



Idaho Trails Association | P.O. Box 165 | Boise, Idaho 83701  
[www.idahotrailsassociation.org](http://www.idahotrailsassociation.org)

**Organization: Idaho Trails Association**

**Project Title: Youth Trails Program**

**Grant Amount: \$13,800**

**Objectives and Outcomes:**

The purpose of this grant was to build a youth-based backcountry program that focused on underprivileged youth across the state of Idaho. The grant helped provide funding to plan and build this program and provide one weeklong backcountry project in the Wood River/Blaine county area for youth from the same area. After several false starts during the first few months of developing this program we finally found the I Have a Dream Foundation and Pamela Dosono. She liked our proposal and had access to the type of youth we were looking for, youth that may never have the opportunity for this kind of experience. It took some time to gain the trust of the youth and parents but after a day hike with them up to Baker lake things improved. We had a crew of 10 initially sign up for the week in Apollo Creek and 6 dropped out in the week leading up to the project. So, for the weeklong project we had 4 youth from *I have a dream* and one from the Boise valley. The project work was completed, and the youth had a wonderful time.

**Impact:**

This opportunity created a program that is farther reaching than we expected. Once the talk was getting around that ITA was building this program other school districts and organizations wanted to be involved. We received a grant from the Laura Moore Cunningham Foundation to have another project that was completed this year and a third project working with a youth therapy group in the Middle Fork of the salmon River country. We were planning and hoping to accomplish this much over the next 3 years. We have worked with 25 youth from Boise, Council, Hailey and Jerome/Twin Falls area already this season. We have partner requests from Northern and central Idaho to build this program. So, the impact to us is hugely positive and the number of kids we are reaching is exceeding our expectations. Comment from a participant:

*"This experience was one that I will remember and cherish for the rest of my life. My experience was different from the others on the trip because I was the only girl on a nine-person trail crew. At first, I was wracked with nerves about being the only girl surrounded by new people. However, one of the great parts of the trip was the expectation of each member. I was expected to complete the same duties and responsibilities as the boys instead of getting stuck with jobs that weren't as physically demanding. This mentality of treating everyone as equals made the trip so enjoyable. I was respected by everyone and made friends with all the guys, instead of being alienated as the only female member of the team. The relationships and memories that I formed on this trip will last a lifetime."*



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The crew



New sign



confidence building

**Project Budget:**

Expenses	Expense overage	WRWF	Total cost	Explanation
salaries	\$1500	\$4160	\$5660	Planning/change plans/replan/project implementation
Contract Services	\$260	\$5720	\$6000	Councilor wages, Pack support/manual editing/legal review
travel	\$500	\$710	\$1210	Mileage for events.
Equipment		\$1350	\$1350	Tents, sleeping bags, pads, kitchen, stoves
Supplies (Meals)	\$400	\$1260	\$1660	\$140 per week x 12 people.
Printing		\$100	\$100	printer cartridges, paper
Marketing		\$200	\$200	Flyers
Transportation reimbursement	\$100	\$300	\$400	Mileage for shuttles.

We were over in many expense categories due to having to have more meetings with schools and parents. We also added a one-day hike to build confidence with the parents and youth. Also, planning and re-planning the project due to unforeseen issues, snow, knee injuries, etc.