to update trails with new exhibits. In 2023, we finished updating all of the signs on the Alpine Lakes loops and Bristlecone Pine trails. Foundation support extends opportunities for unique interactions with the Park. In 2023, we supported the BioBlitz on true bugs and partnered with the Park to double the opportunities for Artists-in-Residence beginning in 2024.



Preserving Great Basin Resilience through Mountain Lions

Did you know that mountain lions are the last keystone species predator in the Great Basin? This magnificent animal is incredibly important for the Great Basin ecosystem's resilience and function. A new *Southern Nevada Public Lands Management Act* project will allow Great Basin National Park to embark on bringing social and community science to mountain lion management in the Great Basin.



The project will use mountain lion research as a tool to engage communities and provide essential information on cougar ecology. Ultimately the goal is to ensure resilient ecosystems. Great Basin National Park Foundation eagerly looks forward to supporting this exciting work in 2024 by connecting the big-cat research and science to classrooms and communities throughout the Great Basin.

Photo: National Park Service

2023 Great Basin National Park Guardians

Together, Great Basin Guardians form a community of support that protects and enhances this singular place. THANK YOU GUARDIANS for your support and partnership.

Save the Date!

September 5, 6, 7, 2024
Great Basin National Park
Astronomy Festival

Corporate Conservation Guardians and Foundation Partners

GREAT BASIN GUARDIAN CIRCLE \$25,000 and above

Cashman Family Foundation

National Park Foundation

Robert S. and Dorothy J. Keyser Foundation

The Jack Van Sickle Foundation

BRISTLECONE GUARDIANS \$10,000 and above

Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership

Nevada Division of Tourism

The First National Bank of Ely

STALAGMITE GUARDIAN \$5,000 and above

George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation

Robinson Nevada Mining Company

White Pine County Economic Development Corporation

SUSTAINING GUARDIAN \$1,000 and above

Nevada Humanities

Williamsen Family Foundation

Individual Guardians

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\$10,000 and above

Mike and Linda Niggli

Pease Family Fund

STELLAR GUARDIAN

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Bill and Holly Wilson

Brian and Anne Menzel

BRISTLECONE GUARDIAN

\$1,000 - \$4,999

Anonymous

Fred Bachhuber

Mackenzie Banta

Bible Family Fund

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Timothy Cashman

Milton Chen and Ruth Cox

Naomi Duerr

Kenji Hakuta and Nancy Goodban

John and Inga Kenney

David Marquart and

Connie Henderson

Rebecca Mills and Dave Sharp in
memory of Al Hendricks

Kent Morby

Eric Mortensen and Alicia Lerud

Dan and Carrie Oates

Margaret Rees

Jeremy Reichenberg

Donald Shalmy

Mary and Reed Simmons

Jan Tiura and Joe Brennan

Frederick and Sandra Zoerner

STALAGMITE GUARDIAN

\$500 - \$999

Anonymous gift in honor of Elinor
Charleston

Brian Beffort

Senator Richard Bryan

Briget Eastep

Greg and Shelli Fine

Rod Freebairn-Smith

Thomas and Linda Hultin

Stephanie Kruse

Steven Moore

Robert and Mia Morrill

Julia Ratti and James Cavanaugh

Kevin Robison

S.C and Jade Simonson

Dave Tilford

Ken and Dorren Vogel

SUSTAINING GUARDIAN

\$100 - \$499

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Cynthia Lu

Susan Lynn

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Cadence Matijevec

Joel Muller

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Holly Pecetti

Ralph and Darcy Phillips

Jessica Prunty

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Dan Rider

Melodi Rodrigue

Kathy and Jim Rogers

Lauren Rueda

Ann Setty-Rosevear

Gary Shaye

John and Nancy Shepherd

Marianne Slagle

Carissa Snedeker

Jim Spoo

Theodore Stazeski

Jamie Vaughn

McClure Wallace

Deborah Wallin

Howard Watts III

Paul Woodin and Denise Inda

GUARDIAN

\$25 - \$99

Tanya Africa

Murray Aronson

Peter Burge

Charles Chandler

Kristopher Dahir

Oscar Delgado

Rebecca Durocher

Mendy Elliott

Mariluz Garcia

Marjorie Garlin

Phyllis Gladding

Jody Gordon

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Great Basin National Park Foundation

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