



Katahdin Region Outdoor Collective

Summary of Summer 2024



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What is KROC?

KROC (Katahdin Region Outdoor Collective) is a dynamic group of nonprofits, individuals, businesses, and government organizations with a shared belief in the profound impact of outdoor experiences on youth wellbeing and the future vitality of the Katahdin region. Our collaborative efforts result in year-round opportunities for young individuals to foster a deep connection to nature, cultivate leadership skills, and become future land stewards.



Goals:

- ❖ Create positive and exciting outdoor opportunities for youth in the Katahdin Region
- ❖ Encouraging students to get outside and be active
- ❖ Teaching students skills to be confident outdoors and their abilities
- ❖ Show students how to reflect on their experiences and build on them

Collaborators



Millinocket Schools



Summer Youth Series

A series of 6 summer programs from June 27th through August 6th

Day Hike

Spent a day on the Gulf Hagas Rim trail



Day Bike

Worked on MTB skills and rode trails at Hammond Ridge



Day Paddle

Developed paddle strokes and on water confidence at Medway Public Rec

Overnight Bike

Camped for two nights at Peavey Brook Outdoor Center. Rode trail system on site as well as at Mt. Chase Lodge. Biked to Haskell Hut in KWW.



Overnight Hike

Tent camped for two nights in KWW. Hiked to Orin Falls and Barnard Mtn.

Overnight Paddle

Camped at Horserace on the West Branch of the Penobscot River. Worked on paddling skills in deadwater at camp and did laps on the Horserace rapid

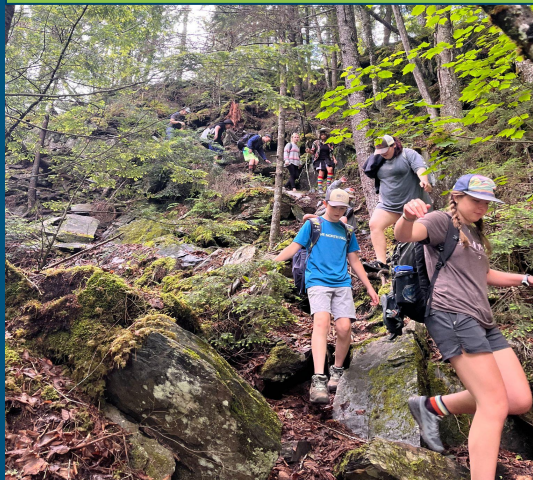
Some Stats...

Different locations: 9



Miles Paddled As A
Collective... 130

Total student
experiences: 48



Miles Walked As A
Collective... 300.9

Number of
programs : 6



Miles Biked As A
Collective... 207.8

Logistics -> how did we do it?

- ❖ Advertising: Starting at the beginning of the summer advertising via online channels such as MML and KGL Facebook and Instagram. Printed posters were hung throughout town at local businesses and storefronts. Advertisement for ongoing activities such as a women's trail ride were also shared through KAT social media.
- ❖ Registration: An online form called Cognito was used for registration. The link was found on the Millinocket Memorial Library website under the KROC tab. Student safety information was collected. A week prior to programs participant packets with all pertinent trip information was sent out.
- ❖ Transportation: Outdoor Sport Institute provided two trucks and a trailer used for hauling both kids and equipment. Friends of Katahdin Woods and Water provided a rental SUV that did the same. Students were either dropped off at the KGL and carpoled from there, or if necessary instructors picked them up in a company vehicle. Instructors and volunteers handled transportation for themselves and any remaining equipment.



Logistics

- ❖ Programs happened under OSI insurance and the funding came largely from the DOE.
- ❖ These programs were largely funded by the Maine Department of Education's Maine Outdoor Learning Initiative Grant. American Rescue Plan Act GEER, Reverted EANS Funding received from the USDOE support the implementation of this project. The project has an award totaling \$6.6 million dollars of which 100% is federally funded and directly attributed to project implementation. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by the USDOE or the U.S. Government. The USDOE provided the Katahdin Learning Project (KLP) with \$101,195.52, 41% of KLP's annual budget, to support grade 6-12 programming. This grant finances 90% of grade 6-12 programming March-September 2024.



Safety & Risk Management

What our team did to prevent/minimize accidents and injuries

Protocols:

- ❖ All leaders and participants we required to wear helmets when biking
- ❖ All leaders and participants were required to wear helmets and PFDs during whitewater paddling programs
- ❖ ABBC Quick checks were done with students on biking programs
- ❖ Students could not leave camp alone for any reason including restroom, they must be with a buddy
- ❖ PFDs were worn by participants and leaders when swimming
- ❖ All instructors were Wilderness First Aid certified
- ❖ At least two instructors carried medical kits and an inreach

Loop Plans and EAPs

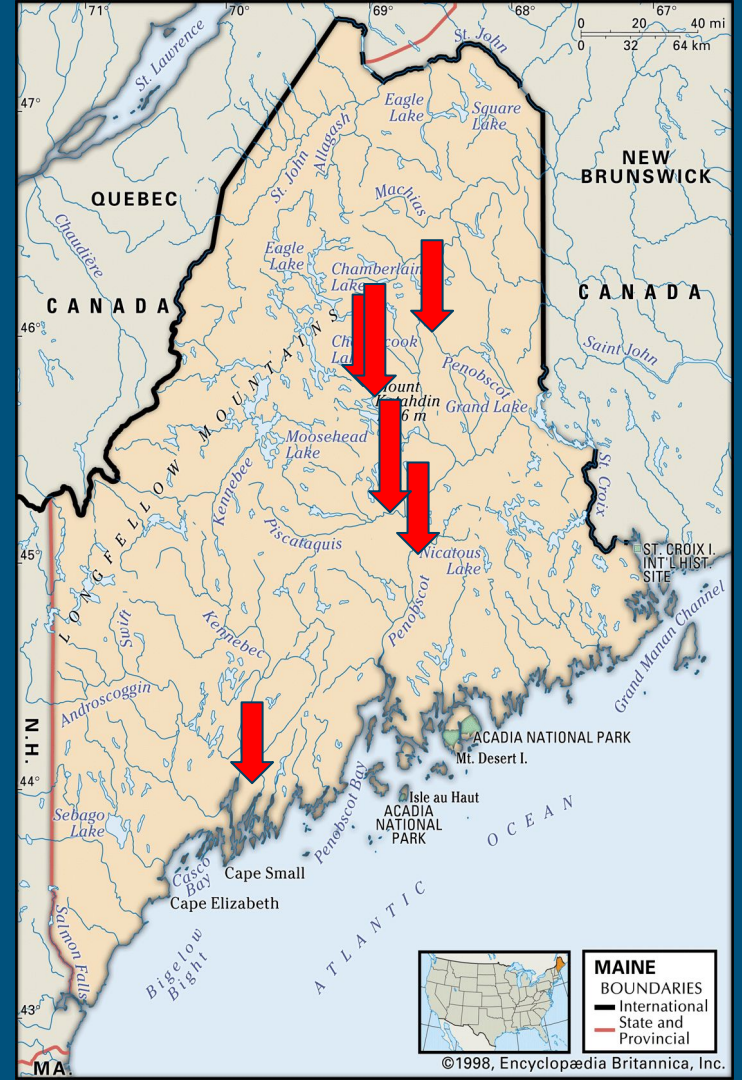
Loop Plans - Are an itinerary for the program instructors as well as emergency contacts to use. They include plans for the day, EAPs for all locations in program, emergency phone numbers, etc.

EAPs - Emergency action plans provide a step by step plan for instructors in emergency scenarios. They include directions to hospitals, and emergency phone numbers such as local PD and hospitals.



Who participated?

We had students from across the state of Maine. The focus was the Katahdin region but we did not deny any student. Student hometowns included Millinocket, East Millinocket, Greenbush, Damariscotta, Sherman, and Patten.



KROC Outreach

KROC 's impact reached further than our 6 summer series programs, including outreach such as ...

Millinocket Stream River Clean Up: A collaborative effort with both Brookefield and NEOC rafting to make a river clean up happen on Millinocket Stream.

Ongoing activities: smaller more local programs. They happen most days of the week and have no size limit. Parents registered their kids once, and then kids could show up to any activity they were interested in. Some programs included a Bait hole hike, bike and hike in Patten, bike to Omaha, etc.

Rendezvous: Gathering community members with various backgrounds and careers together to understand our region and each other better. We have housed potlucks, gone to breweries, and even done a group yoga session!

KROC's Future

We talked to the students about what they think the future of KROC should look like. Their feedback included...



Whitewater
Outdoor cooking
Wilderness survival
Rock climbing
Snowboarding/skiing
Camping
SUPs
Big out of town trips
Hammock camping
Foraging
Cliff jumping

What the kids had to say about it all...

“I don’t think I’ve ever been this happy in my life.”

“This must be a joke man, this is not real life.”

“I feel so alive, this is the best day ever! I want to do this every day!”

“They help us learn about outdoors and how to be safe. I’ve gone places I’ve never gone before and I think it’s good. I think of KROC as my second family.”



“These trips are important because they get kids to experience things they may not financially afford.”



