

# THE PATHFINDER



Winter 2023

## DIRECTOR'S UPDATE



2023 was a year of continued rebuilding and growth for Pathfinder Ranch. For the first time since spring of 2020, all programs returned in full. Schools returned for Outdoor Education, campers were eager to get back to week long sessions of Summer Camp, and retreat groups turned out in force to hold mission specific camps and gatherings. It was so nice to hear the sound of laughter and see people enjoying themselves daily.

I want to thank those who contributed this year. Donations are a big part of providing quality programming and facilities and those who were able to contribute made a true difference in the lives of all who visited the Ranch.

I would ask that anyone interested in helping in 2024, consider a year-end or recurring gift. Donations can be directed toward specific interests like summer camp and outdoor education scholarships, general operations, maintaining facilities, or supporting our farm and animals. Any amount helps and I cannot overstate how much impact donors have on the future of our youth.

I am looking forward to 2024, which will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pathfinder Ranch. We are working hard to ensure that each and every program continues to improve and provide the social, emotional, physical and educational resources the children of our community need.

Happy Holidays!

- Chris Fife, Executive Director

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Pathfinder Ranch received a grant this year supporting a new Family Outdoor Education program. This program was designed to further our vision of inspiring and empowering students to be environmental and social agents of change by sharing the outdoor experience of students who have participated in our school program with their families.

The Family Outdoor Education program consisted of 12 sessions, held on weekends throughout the fall. We were pleased to see so many families take advantage of this new program and hope to offer similar opportunities in the new year.





## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

A great big thank you to all of our volunteers who weren't afraid to roll up their sleeves and make a difference. Help came in a number of ways this year including gardening, camp beautification projects, event setup and assistance (winter luminaries), and invasive species removal.

A special shout out to our volunteer Board and Committee members who provided their expertise in a variety of areas.

Anyone interested in volunteering is encouraged to give us call at 951-659-2455 or visit our website (<https://pathfinderranch.com/volunteer/>) for more information.



## CALENDAR

Here are a few upcoming events to keep an eye on.

**Now, Summer Camp Hiring** – If you are looking to join our summer camp team, don't wait until the last minute. New applicants can apply by visiting <https://pathfinderranch.com/employment/> for a list of available positions. Returning employees can apply by contacting [summercamp@pathfinderranch.com](mailto:summercamp@pathfinderranch.com).

**February 5 – March 5, CV Giving Day** - We are pleased to, once again, to participate in the Desert Community Foundation's Coachella Valley Giving Day. CV Giving Day allows the entire Coachella Valley to raise money and awareness for local non-profit organizations. This year's donations will help directly impact summer camp and outdoor education scholarships, program equipment, and special programs, including animal feed and care. The Day of Giving takes place on March 5, 2024, and if you're thinking one day just isn't enough, you would be correct. Early donations will gladly be accepted beginning February 5, thru March 4, 2024. The website to donate is <https://www.cvgivingday.org/organization/pathfinderranch>

**February 24, Palm Springs Pathfinders Gala** – This annual gala event held by the Palm Springs Pathfinders supports both Pathfinder Ranch and the Boys & Girls Club of Palm Springs. Tickets and information can be obtained by visiting <https://palmsspringspathfinders.org/>



PATHFINDER



RANCH

### Pathfinder Ranch

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*Pathfinder Ranch is an 501(c)3 Summer Camp and Outdoor Education School as well as  
Retreat & Conference Center.*