



The Garfield County Inspire Initiative – January 2017 Update

What is the Inspire Initiative?

The *Inspire Initiative* is a Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) initiative focused on *influencing Coloradans, particularly kids, to appreciate, enjoy and take care of our great outdoors.* In July 2017 we will apply for \$1 to 3 million in implementation grants for communities in Western Garfield County (New Castle-Parachute).

Now is the time to submit a proposal!

The Garfield County Inspire Steering Committee is accepting proposals for PROGRAMS/PATHWAYS (**due February 8th at 4pm**) and PLACES (**due February 9th at 4pm**) and from organizations interested in implementing projects that can help us meet the outcomes (see below) identified by youth leader research. See Dana for a proposal application. All proposals must be emailed to Dana Wood at dwood@garfield-county.com.

Outcomes Identified by Youth Research

In the Summer and Fall of 2016, Youth Advisory Councils in Parachute/Battlement Mesa, Rifle, and New Castle researched the barriers and opportunities for connecting youth with our natural surroundings. A Youth Summit was held in November to discuss and share ideas. The top six “Outcomes” that proposals should seek to implement are:

INSPIRE OUTCOMES

1. Connect kids to natural resources through a diversity of “**scaffolded programs**” for students from Pre-K to 20 years old. Help implement the "**Garfield County Youth Passport**" idea.
2. Provide **access to gear** for outdoor learning and recreation.
3. Partner with **schools** to supplement outdoor learning experiences
4. Provide natural experiences with **water**.
5. Provide **transportation connections** to natural experiences, including through pedestrian, bike, and motorized means.
6. Create a **sustainable structure** for the initiative. How will we continue our efforts beyond 3 years of funding?

Upcoming Timeline

Feb 2nd: Steering Committee meeting

Feb 7th: Presentation to Board of County Commissioners

Feb 8th: PROGRAMS/PATHWAYS proposals due by 4pm

Feb 9th: PLACES proposals due by 4pm

Feb 16th: Partners meeting to review and discuss proposals

March 10th: “PLACES” design workshops in New Castle, Rifle and Parachute/Battlement Mesa