



VERMONT
WILDERNESS
SCHOOL

November 2019

P.O. BOX 2585
BRATTLEBORO
VERMONT 05303

802-257-8570

WWW.
VERMONT
WILDERNESS
SCHOOL
.ORG

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

INGRID BURROWS
SHANNON HERRICK
JOHN LEE
KALIA LYDGATE
JASON MORRIS
GIA NESWALD
ALAN ROBERTS
MARK STEHLIK
RJ WPLK

CORE STAFF

BOB ETZWEILER
AMY HYATT
ELISSA PINE
SAM STEGEMAN
ASH YOUNG

FIELD STAFF

JASMYN ATSALIS- GOGEL
ASHLEY BIES
KATHRYN DEAN
ZAK GRACE
ERNIE HANSCH
OWEN DIAMONDSTONE-
KOHOUT
GEORGE LEONIAK
WADE Mergen
ABBY MNOOKIN
KAREN RENT
ANI SCHAEFFER

ART OF MENTORING LEADERS

AVIVA ARGOTE
MIRIAM DROR
WALKER KORBY
MAIYA
MICHAEL ISMERIO
CONNOR STEDMAN

Dear friend,

Have you noticed that our young people are fired up?? They are literally taking to the streets to tell us that it's time for a radical change in how our society relates to the Earth.

I'm writing to you— and a small group of other dedicated supporters of the Vermont Wilderness School— because I know that you believe in these young people. I'm inviting you to support them by contributing to our scholarship fund.

This year we will provide \$30,000 in scholarship funds to over 80 families. By helping a young person participate in a VWS program, you are reinforcing what they already know— that **living a life of purpose and community service begins with the cultivation a deep personal connection with the natural world**.

The Vermont Wilderness School is founded on the belief that it is possible to restore our relationships with the land. These young people are showing us that it is not only possible — it is essential.

You may know the Vermont Wilderness School as an organization that has been offering life-changing nature connection programs and mentoring for the past 20 years. But that's not all we do. I have a feeling there may be more to VWS than you realize!

VWS believes that **nature-connection, equity, and social justice are interdependent**— they walk hand in hand. Our vision is to be an antidote to the powerlessness and isolation felt by so many in the world today. We're grateful that young people like Leora (pictured above) and her peers put their trust in us as a place for essential learning and growth. We hope you will join with us in this vision.

What are we doing **right now** to make this vision real?

- **Making our nature connection programs available to everyone.** We already offer sliding scale pricing and scholarships for every one of our programs. This year we will provide \$30,000 in scholarships to over 80 families. In the near future we'll be expanding our **free programming** for elementary school students. (Stay tuned.)

"It was the only thing she asked for."



This comment was made offhand by the mother of 15-year-old Leora Fisher. When asked by her parents what gift she wanted for the holidays, the only thing she wanted was to return to the Vermont *Art of Mentoring* program for a second year.