

EL PASO COUNTY
YOUTH PROGRAMMING DIRECTORY

Table of Contents

NONPROFITS

- Colorado Springs
 - Accessibility
 - Arts
 - Education
 - Foster Care
 - Housing
 - LGBTQIA+/Allies
 - Mental Health Services
 - Outdoor Education
 - Restorative Justice
 - Sports
 - Trauma-Informed/Survivor Support
 - Youth Advocacy
 - Youth Empowerment
 - Other Youth Programs
- Monument
- Manitou Springs

SCHOOL PROGRAMS

- Elementary School Specific
- Middle School Specific
- High School Specific
- Elementary, Middle School, and High School
- Substance Use Resources

NOTE: This directory was composed through the lens of youth development; many of the organizations listed do not solely engage with youth.

Youth specific organizations are identified with a (Y).

COLORADO SPRINGS

ACCESSIBILITY

Discover Goodwill

<https://www.discovermygoodwill.org>

Mission: dedicated to helping people reach their highest level of personal and economic independence

**national program*

In addition to an array of adult services for individuals with disabilities, seniors, veterans, and low-income individuals, Discover Goodwill offers youth specific programming. The "Work Experience Program" provides one-on-one job skill training for high school students with learning challenges. "Possibilities" fosters highly interactive programming for individuals with disabilities to develop life skills; participants engage in stimulatory activities in a realistic learning environment and are able to move through the program at their own pace.

PEAK Parent Center (M)

<https://www.peakparent.org>

Mission: to provide training, information and technical assistance to equip families of children birth through twenty-six including all disability conditions with strategies to advocate successfully for their children. As a result of PEAK's services to families and professionals, children and adults with disabilities will live rich, active lives participating as full members of schools and communities

PEAK Parent Center provides support and resources for self-advocates and their families to navigate the educational system and community resources. Services include youth & parent advising/trainings and transition programs for youth independence (goal setting and information about how to access adult resources). The organization also engages thend info6(e)-5(s 7 Tm0 g]ETQq04/5(l) Tm0 0 G7(nd)-4()21)-5(5(so)] TJ2(sou)-3 nBT/F2 11 Tf0 G[(a

ARTS

Bemis School of Art

<https://artschool.csfineartscenter.org>

The Bemis School of Art facilitates art and theater programming for all ages. A variety of art classes for all skill levels are offered, often incorporating exploration of the Fine Arts Center Museum. Bemis also develops special programming for local organizations/populations such as D11 elementary students. 2-week summer musical theater programs are also available for youth ages 8-13.

Hear, Here! Poetry

<http://www.hearherepoetry.org>

"Hear Here Poetry...exists to encourage everyone to listen, write, share, and engage. We sponsor four monthly events and are actively involved in poetry education and performances in our local schools and community"

Hear, Here! empowers youth to explore their emotions and openly express themselves through poetry composition and spoken word. Their youth program (ages 13-19) hosts workshops and open mic/poetry slams. Additionally, the organization develops tailored workshops for elementary, middle, and high school students who are a part of school programs, group homes, and treatment centers.

Imagination Celebration

<https://www.imaginationcelebration.org>

Mission: we connect people of all ages to the brain-stimulating, community-building, life-

EDUCATION

Educating Children of Color (Y)

<https://educatingchildrenofcolor.org/>

Mission: to dismantle the cradle-to-prison pipeline for children of color and children in poverty through education

Educating Children of Color facilitates diversity education for local community professionals through annual conferences: Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Education and Diversity University. The organization supports students directly through accessible SAT preparation classes, scholarship opportunities, and the annual Inspire award.

Peak Education (Y)

<https://www.peakedu.org>

"comprehensive, community-based pre-collegiate program serving scholars and their families from middle school through college years and beyond"

PEAK Education supports students with lower socioeconomic backgrounds from middle school through college completion with college and career readiness, leadership development, family involvement, and community engagement. Middle schoolers are introduced to the program with experiences to develop goal setting, self-advocacy, and resilience. High schoolers form community connections, learn financial literacy skills, and are guided through the college application process. Postsecondary support is also available through continued check-ins and scholarships.

FOSTER CARE

Fostering Hope (Y)

<https://www.fosteringhopefoundation.org>

Mission: affirming and supporting foster parents in their task of caring for abused and neglected children

"Rooted in the power of loving, enduring relationships and healing"

Fostering Hope has three programs to support foster families and youth, focusing on providing spaces for children to heal from trauma by developing a sense of belonging and identity. The Core Program connects volunteers from local faith communities to support foster families and kids in an effort to enrich and establish a communal network. The Teen Intern Partnership connects with TwoCor to give youth opportunities for employment navigation. The Foster Adulthood follows youth 18+ in their transition out of the program with housing and transportation support and healthy relationships.

Hope & Home (Y)

<https://hopeandhome.org>

Mission: as a nondenominational Christian charity, Hope & Home trains and actively supports foster families all across the Front Range

Hope & Home uses a missionary work approach to foster care, focusing on the needs and emotions of children in the foster system in an effort to create permanence whether that be returning to birth parents or moving through the adoption process. The organization offers a comprehensive training program for parents and continual guidance through classes (via "Hope & Home University")

dating violence/suicide prevention, community resilience, and self-advocacy as well as a food/clothing pantry and Friday night recreation activities.

***contact Angelina for more information**

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

National Alliance on Mental Illness

<https://www.namicoloradosprings.org>

Mission: to educate, support and advocate for people and families who are living with mental illness in the Pikes Peak region

NAMI provides direct support groups for adults experiencing mental illness and their families. The organization also engages in community outreach through workshops and presentations in order to educate and break stigma. For youth, NAMI facilitates a 50min high-school presentation called "Ending the Silence" facilitated by an individual with personal experience. They overview symptoms of mental illness, coping strategies, and resources.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Catamount Institute (Y)

<https://www.catamountinstitute.org>

Mission: We connect kids to outdoor science education and adventures. It is here that kids learn they have the powerful ability to change the world around them and even as kids they can make a difference.

Catamount Institute fosters youth outdoor education through connections with local schools to facilitate field trips and implement Young Environmental Stewards (YES) clubs. Summer camps focus on outdoor skills, developing awareness of one's surroundings, and team building through activities at local parks.

- YES club (grades 4-5): In this semester-long after-school program,

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

Colorado Springs Teen Court (Y)

<http://www.csteencourt.org>

Mission: empowering our youth through restorative justice for a brighter future

Colorado Springs Teen Court provides an alternative program to the standard juvenile court system. Rooted in restorative justice, defendants are holistically interviewed and sentenced for misdemeanors by fellow peers in the community. Sentences are viewed as paths for growth and thus are highly individualized—they can include life skills trainings, community impact panels, substance use education, sports or art classes, and creative projects. All participants complete community service and serve on a peer jury for higher level cases.

***contact Maddie or Chloe for more information**

SPORTS

TwoCor Projects (Y)
<https://www.twocor.org>

OTHER YOUTH PROGRAMS

Big Brothers Big Sisters-Pikes Peak (Y)

<https://biglittlcolorado.org>

Mission: provide children facing adversity with strong and enduring professionally supported one-to-one relationships that change their lives for the better, forever

Mentorship programs include: Community Mentor (pairs meet between two to four times each month with a minimum commitment of a year), Sport Buddies (bonding through participatory or spectator sporting events),

MONUMENT

TEEN EDUCATION/EMPOWERMENT

RAD Program [via Ryan Pappas Memorial Foundation] (Y)

<https://ppymca.org/programs/youth/teens/rad-program>

Mission: provide Safe and Sober alternative activities for high school students, educate our high school youth with meaningful, impactful, and factual Drug and Alcohol risk information, and provide scholarships for D38 high schools seniors who positively impact their peers and community

The RAD program provides a sober, inclusive space on Friday nights for high school students to participate in party alternatives such in indoor soccer/volleyball/basketball, ping-pong/foosball, board/video games, etc. Current chapters are at D38 high schools: *Palmer Ridge High* and *Lewis Palmer High*. This program is in conjunction with the YMCA.

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPECIFIC

HIGH SCHOOL SPECIFIC

Colorado College Student Organizations (Y)

<https://www.coloradocollege.edu/offices/campusactivities/student-organizations-leadership/index.html>

- **Tesla Mentors:** *Tesla High (D11)*
Mentors facilitate goal-setting and post-high school planning.

ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND HIGH SCHOOL

Sources of Strength (Y)

<https://sourcesofstrength.org>

Mission: provide the highest quality evidence-based prevention for suicide, violence, bullying and substance abuse by training, supporting, and empowering both peer leaders and caring adults to impact their world through the power of connection, hope, help and strength

**national program*

Sources of Strength develops resources to facilitate an in-school peer social network that cultivates open discussions/narrative-telling to preventively approach suicide, bullying, and substance abuse. Nominated peers receive training on materials/activities and later work with adult advisors (educational staff or community members). These programs emphasize connections between peers and trusting adults as well as promote overall wellness.

Partnerships with:

Janitell Junior High (D3), Sproul Junior High (D3), Colorado Springs Charter Academy (D11), Palmer High (D11), Legacy Peak Elementary (D20), Chinook Trail Middle (D20), Discovery Canyon Campus (D20), Rampart High (D20), Pine Creek High (D20), and Lewis Palmer High (D38).