

HEADWATERS SCIENCE INSTITUTE ANNUAL REPORT 2025



HEADWATERS
SCIENCE INSTITUTE

FOSTERING CURIOSITY
THROUGH SCIENCE

DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Dear friends,

In 2025, Headwaters served 2,996 students, each one stepping into science not just as a subject, but as a way of seeing the world. Together, we are building something powerful. We're teaching students to chase big ideas fearlessly, face challenges with confidence, and believe that no problem is too big to solve. This report highlights some of our proudest moments and the collective impact made possible by this community.

This was a year of meaningful growth and firsts. In our first year partnering with the Alpenglow Winter Speaker Series, we raised nearly \$100,000 to expand access to our programs. These funds helped launch a new summer camp voucher program, providing free or reduced-cost camp experiences to students at our partner schools.

We continued to push towards our goal of expanding school programs, and saw our strongest growth in West Contra Costa County, expanding from five to seven school partnerships. We also brought back our summer camps, welcoming 150 students/day for four weeks, and marked our largest summer yet in the Tahoe/Truckee region. Experiences like these leave a lasting imprint on students as they discover their sense of belonging in science and imagine new possibilities for the future.

This year also tested our resilience. After the December fire that destroyed our Bay Area storage unit, we faced the loss of essential equipment and materials. Yet, even in that challenge, our mission felt clearer than ever. Science education matters. Access matters. Community matters. We have been rebuilding what was lost with renewed determination for what lies ahead.

2025 AT A GLANCE



43%

increase in students served



\$140K+

raised in donations



75%

of schools we served qualify as low-income

Looking toward 2026, we are energized. We are expanding our team, strengthening outreach, securing new grants, and continuing to grow our school partnerships so that even more students can experience science as something they do, not just something they read about.

Above all else, we are filled with immense gratitude for the educators, volunteers, partners, and generous supporters who make this work possible. Together, we equip the next generation with the knowledge, skills, and curiosity needed to steward a thriving planet for years to come.

Thank you for believing in this work. Thank you for believing in our students.

Here's to another year of amazing questions, muddy boots, bright ideas, and science that changes lives,

Megan Seifert

Executive Director

2025 PROGRAM IMPACTS



2,996

Students



62

Total Programs



46

Schools Served



28,875

Student Days of Instruction

AT HEADWATERS, STUDENTS BUILD CONFIDENCE AS SCIENTISTS AND LEARN THAT NO PROBLEM IS TOO BIG FOR THEM TO SOLVE. THROUGH SCIENCE EDUCATION, WE HELP CREATE INFORMED CITIZENS WHO ENGAGE WITH THE WORLD IN MORE THOUGHTFUL AND EMPATHETIC WAYS.

97% OF STUDENTS REPORTED AN IMPROVED OUTLOOK ON NATURE-RELATED TOPICS AFTER PARTICIPATING IN OUR PROGRAMS.

"Me and my peers come from low resource backgrounds and I hope we can do similar programs in the future. I enjoyed connecting with nature and exploring the natural world."

"My favorite part about this program was gathering data. I did a project about water, and how the distance from shore affects water pH, temperature, clarity, and cleanliness. I love science because I get to answer questions about the world, and solve problems through research."

KEY METRICS

* Our post program survey results show that kids feel more confident in school and are more excited about science after participating in our programs.



* Curiosity fuels discovery (and fun)! Our surveys show that students are more curious to learn new things after participating in our programs.



HEAR IT FROM THE STUDENTS:

***"It was an unforgettable experience.** My favorite part was wading through the lake with my group of new friends collecting data for our project. It was so much fun and I would like to do it again. **I loved this experience of conducting research like a real scientist** and I am so happy that I got to do this."*

"This experience was priceless, I really enjoyed working and doing something different. We normally don't have field trips, so I think this was a great opportunity for growth."

"I learned so much that I didn't even know was a thing or possible to find evidence or even gather data on and it felt amazing to know and be able to express my excitement for something new I did."

"I really enjoyed the experience, I felt like doing hands-on work helped me better understand what research I was doing and it helped me grasp how much work and effort goes into doing scientific research."

"I am so grateful for this experience. When I was in 6th grade, I really wanted to be a scientist, but I was frustrated that we never once conducted an experiment in science class. This program is so unique because it allows us to carry out our own experiments like actual scientists."



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

OVERALL PROGRAMS

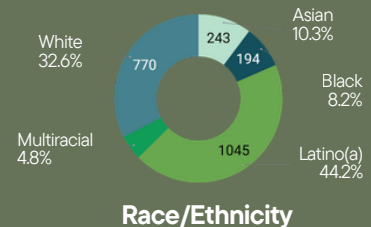
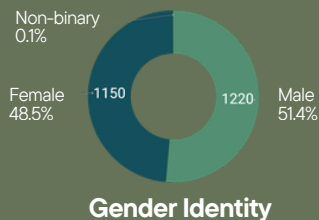


97%

reported increased confidence when applying the scientific method

96%

reported being more curious to learn new things



MIDDLE SCHOOL



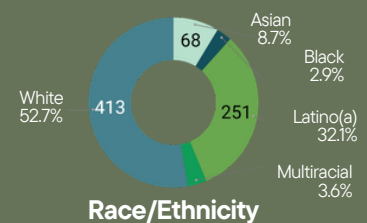
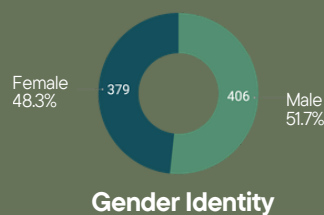
96%

had increased confidence when analyzing a set of data

90%

reported being more interested in a science-related career

**55% low-income families*



HIGH SCHOOL



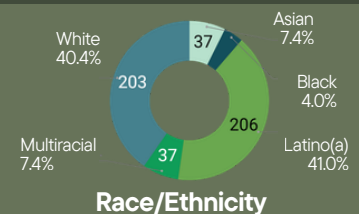
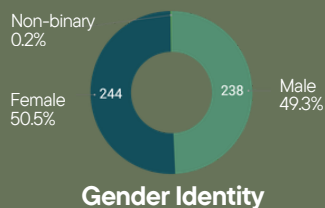
99%

were more confident when communicating scientific findings

98%

had an improved outlook on nature-related topics

**46% low-income families*



**61% low-income families*

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

91%

of students agreed they were in charge of their own project

87%

felt this program helped them learn how to fix problems

**67% low-income families*

SUMMER CAMPS

90%

of students agreed this program helped them want to learn new things

89%

agreed this program made it easier for them to talk to scientists

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

***** “I learned a lot about gathering and analyzing data in a way that allows me to learn and gather a lot of information from it. My favorite part of the program was getting to work with peers and explore my unique and interesting topic. I enjoyed the independence and the level of responsibility that I was given.”

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

90%

of students agreed that they learned new skills in scientific literacy

90%

of students agreed that they gained confidence in problem-solving.

90%

of students agreed that they learned something they would not have in a regular science class.





FINANCIAL REPORT

Funding makes it possible for Headwaters to pursue our mission of fostering curiosity through science. Support from donors, grants, and partners allowed us to bring hands-on science programs to more students than ever before in 2025, reaching a total of 2,996 students.

As interest in our programs grows, this support helps us expand our reach each year, serving more students and offering new ways for young people to explore and connect with science.



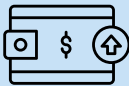
Increase in net assets

\$820,381



Total Revenue

\$1,580,488



Total Program Expenditure

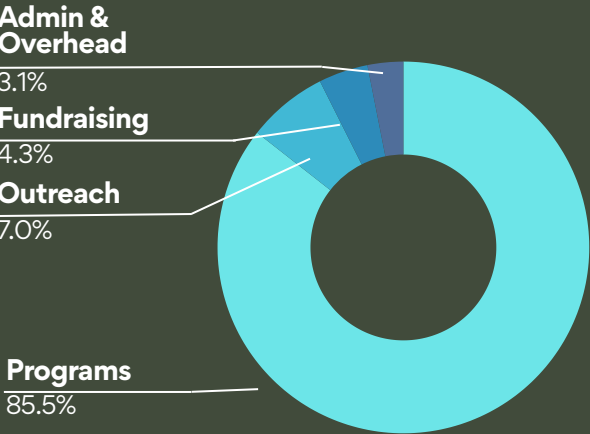
\$760,107

FINANCIAL DETAILS

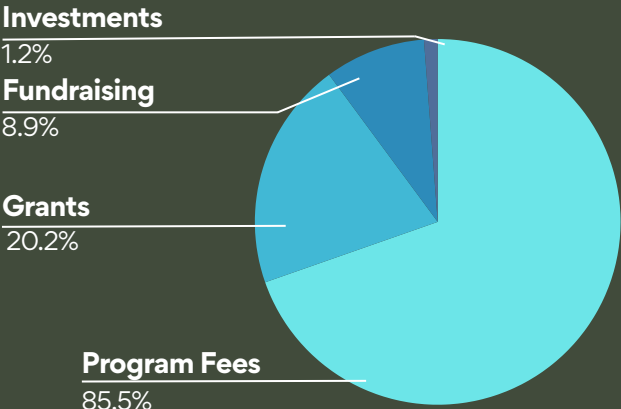
In 2025, demand for our programs continued to grow, with a 43% increase in students served. At the same time, more schools are facing tighter budgets and increasingly rely on outside funding to offer programs like ours. To support this growth, we worked to increase our funding sources, with a particular focus on securing grants. Grant funding nearly tripled from 2024 to 2025, helping make our programs accessible for more schools.

As participation grows, so do the costs of delivering high-quality programming. Program expenses increased again this year, reflecting staff time, travel costs, park permits, insurance, and supplies needed to serve more students. Outreach and fundraising expenses remained steady or decreased, allowing more resources to go directly toward programs. Overall, our net assets strengthened, increasing by 208% from 2024 to 2025.

Fiscal Year Ends December 31st	2023	2024	2025
Donations	\$104,996	\$99,173	\$140,390
Program Fees	\$589,976	\$682,053	\$1,098,641
Grants	\$74,313	\$120,519	\$319,830
Investments			\$19,384
Outreach	\$2,221	\$2,352	\$2,243
Total Revenue	\$771,506	\$925,620	\$1,580,488
Total Program Expenses	\$495,122	\$521,284	\$650,228
Outreach	\$68,221	\$57,990	\$53,365
Fundraising	\$28,810	\$33,815	\$32,854
Overhead	\$23,316	\$18,347	\$23,660
Total Expenditure	\$615,469	\$659,559	\$760,107
Increase in Net Assets	\$156,037	\$266,060	\$820,381



2025 Expenditures



2025 Funding Sources

THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 DONORS

1% FOR THE PLANET

Nature's Way
Silver Sage Center for Family
Medicine

IN-KIND DONATIONS

BioQuest
Data Classroom
QuestionPro
RePicture

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Alpenglow Sports
Bass Pro Shops
Powdr Corp
Bristol Myers Squibb
Community Foundation of the
Alleghenies
Community Foundation of
Westmoreland County
Costco Wholesale
Dawn Foods
Kiwanis North Tahoe
Leshner Foundation
Martis Camp Community
Foundation
Rotary International
Soroptimist Truckee
Stream2Sea
Tahoe Mountain Resorts
Teichert Family Foundation
Truckee Airport Foundation
Truckee Community
Foundation
Truckee Donner Land Trust
Vulcan Materials Company
Whale Tail
Whole Foods
Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

CORPORATE DONORS

Adobe
Apple
Marsh & McLennan
Companies
Mountain Hardware
Mountain Home Center
Nature's Way Market of
Greensburg
New Moon Natural Foods
Okta
Paypal Giving Fund
Pfizer
Tahoe Forest Hospital
Villager Nursery Inc.
Visa
W.N. Tuscano Agency
Wayfair
Wood Rodgers Inc

INDIVIDUAL DONORS

\$2,000+

Peter Lipman
Donna Luisi
Ryan Offutt
Rob and Teri Tuscano
Kitty and Barry Tuscano
Jeff Yee

\$500 - \$1,999

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Karen Axelsson
Ray Boehm
Adam and Christine Boyd
Richard Burkert
Jim and Ann Christol
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Phillip Dietz-Zeyliger
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Lynnette and Alan Eusden
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Nina-Sophie and Benjamin
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Christine Kerns
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Jack Maher
Nick Pavlina
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Karen Seaward
Megan and Ambrose
Seifert/Tuscano
The Sekar Family
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Stanback/Popkin
Loreli Trippel
Virginia and Mike
Tuscano/Ledgard
Pamela Wong

\$250 - \$499

Regina Benson
Eric Blum
Brad Eccles
Ronald Fontanetta
Phyllis Hamblet
Ralph Hendrix
Shawna Johnson
Jeff Kennedy
Eric and MaryBeth
Larusson
Shandon and Andy
Lloyd/Tucker
Kimberly Maguire
Celeste and David Reid
Christina Sally

\$100 - \$249

Daniel Andes
Alec and Amy Atkin
Mary Ellen Benier
Jill Bonvicin
Juliet Bradey
Ryan Brainard
Deborah Braver
Michelle Broggi
Kelley and Paige
Carroll/Derdowski
Geoffrey Carson
Gretchen Corbin
Elaine and Donald Cottle
Jenn and Chris Cotton
Bruce Culbertson
Anthony Dailley
Emily and Jeff
Desfor/Schloss
Douglas DeVore
Vincent Dhillon
Deborah Espinola
Michelle and Gerard
Furbershaw
Ashley Furbershaw
Barbara Goddard
Prashanth Gowda
Anna Greenberg
Eldon Greenberg
Susan Greenberg
Erin Haase
Julie Halvorsen
Robert Hamblet
Edward Hilton

Nathaniel Jobe
Cheryl and Wayne
Johnston
Audra Katona
Katrin Larusson
Diep Le
Nathaniel and Juliana
Leachman/Ruzante
Albert Lee
Mayling Leong
Rebecca Linebaugh
Kian McCarthy
Phyllis McConn
Nora Naylor
Caroline Nunan Hill
Louise Nunan Taylor
Claudia and Phillip
Ohara/Valope
Hardy Phippen
Ann Reisenauer
David Riggs
Jose Rivero
Ellen Rodarte
Jim Ruane
Barbara Salinger-Brown
John and Sidney Scott
Gretchen and Karen
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Susan Shideler
Wendy Shray
Nancy Wallis
Anna and Joachim
Wettermark
Joanna Wise Bradman
Roderick Wong

Joan Yen
Ashley Yowell

\$25 - \$99

Dan and Beth Alvey
Danae Anderson
Mark Barnum
Douglas Beeman
Katie Bruner
Timothy Choi
Christine and Paul Close
Richard and Alice Cocke
Arthur Cohn
Marieanne Cullen
Rob Curran
Ciera Dahlstedt
Rochelle Devault
Daniel Dudek
Savannah Dugger
Caitlin Eusden
Spencer Eusden
Paddy Farley
Victor Gee
Maxim Greenberg
Catherine Hanson
Charlotte Hegle
Sarah Hoyle
Nathaniel Jobe
Megan Joyce
Christina Karkhanis
Tracie Kersten
Kimberly and Nicholas
King
David Lentz

Michelle Lisowski
Mike Maher
Patricia Malberg
Kelly Martin
Adelia McGregor
Susan Mortenson
Patrick Norton
Robert Parson
Anna Patty
Devin Ramdutt
Jenny Rassuchine
Tammy Rodeback
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Mary Jean Sawyer
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MK Schumaker
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THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

This work would not be possible without the countless hours contributed by our volunteers and board of directors. Your dedication makes this work possible, and we are so grateful for all that you do to support science education!

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

VOLUNTEER WITH US

We're always looking for volunteers who want to get involved in bringing science education to students! Let us know if you are interested in getting involved.

www.headwatersscienceinstitute.org/donate/volunteer

BE A SCIENCE STEWARD

Headwaters Science Stewards help provide a sustainable revenue source through monthly donations. This allows us to take a long-term approach to funding ongoing projects and rolling out new programs. Science Stewards receive: shoutouts in our newsletters, early access to summer camp registration, an end of year Thank You Gift, invitations to exclusive donor events, and endless appreciation.

www.headwatersscienceinstitute.org/donate

BUY MERCHANDISE

Purchase tees, hats, hoodies, and more to sport new Headwaters gear, now all year round! Visit the shop and represent Headwaters wherever you go.

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