



Outdoor Pursuits



What Does Outdoor Pursuits Mean to You?

Dear Columbus Outdoor Pursuits supporter,

Thank you for your continued support of Columbus Outdoor Pursuits. Through your financial support, we have regained financial and operational stability in the most effective and efficient ways. Our evolution in the past few years has positioned the organization to provide relevance and value to a changing marketplace.

Many of our peer organizations across the country are struggling. Outdoor adventure experiences, particularly full-service operations, had a difficult year. Family travel was down. However, the longtime audiences and foundation of Columbus Outdoor Pursuits participants, has allowed us to weather this storm.

More importantly, your support has allowed us the opportunity to evolve and enhance our offerings to meet this changing landscape to ensure our strength into the future. Reformatting legacy events and adding new activities and events are risky. But your continued support gives us confidence we're meeting your needs!

The next year is vitally important as we continue to grow and thrive in this new landscape.

- GOBA, the financial engine of our organization, had 841 registered participants and was another slight decrease from the recent benchmark registration of 1047 in 2023.
- We will consolidate our Ohio Erie Trail Adventure to offer one tour in September 2026 and reformat the pricing model to be more competitive against the 7+ other commercial tour operators on the trail.
- XOBA, which is a cross state ride the last week of July, continues to attract a core audience; we'll continue to focus on building awareness for this unique tour.
- The 64th TOSRV was the "Next Revolution" in a reformatted experience of the longest continuous ride in the United States. The weekend festival format based in Chillicothe attracted a broader and younger audience. Reviews were overwhelmingly positive!
- The Inaugural Knox County Biketoberfest drew 300 participants from 13 states to enjoy either challenging road routes or trail-exclusive routes based out of Mt. Vernon, Ohio in a festival format. This success demonstrates that we can offer experiences to meet a broad range of audiences.



We delivered over 35,000 unique, participant days, of Columbus Outdoor Pursuits event activities in 2025!



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

- The Cycling Series rides which had over 1,000 riders in limited to full-service offerings,
- Two Ride Leader trainings that added another 50 qualified leaders for our events,
- Over 40 Recurring Weekly Rides in Central Ohio with over 1,000 unique participants,
- A Nordic Winter Getaway at Wilderness Lodge,
- Four backpacking outings and a monthly hiking outing via the “18 Challenge” Series,
- Several bike-packing seminars and trips,
- A bike-packing 101 course and outing for Ohio State University students,
- A 23% increase in our Membership program. (Increase of 40% since 2023!).

We ask you to continue supporting the primary needs of Columbus Outdoor Pursuits.

We have two key financial goals for 2026:

1. We must grow and diversify our revenue base so we can make grants from our Bicycle Development Fund. Our mission dictates that we support the development of bicycling infrastructure and support awareness and advocacy for outdoor adventure experiences. Funding these grants is the justification for our non-profit status and the underlying goal for our major events.
2. We need to continue to replenish the Charlie Pace fund so there are emergency assets available. This safety net gives us the confidence to evolve and invest in the new and changing activities that our audience expects.

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. That is why your contributions are so critical now!

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.

There is a cost to offering the best outdoor activities in Ohio, and we want to keep registration fees reasonable so many people can participate. That is why we need the support of every one of our members. By sending a contribution today, you'll make it possible for COP to continue to offer successful outdoor activities for the next 86 years.

There are two easy ways to give:

Online: www.outdoor-pursuits.org/membership-donate

Mail: Return a check in the enclosed envelope

Required Minimum Distributions (RMD) and other planned gifts are welcome.

Contact us with questions.

Michael Kahrl
COP Board President

Jeff Stephens
Staff Director



Columbus Outdoor Pursuits Schedule for 2026

➔ GOBA

- June 20-27 – 37th annual event
- The route will be in northern Ohio along the US Rt. 250 corridor



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➔ TOSRV

- May 16-17 – 65th annual event
- Chillicothe-based festival event using some of the legacy portions of original TOSRV



➔ XOBA

- July 25-August 1–25th annual event
- The route will traverse Ohio utilizing the US Rt. 250 corridor
- 60-65 miles per day

➔ OETA

- September 2026
- Cincinnati to Cleveland on the Ohio to Erie Trail –7 days of riding
- Hotel accommodations



➔ KCBO

- October 2-4
- Challenging road routes or easier, trail-exclusive routes based in Mt. Vernon



➔ Cycling Series and a weekly ride calendar

- Seven rides from April to September on a marked course
- 37 weekly rides on the same night and location in central Ohio

➔ Bikepacking, Hiking, and Backpacking

- GAP Trail Adventure Bikepacking tour in early June
- We'll continue to "18 Challenge" hiking series
- We'll offer several Backpacking and Bikepacking 101 Series and outings again



➔ 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



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 overhead cost of the office includes the following:

- Office rent - \$1,800 per month or \$21,600 per year
- Enclosed storage unit - \$350 per month or \$4,200 per year
- High speed internet - \$107 per month or \$1,284 per year
- Utilities – approximately \$150 per month
- Liability insurance - \$24,000 per year
- Total is \$99,084

In 2025 GOBA, XOBA, OETA, KCBO and TOSRV covered the direct cost of the events themselves, but the registration fees did not pay for the overhead listed above. Nor did it entirely cover the employment costs for our staff.

We need your additional support to provide the cost of operations that allow us to offer our activities.

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.

Your support at any level is deeply appreciated!

Thanks for your help to keep our doors open in 2025; we look forward to a return of the legacy events that have helped cover these operational expenses.

P.S. We ask our Lifetime Members to provide a current e-mail address so you will receive the monthly e-newsletter

Detach here and return in the enclosed envelope

Make checks payable to "Columbus Outdoor Pursuits"

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-Mail Address _____

- ☐ \$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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