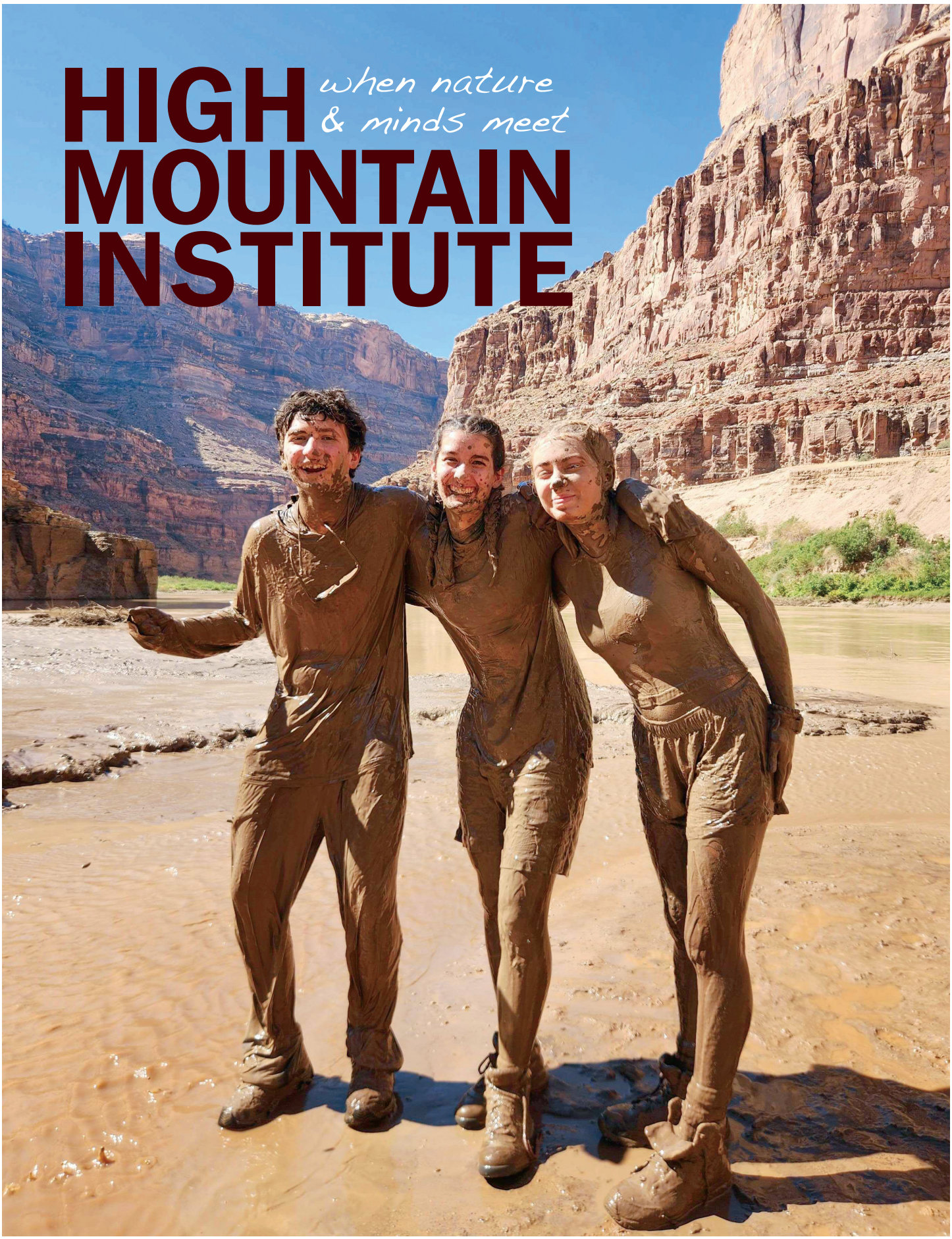
HIGH MOUNTAIN INSTITUTE

when nature & minds meet



FALL 2026 NEWSLETTER & IMPACT REPORT

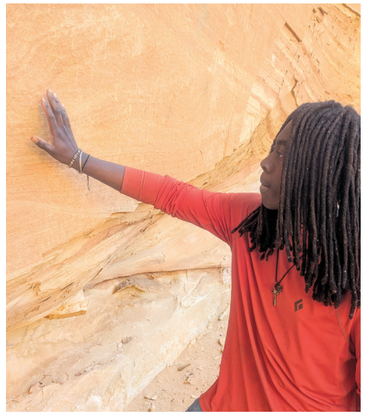


RESILIENCE

THROUGH OUR LENS











Scenes from Semester 56, Semester 57, and Summer Term '26.

Cover: Semester 57 students in Dark Canyon, Utah.



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TO FOLLOW MORE OF HMI'S ADVENTURES,
FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Sam Critchlow



What is a school, if not its people, programs, and place? This summer, HMI was forced to answer this very question when our campus was evacuated due to a wildfire.

On the afternoon of June 28, 2026, a thin plume of smoke was sighted in the Mt. Massive Wilderness area a few miles southwest of campus. Within a few hours, the fire had grown from three acres to over 1,100, and HMI was quickly placed under mandatory evacuation. The "Willow Fire," as it was soon named, would prove to be one of Lake County's worst natural disasters in the past century.

The following weeks tested the Leadville and HMI communities to their limits, as the fire grew to over 7,000 acres, creeping in all cardinal directions as winds shifted day by day. Over 800 wildland firefighters convened in the area, along with helicopters and heavy machinery, taking on the challenges of containing a fire almost entirely in a wilderness area devoid of roads or other access. Over 30 HMI residents and seasonal staff were displaced from their homes and forced to find temporary housing in Leadville and elsewhere. And yet our work carried on.



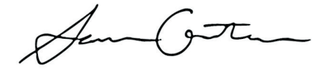
HMI extends its deepest gratitude to those who fought the Willow Fire, and the schools, organizations, and businesses that supported our students and employees during the evacuation.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

- Firefighters, law enforcement, and Search & Rescue
- Colorado Mountain College
- Fountain Valley School & the Link School
- Lake County School District
- Galena Mountain Projects & B&B Shipping
- Silver Rush Storage & Lifetime Fitness
- Dana at U.S. Foods
- The many friends and family members who offered a bedroom, couch, or home!

As the fire grew on Mt. Massive, our efforts went into supporting our displaced residents, Summer Term students, and staff as they carried on programming to the south. These weeks were filled with stress and worry, but also with moments of kindness, hope, and heroism: offers to pick up a vehicle from campus; to find that passport, wedding outfit, or guitar from a closet on Grey Jay Way; to drive an hour to cook a meal for Summer Term students; and the many thoughtful messages of support and concern from afar. On July 20, after more than three weeks, the evacuation order was lifted and we returned to campus just in time for the closing days of Summer Term and Educator's Expedition. Although the fire burned within a mile of our property, HMI had thankfully been spared from any damage by smoke or flame.

Unsurprisingly, it was our staff who rose to the occasion to hold it all together, working outside the hours and boundaries of their roles to support our students and each other through a major natural disaster. In retrospect, it seems a miracle that, while a 7,000+ acre fire burned less than a mile away from our school, we were able to maintain our core programs, avoid campus damage, and deliver life-changing connections to community and nature. The Willow Fire was a powerful reminder that what makes HMI special isn't simply the place, but the people who bring this place to life and the community they create together.



EVACUATED

By Xan McKenna, Advancement Associate; Summer Term Instructor







This summer, I was one of many HMI staff members who saw the first signs of smoke on Mt. Massive and soon found myself frantically packing up my belongings in response to a mandatory evacuation. Driving away from HMI's campus, I took in a wildfire that had grown in only an hour from a thin column of smoke to a colossal, billowing plume that blacked out the sun.

On that first afternoon, the fire consumed over 1,100 acres. It would ultimately reach within a mile of HMI's campus.

PHOTO ABOVE/FAR RIGHT: The Willow Fire burns above HMI's campus.

PHOTO CENTER: The fire on Mt. Massive as seen from Leadville.

> In July, Leadville experienced a crushing economic drop in what should have been the busiest month of the year, normally teeming with training athletes, thru-hikers on the Colorado Trail, and tourists.

Although the Willow Fire burned no buildings, it threatened more than 1,000 structures, including 800 homes. HMI was evacuated on June 28th, our staff becoming part of the 1,500 Leadville residents who were displaced, and we did not return until July 20th. During that period, we would watch the fire from across the valley; sometimes the smoke was barely visible, and we'd start to believe we'd be back at HMI within the week. Other days, the flames were violent enough to be seen glowing orange in the full light of day. At night, the mountain was eerily illuminated by streams of smoke and burning embers.

The Willow Fire mainly consisted of hundreds of spot fires that burned simultaneously, sparking and jumping depending on the wind, which made it unpredictable and difficult to contain. On July 5th, Colorado was approved for a FEMA grant that funded around 75% of the fire suppression efforts, as the fire primarily burned on National Forest land. However, it was primarily fought using Colorado state and interagency firefighters, engines, aviation resources, and incident personnel. At least one firefighter, as you will read in this newsletter, was an HMI alum!

In July, Leadville experienced a crushing economic drop in what should have been the busiest month of the year, normally teeming with training athletes, thru-hikers on the Colorado Trail, and tourists. Business owners reported that revenue dropped almost 45% as compared to July, 2025. The Leadville Silver Rush 50-mile races were cancelled, and the town's infamous Leadville 100-mile races were rerouted to avoid the area still actively burning in August (and still only 92% contained as of October 29, 2026). On days when the fire lay dormant, Leadville seemed strangely empty. When the fire made its wrath known and filled the sky, it was uncanny to see tourists peruse the shops on Harrison Avenue as if unaware of the natural disaster burning on the same mountains they were admiring.

Local public forums argued about the tenuous relationship between conservation and recreation, access and responsibility. When the Willow Fire was determined to be human-caused, accusations immediately flew towards tourists and thru-hikers. This protectiveness, or even hostility, is not new or unique to Leadville; the Willow Fire simply renewed an ongoing debate. Many of us, no matter where we live, are wary of those who come to play in our backyard and leave without ever knowing the repercussions, intended or not, of their actions. However, the reaction to gate-keep access to wilderness and to "witch hunt" is unproductive and often harmful.

In this lies the importance of education. Our Summer Term 2026 and current Semester 57 students, through the dedicated work of our educators, have learned to ask critical questions about their own relationship to the environment. While practicing stewardship and respect towards the land so crucial to HMI's programs and purpose, many begin to care deeply not just about the mountains and canyons we explore at HMI, but about the issues we as humans face as a whole, in our own backyards and in others.





A CHANGING CLASSROOM

By Emma Wood, Science Faculty & Dean of the Apprentice Program



It was hard to talk about anything other than the Willow Fire this summer. I'd have friends over for dinner, and we'd accidentally spend the whole time staring at the plumes of smoke and talking in circles about evacuation zones and the loss of the ecosystems we love. Despite that, what constantly surprised me was how many people came up to me and said something like, "You must be so excited about the fire!!"

And they were right; despite the fear and sadness, I was excited about the fire. As a science teacher who has the privilege and ability to prioritize place-based learning at HMI, I am thrilled to have this new backyard classroom.

I've taught about fire at HMI for the past five years. I've spent hours looking out into the lodgepole pine trees that surround campus, explaining to students that these trees and this place are adapted for fire. Historically, lodgepole pine forest saw high-intensity, stand-replacing fires every 70-200 years. Unlike other pines, lodgepoles have thin bark, which gives them almost no protection from high-intensity fires and leads to mass mortality after fires. However, lodgepole cones open and release seeds after exposure to extreme heat. Combined with lodgepole's reliance on full sunlight, this means the ecosystem immediately after a fire is primed for new lodgepole growth. And lodgepole pines are not the only species adapted for fire; in fact, the whole ecosystem relies on fire to cycle nutrients, clear out dead trees, and make room for new growth.

This is the fire regime within which lodgepole pine forests have evolved. What I think makes fire the perfect topic for my science class is that it sits at the intersection of ecology, climate change, and human impact. As European colonizers moved west in the 1800s, they brought a fear of fire and began a centuries-long policy of fire suppression. As putting out forest fires became more institutionalized in the 1900s, ecosystems were deprived of the frequency and intensity of fires they had historically adapted to.



Where fires once cleared out dead trees, made room for new life, and reduced fuel, we now see forests without consistent fire densely crowded with old and dead trees. When combined with the impacts of climate change in the West - a decades-long drought and historically warm temperatures - it's not a stretch to start seeing these forests as tinderboxes. The dead trees are dried out and perfect fuel, and the living trees are stressed by the drought and warm temperatures.

This is the ecological context that the Willow Fire, and every other fire in the West, sits in. We're entering a new era where fires are burning hotter and larger, and ecosystem recovery is starting to look different. So, the question is: what happens when an ecosystem faces a climate and fire pattern it isn't adapted to?

Scientists have some answers to this question – we know that we will start to see different species gain dominance in this new ecological context. We also know some areas will take decades longer to recover. But in many places and scenarios, scientists are still figuring out how ecosystems recover from the unprecedented fires we're seeing throughout the West.

This is why I'm so excited about the Willow Fire. It's the perfect setting to engage with a new scientific story as it unfolds. In the coming months and years, I'm looking forward to taking my science classes out to explore the Willow Fire burn scar. And as we watch and document the slow recovery of this ecosystem, from the first green shoot through the fireweed-covered new meadows, to the endless baby lodgepole pines, we will get to contemplate the two enduring truths of this fire. First, our actions as humans are leading to unprecedented fires that are threatening the health of ecosystems and humans alike. Second, these ecosystems are resilient, fire-adapted, dynamic spaces that will continue changing and growing long after my science classes have moved on.



ON THE FRONT LINES OF THE WILLOW FIRE

This summer, as hundreds of firefighters descended on Leadville to fight the Willow Fire, one was returning to a place he knew intimately. Josh Bernard is a two-time HMI alum who works as a Firefighter Type 2 for the City of Salida. Director of Development Ray McGaughey sat down with Josh to talk about firefighting, his HMI student experiences, and more.



Josh Bernard
HMI Summer Term 2018 | HMI Gap Fall 2019

- Salida High School ‘19
- Colorado Mountain College ‘22
- Western Colorado University ‘26

Tell us about yourself. Where did you grow up?

I’m from Salida, Colorado, which is a pretty awesome place to grow up. I really love the Arkansas River. I love to snowboard and backpack and all that stuff, but rafting on the river is what I love most.

You first came to HMI for Summer Term 2018, then returned in 2019 for Gap. What sticks out in your mind about those programs?

Oh man, it was a while ago. But they were awesome. Just so many cool people there and the instructors were awesome too. HMI got me into backpacking. It made me want to do a through hike like the Colorado Trail. Going to Patagonia with Gap was incredible. And I’d just begun getting into climbing too. Gap helped me become a way better climber.

What led you to firefighting?

Three or four years ago I attended a fire school in Salida. It was nothing crazy—basically just four days of learning about how fire behaves in different weather and humidity. Honestly, it was a little bit of “death by PowerPoint.” But they taught us how to dig a line and how to deploy the fire shelters and how to use a pump. After I graduated college this spring, I decided to actually give it a try as a full time job. Now I get to work outside with cool people and visit places that I probably would never go to otherwise. And occasionally we get to do fun stuff like fight fires but a lot of the time–for me at least–we’re there “just in case.”

And now you work for the city of Salida?

That’s right. Most firefighters work on hand crews for the Forest Service or the BLM, so my job is a little bit different because I’m on an engine crew. Honestly, they get to go cooler stuff than we do like actually hiking out and digging lines on the fire. But it’s nice to have a little bit more safety on the engine too.

Do you mostly stay in the Arkansas Valley?

No—they send us pretty much anywhere. People with our company go to Alaska, Florida, and a lot of time in California and Texas. And of course local fires in Colorado too. I just got back from Alturas, California, in the Northeast corner. Before that I was in Reno. And before that I was in Leadville.

Let’s talk about the Leadville Willow Fire. How did you find yourself at HMI that day?

We got assigned to Leadville, which I was super excited about because I love that area so much. On our first day there, we were figuring out where to go, they ended up assigning me to go to HMI. We came to campus and started looking at the structures–doing triage, they call it. It was a pretty crazy full circle experience to be back on the campus and see the fire in the distance.

And you and some of your crew ended up staying here, right?

Yeah, we did, which was so cool. We ran into the head of school, who invited us to stay on campus. I was like, “Yes! We have to stay here, and sleep in the cabins again!” They normally have us in a fire camp, sleeping on the ground in tents. Instead we wound up sleeping in the HMI cabins and hanging out in Who’s Hall. We definitely got pretty lucky on multiple fronts.



What were some of the other things that you did as part of fighting the Willow Fire?

We set up a lot of sprinklers at people’s properties. We’d bring a big folding tank out to somebody’s place, fill it up with water, bring a pump, and feed lines all around the house with sprinklers. The homeowner can turn the sprinklers on if things are getting hairy. And we did about a week of “mop-up,” which is where we walk out into the fire, looking for hotspots and putting them out. We also set up about a mile of hose connected to a tank near Turquoise Lake.

Do you feel like firefighting is going to be your career or you think it might be the first step towards something different?

I think the latter. It’s definitely a stepping stone for me. I think it’s a good career opportunity, but it’s not really something I want to do forever. You basically don’t have a summer, which is a big bummer because that’s my favorite season.

Well, I think I speak for all of us at HMI–all the current students, the staff, the alumni–when I say thank you for everything you did to help fight the Willow Fire fire because it was a little scary for a while.

Of course. Yeah, I was pretty scared too.

Returning HOME

By Lilly Nannes, RMS 12 Alum (Spring '04)

The trip made it out of the group chat. What began as a wild spark of an idea turned into one of the most fulfilling and life-affirming experiences of my adult life.

Last summer, I realized I'd be turning forty soon and began to think about how to mark that milestone. After having a wonderful time at my 20th high school reunion, I began to wonder if I could spark a similar reconnection with my HMI classmates. When talking to Brooke Thompson, a friend from both high school and HMI Semester 12, an idea emerged: what if we gathered ourselves for a reunion trip to Leadville? Coincidentally, HMI had recently begun marketing alumni trips; we reached out, and our September Fall Foliage Reunion Trip was born.

Wrangling women from around the country (some mothers, some engaged in becoming mothers, others acutely recovering from just becoming mothers) wasn't simple, but the enthusiasm was there and dates were set. HMI made planning easy, which was a relief since all of us are working parents, used to quarterbacking family and business logistics in our daily lives. When we arrived on campus, we began our gear issue for our backpacking overnight. We reacquainted ourselves with outdoor cooking gear, rations, and how to pack a pack. Semester 57 (!) was back from their first expedition, and we ate dinner with the HMI students who were inquisitive and gregarious. It turns out removing cell phones turns kids back into kids! We then piled into bunkbeds, staying up late laughing and sharing updates on our lives since we were last together almost two decades ago.









> All of us echoed the same sentiment: HMI gave us a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and experience something that we could not have managed without their guidance and basecamp.

The next two days were a whirlwind of activity. In the morning we were surprised to find one of the cabins had made us a special send-off breakfast coffee cake! We headed out to Mt. Princeton Hot Springs for a pre-backpacking soak then onward to the south trailhead of Mt. Elbert, the highest peak in Colorado. After we set up our "mids" for the night, our instructors Xan and Ray prepared us a delicious trail dinner. We all braved some rain and huddled together as we anticipated a 4am wake up.

The summit attempt on Mount Elbert was surprisingly challenging due to unexpected blizzard conditions and the thin air, but we all made it up to 14,000 ft. Afterwards we successfully squeezed in a trip to Melanzana before capping off the day with a delicious dinner hosted by Head of School Sam Critchlow and one of our semester teachers, Cooper Mallozzi, who still lives in Leadville.

On the drive back to Denver, we all shared a sense of community, accomplishment, and connection to ourselves and nature. We were already brainstorming when we would be able to gather next for another outdoors adventure. All of us echoed the same sentiment: HMI gave us a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and experience something that we could not have managed without their guidance and basecamp. We hope they continue these alumni trips and that many other alumni follow in our bootsteps to return to the mountains with HMI.



FROM THE DIRECTOR
OF DEVELOPMENT

Ray McGaughey

The exciting development in my life is that I recently became a dad! My wife and I welcomed our son Lander into the world in March. Becoming a parent has made me think differently about the world we inhabit, and the one we hope to pass on to our children.

> I think the nonprofit organizations we choose to support are a manifestation of the legacies we aspire to leave behind.

I think the nonprofit organizations we choose to support are a manifestation of the legacies we aspire to leave behind. We dream of an environment that is less polluted, a political climate that is less toxic, and a world with less hunger and strife. Many of us choose to support schools and educational causes specifically because we want children to grow up resilient and empowered instead of disengaged and jaded. HMI gives us the opportunity to invest in the generations that will carry these hopes forward.

For nearly 30 years HMI had been guided by our motto “simple in means, rich in ends.” We teach students that they do not need a stream of Amazon packages, their cell phone, or even heating and plumbing to learn, laugh, and make indelible memories. We show them how healthy and inspiring it is to spend time in the wilderness, away from screens and stimulation, but surrounded by human connection. We remind young people of the joys of play and the rewards of overcoming physical challenges. These things are worth investing in—worth keeping around for our children and their children. Like one alum recently reminded me, “there aren’t many places like HMI.”

Last year over 600 alumni, families, and other supporters chose to donate to HMI and invest in the promise of the education we provide. A mix of small and large gifts (with a median gift of $26) pooled to result in a total of $1.27M raised for financial aid, teacher salaries, and campus maintenance. Notably, this is the first year in HMI’s history where alumni giving has accounted for more than half of our total fundraising (51%). Our endowment grew to over $14M thanks to multiple generous gifts and a generally favorable investment climate, and we allocated over 75% of our endowment draw to financial aid and scholarships. All in all, fundraising continues to play an essential role in making HMI possible for a wide-range of students and families.

Thank you for believing in and supporting our special school. With your help, HMI will continue to grow and thrive in the decades to come so that Lander and countless other young people can experience firsthand the magic of the place *where nature & minds meet*.

Sincerely,



Ray McGaughey, Director of Development
Semester 15 Alum (Fall ‘05) | rmcgaughey@hminet.org | (719) 486-8200 x109

IMPACT REPORT

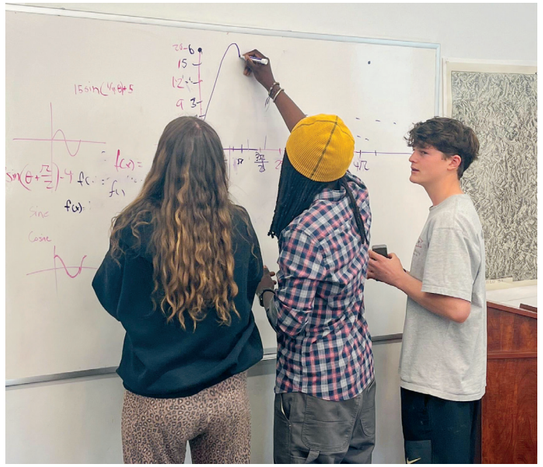


STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

IN 2025-2026 HMI:



Recorded an operating revenue of **$3.7M**



Allocated over **$779,000** towards financial aid



Raised **$1.27M** from **640** donors
to support financial aid, faculty compensation,
and campus improvements

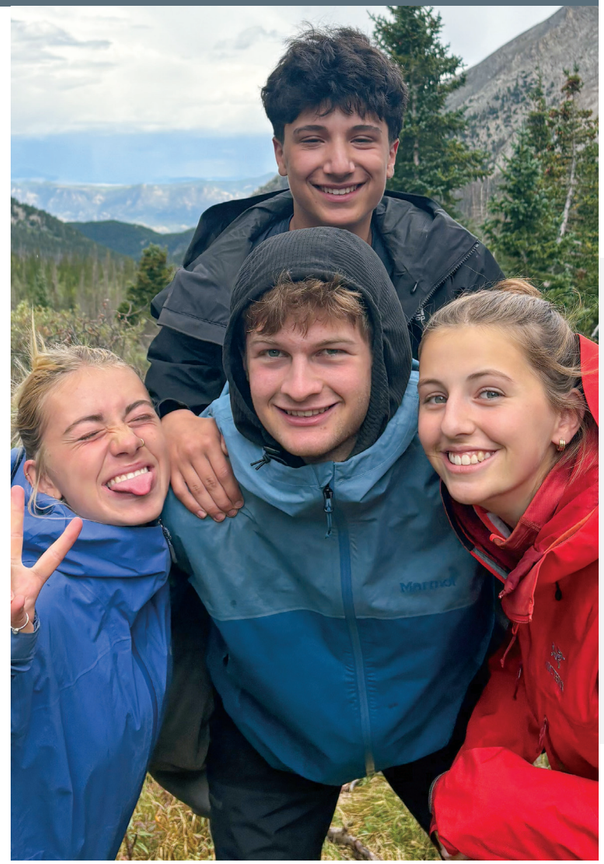


Served **95** students across all programs,
33% of whom received financial aid



Grew our endowment to **$14.6M**

THE HMI FUND & FINANCIAL AID



THE HMI FUND
MAKES OUR
FINANCIAL AID
PROGRAM POSSIBLE.

Tuition alone does not cover the full cost of bringing HMI to life. We depend on our donors to fund 18% of our operating budget each year. The HMI Fund is our annual fundraising effort to fill this budget gap. Donations to the HMI Fund support financial aid, faculty and staff compensation, and campus maintenance.

THIS PAST YEAR HMI:

- **Awarded financial aid to 31 students**, 32.6% of our participants
- **Awarded 2 full scholarships** to local Leadville students
- **Provided free or discounted outdoor gear rental** to **27** students
- **Covered travel expenses** for 2 top financial aid recipients; **provided free hiking boots** to 8 students

For detailed and audited financial statements, please contact Ray McGaughey, Director of Development, at rmcgaughey@hminet.org.





With sincere gratitude, we list the following donors who have supported HMI in Fiscal Year 2026 by making gifts to HMI. Through their generosity, support, and commitment to our school, we can continue to offer transformational experiences *when nature and minds meet.*

This list reflects donations made to the High Mountain Institute between June 1, 2025 and May 31, 2026. We have made every effort to ensure that this list is complete and accurate. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Please contact Ray McGaughey, Director of Development, with any corrections at rmcgaughey@hminet.org.



THE MT. ELBERT CIRCLE ▲

Named for Mt. Elbert, the highest peak in Colorado, the Mt. Elbert Circle recognizes donors who have given consecutively for the last five years or more.

EVERGREEN DONORS

Evergreen Donors help support HMI all year long by making regular monthly donations.

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Christina Davis ▲
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SEMESTER 06

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Cynthia Stuen & William Weisenbach ▲

Thank You Evergreen Donors!

Evergreen Donors commit to HMI with monthly donations. Last year Evergreen Donors donated over $13,000 to support financial aid and teacher salaries.

Become an Evergreen Donor today at hminet.org/donate



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Frank & Susan Ashburn ▲

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Mu Sinclaire
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Samuel Peterson ▲
William Smart
Andrew Spina ▲
Clark Sulloway
Seton Talty ▲
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Alex Potter ▲
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HMI SEMESTER 25 ALUM (FALL 2010)
PACKER COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE '12
AMERICAN UNIVERSITY '16





What does HMI mean to you?

To me, HMI means growth and the bravery to evolve. Before HMI, I often felt the pressure to hold everything together, frequently altering who I was to fit different social expectations. My time at HMI helped me see things differently. It taught me to pause, turn inward and become more comfortable with who I am rather than constantly looking outward for who I should be. Surrounded by a community rooted in deep support and inherent openness, I felt such a strong feeling of belonging and warmth from the very start. The world of what I knew quieted down, creating a safe space for me to ask what I wanted for myself first, and that it was okay to explore the rest later.

Why do you give to HMI philanthropically?

I hope future students have the opportunity to experience the same magic that I did. From cooking Friday night dinners for 50+ people and learning algebra among the aspen trees, to climbing 14ers, these moments—especially at such a pivotal time in life—demonstrate the profound impact of the outdoors, experiential learning, and shared human connection.

Ensuring HMI has the resources to grow while staying true to its foundation is incredibly important to me. Supporting HMI ensures that the experience is accessible to new generations of students who welcome personal growth and take initiative to be part of something bigger than themselves.

What are you up to these days?

I currently live in Washington DC where I work in travel and hospitality. I absolutely adore my industry because it allows me to engage with "sense of place," a concept HMI introduced me to. To develop a sense of place is to build deep ties to a location through lived experiences, shared memories, culture, and history. My work focuses on exploring how that same mindfulness and deep connection to a place can be discovered through travel.

A highlight from this past summer was a trip to Colorado for some "glamping," white-water rafting and light hiking in my old Asolo boots. I especially enjoyed my visit to Leadville and HMI's campus. Walking through the halls again, seeing the new spaces and reminiscing in my favorite spots brought back a rush of memories that filled me with so much joy and gratitude.



2025 SUMMIT CHALLENGE

Congratulations to Semester 54! (Spring '25)

for winning the Alumni Summit Challenge with 83% class participation.

Jay Flynn & Barbara Niles
Christopher & Sarah Woods

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George Downs
Lucie Green

Cali Johnston
Isabella Whelan

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Chad Green
Jeffrey & Hilary Johnston ▲
Anne Pope ▲
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SEMESTER 40
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Genevieve Chiu-Schaepe
Raphaela Donohoe
Olivia Garg
Emma Harlow ▲
Lia Kelly ▲
Anna Mackey
Alaina McGinnis
Ryan Mckinney

Raffi Najarian ▲
Sophie Schadler
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Fiona Noonan
Claire O'Brien

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Nathaniel Cutler
Ava Messick
Elizabeth Payne
Charlotte Powell
Georgia Schwebel
Madeleine Stewart

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APPRENTICES
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Sophie Rockefeller ▲
Eli Webb
Caroline Weihe

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Saya Kim-Suzuki ▲
Lenny Lorenz ▲
Charlotte Maffie
Ryan Sawyer
Julia Scott
Lillian Shattuck
Leela Sridhar
Spencer Wolf ▲

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William & Heather Maffie ▲
Tom & Katrinka McCallum ▲
Nikki Welch ▲
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Georgia Murphy
Max Nelson
Annabelle Swenson
Samuel Yolles ▲

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Winnie & Robert Lerner ▲
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Peter Stoughton & Emily Hertzberg

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Louisa McBride ▲

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Aden Katz
Kaitlyn Pohly
Ella Schweizer ▲
Lauren Trexler
Abby Waisler ▲
Mia White

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Brooke Marx
Eve Mullen
Sophie Parr ▲

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Anna Johnston
Lola Pitman
Maya Singh
Jewell Stillman

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Teo Barrachin
Rosie Binette
Lucy Cutler
Hope Fagan
Nathan French







Nieve Fromhein
Cate Garretson
Sydney Goitia-Doran
Sadie Hale
Charlie Harrison
Andi Hernandez
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Walter Hoffman
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Pearl Strong
Tavi Machin-Kairuz
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Noa Rollman
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Thie Harthono
Suzanna Kopans

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Guillermo Sanchez-Martinez & Fuki Masuzawa
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SEMESTER 51

Siena Esposito
Maddie McGill
Alana Weier
Eli Weinrot

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Robin Junker & Sean Boyce
Trevor & Shannon McGill
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APPRENTICES

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Cali Johnston
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THANKS LEADVILLE 100 VOLUNTEERS!

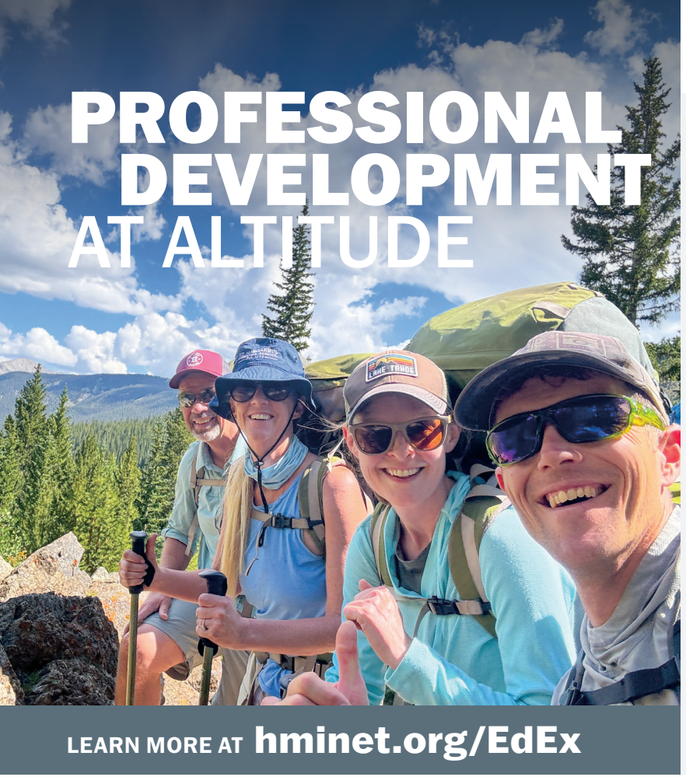


This year was our second year overseeing an HMI aid station at the famous Leadville 100 mountain bike and running races. Thank you to the HMI alumni and families who volunteered, and congratulations to all the finishers!

HMI alumni, families, and former staff are invited to volunteer with us each summer at the 100 Bike and 100 Run races. Volunteers are welcome to stay on HMI's campus.

JOIN US NEXT YEAR!
LT100 Bike: August 14, 2027
LT100 Run: August 21-22, 2027





Each summer, teachers and school administrators from around the U.S. join the HMI Educator's Expedition, a week-long backpacking trip.

Reflected one 2026 participant:

> It was one of the most remarkable things I've ever done — physically incredibly demanding, and also incredibly rewarding. The people (both leaders and participants) make it what it is, and I cannot imagine a better group to spend this time with. I left feeling invigorated and proud."

SEMESTER 52

Sydney Huttner
Trygve Jordahl
Nelson Rice
Avery Thorpe
Oona Weiler

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Harald & Calliope Jordahl
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Charlie Ballenger
Addie Kearns
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Clara Mann
Edie Menard
Leyla Somani
Sammy Wasserman
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SEMESTER 54

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Georgia Clews
Lily Currie
Mack Goldring
Charlotte Goltra
Andrew Gorman
Kate Gregg
Lars Heraeus
Tessa Hicks
Vivian Jones
Amelia Madrigal
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Kate Gregg
Sadie Hale
Claire Harpel
Reesa Hylton
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Katie Overstrum
Hope Vetromile
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Charles Riley
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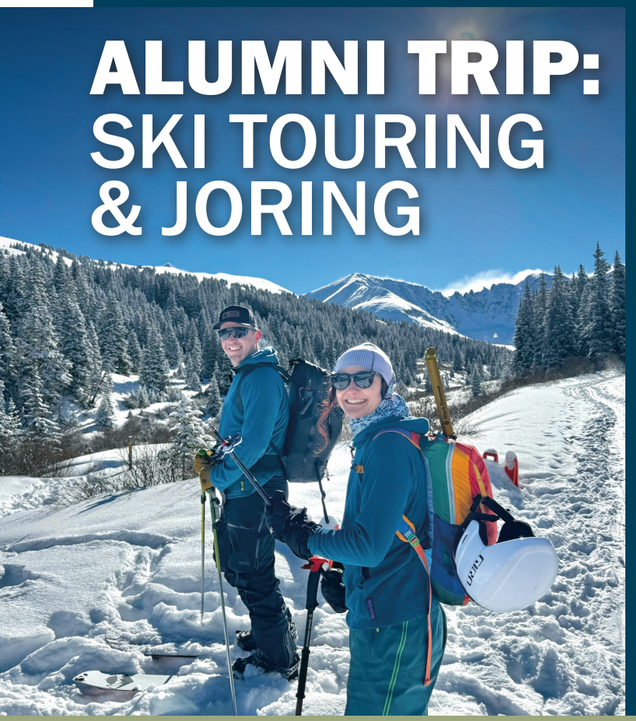

HMI alumni, former staff, and friends are invited to join us this year in Leadville for an unforgettable Alumni Trip!

▶ March 4 - 7, 2027 * **$500/participant**

Ski Touring & Joring

Nowhere does winter quite like Leadville. This four-day trip involves a day of skiing at Ski Cooper and a day of backcountry ski touring in the mountains around Leadville. After the ski tour, participants will enjoy Leadville's legendary Ski Joring competition, where skiers pulled by horses whip down Main Street to the cheers of thousands of spectators.

HMI parents are welcome if participating with an alum.



LEARN MORE AT **hminet.org/alumnitrips**

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!



The following lists recognize some of the people who have contributed their time and talent to advance our school over the past year. Their spirit of service is inspiring!

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TEL 719-486-8200

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Make your gift online: **hminet.org/give**
or via Venmo (@highmtninstitute)

HMI