

# Outdoor Pursuits

## What Does Outdoor Pursuits Mean to You?

Dear Columbus Outdoor Pursuits supporter,

I wrote you last year with a plea to save Columbus Outdoor Pursuits (COP), and there was an overwhelming level of financial support to help us survive another year. We made it through the COVID pandemic and still are operational. Many of our peer nonprofit organizations weren't so fortunate. **Without your support in 2022 we would have ceased operations. Thank you!**

We have operated on severely limited resources in 2022. We employed only **one staff member for the past year**—delivering all the events, communications, and administrative work of COP that had previously employed up to three staff members.

However, with the COVID restrictions lifted, we were able to resume traditional COP activities and events. And, despite our limited resources, we delivered!

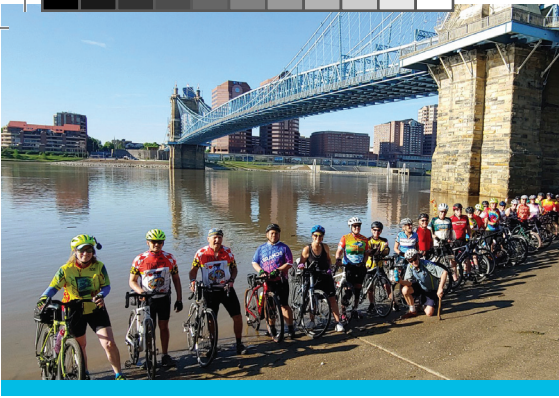
- GOBA had nearly 800 registered participants and was a substantial increase over the Western Ohio Bicycle Adventure in 2021. We fully expect to be back to pre-pandemic participation levels in 2023.
- The new Ohio to Erie Trail Adventure (OETA) nearly sold out. It was a south to north ride on the Ohio to Erie Trail with hotels for overnights. It was a tremendous success.
- XOBA, which is a cross state ride the last week of July continues and will be on the calendar for 2023. This event is a gem for which there is a sizable market; it will be a priority to build this back to one of the region's premiere destination, full-service tours.
- The 61<sup>st</sup> TOSRV continued its tradition as the longest ongoing bicycle tour in the United States. Ridership continues to decline, and for 2023 we will continue to enhance the experience that will increase participation with today's cyclists.
- The Cycling Series (10 single-day rides) had over 1,000 riders and offered short, medium, and century options. Most of these rides have been offered for 35-45 years!

***We delivered 16,777 unique, participant days, of Columbus Outdoor Pursuits event activities in 2022!***

In addition to the safe, full-service bicycle tour experiences above, COP delivered:

- A full schedule of recurring, weeknight training rides,
- A monthly hiking or backpacking outing,
- Guided kayak excursions on the Scioto River for over 700 people,
- Guided urban bicycle tours and various stewardship (river clean-up) events.





Thanks to your financial support last year, we were able to maintain the bare minimum operations to keep the doors open for our proud organization. **However, the delivery of our core events and activities with only one staff person is not sustainable.**

Our primary need for 2023 is to hire an additional part to full-time employee. Our current employee was hired to direct GOBA and TOSRV...a mighty task itself for one staff member. However, his coverage of all the other staff roles for our organization during this extremely challenging period, has been a blessing.

We must build more human resources for COP if we are to continue delivering what our membership and audiences expect from us. Volunteer support has always served us well; however, we've always needed professional staff to deliver our mission.

We want to remind you that Columbus Outdoor Pursuits is more than a club offering events to serve its members. Before the pandemic, the proceeds from our signature events provided over thirty years of grants and resources to fund other outdoor programs and activities that have lasting impact on our Ohio communities. For example, we've granted over \$1,000,000 to the development of the Ohio to Erie Trail.

**But we can't provide grant support to these type initiatives again, until we regain our stability and build our professional staffing to previous levels.**

We managed the organization's resources prudently during the financial crisis of the COVID pandemic. We delivered our core events in a manner that delighted our participants and **exceeded our pandemic-recovery plan.**

***We have stewarded your support in a manner that proves we'll survive and thrive into the future. Thus, we ask for your contribution to help us continue to rebuild.***

Many of us have cherished memories of outdoor activities and the building of long-lasting bonds of friendship. Thanks to you we are more than a collection of outdoor activities.

Support from members and participants like you who share our values and our vision of the outdoors will sustain us into the future. The next year is vitally important as we now grow beyond just surviving. Your contributions are so critical now!

Your gift will help ensure that we can continue to bring you the memorable outdoor activities you've come to expect and to build our capacity to use the proceeds to invest in Ohio's outdoor resources again. By sending a contribution today, you'll make it possible for COP to deliver successful outdoor activities for the next 85 years.

**There are two easy ways to give:**

Online: [www.outdoor-pursuits.org/donate](http://www.outdoor-pursuits.org/donate)

Mail: Return a check in the enclosed envelope

Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) can also be used for donations

**Jerry Rampelt**  
COP Board President



# Columbus Outdoor Pursuits Schedule for 2023

## ➔ GOBA

- June 17-24, 2023
- The route will be in northeastern Ohio for the first time. It will include Lake Erie, Amish communities, and much more.
- Tent service available for an additional fee



**Outdoor Pursuits**

## ➔ TOSRV

- Mark September 2023 for the 62nd TOSRV
- We begin and finish at Brew Dog in Canal Winchester
- There is an option of starting in Chillicothe and riding to Portsmouth and returning on Sunday



## ➔ XOBA

- Mark July 22-29, 2023 for a cross state ride—Decatur, IN to Calcutta, OH (tentative)
- Rides are 60-65 miles per day

## ➔ Ohio to Erie Trail Ride – explore the longest paved off road trail in the USA

- Tentative date is May 13-19, 2023—six days of riding
- Hotel accommodations
- Cincinnati to Cleveland
- Fully supported and enjoy some pampering
- Limited to 45 riders



## ➔ Cycling Series and a weekly ride calendar

- Ten series rides from April to September—light-full services depending on ride
- Recurring weekly rides on the same night and locations in central Ohio

## ➔ Hiking, Backpacking & Paddling Activities

- Monthly outings for day-hikes and extensive overnight backpack experiences
- Return of the Winter Getaway in February 2023



## ➔ Same office location on Front Street

- The office is within 1/2 mile from the Grange Audubon Center and boat launch
- Central location in Columbus



*Columbus Outdoor Pursuits is a 501 C 3 charitable organization, and your contribution may be tax deductible under the IRS code.*

- Winter Sports
- Stewardship
- Backpacking
- Cycling
- Education
- Paddle Sports



# Underwriting Opportunities

We have been asked by supporters what they can specifically do to help COP in the next year, and below are the specifics of the financial need.

## The current overhead cost of the office includes the following:

- Office rent - \$1,800 per month and \$21,600 per year
- Enclosed storage unit - \$350 per month and \$4,200 per year
- Salary of one employee - \$4,166 per month and \$50,000 per year (no healthcare)
- High speed internet - \$107 per month and \$1,284 per year
- Utilities – approximately \$150 per month
- Liability insurance - \$22,000 per year
- Total is \$99,084

In 2022 GOBA, XOBA, and TOSRV covered the direct cost of the events themselves, but the proceeds did not meet the overhead listed above. We anticipate that 2023 will still be a recovery year as the country continues to unwind from the pandemic.

Donors can sponsor a month or year of any of the overhead costs and recognition in your name will be made. If you want it to be anonymous, we will keep the donation private.

Several donors can pool their donation and cover one part of overhead.

One month of office and storage locker rent has already been paid anonymously by one member.

Thanks for your help to keep our doors open in 2022! **With your continued support, 2023 can lay the financial foundation to return COP to a vibrant organization that can resume its granting of community projects.**

Detach here and return in the enclosed envelope

*Make checks payable to "Columbus Outdoor Pursuits"*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- \$2,500 The Mighty Office Champion
- \$1,000 Insurance Champion
- \$500 Storage Unit Champion
- \$250 Utilities Champion
- Other Amount – All contributions are deeply appreciated!!



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