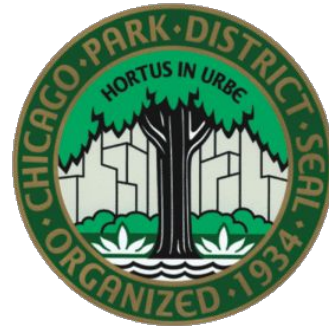


Reducing Barriers to the Outdoors through Gear Libraries



**OUTDOORS
EMPOWERED
NETWORK**



Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that we are on the lands of the Council of Three Fires—the Ojibwa, Ottawa and Potawatomi tribes. We also acknowledge that we have played a role in shaping the histories of local Native Americans by acquiring this land. We recognize, share and celebrate their immemorial ties to this land. We will continue advocate for the progress, dignity and humanity of the many diverse Native Americans who still live and practice their heritage and traditions on this land today.

Panelists

Teishetta Daniel - *Center Director*, Northerly Island, Chicago Park District

Alison Paul - *Board Member*, Outdoors Empowered Network, Field Museum

Liz Holley - *Program Specialist*, Chicago Park District

Brian Arnoldt - *Program Coordinator*, Forest Preserves of Cook County

Justin Mercer - *Program Coordinator*, Forest Preserves of Cook County

Kristen Baecker - *Program Specialist*, Forest Preserves of Cook County

Katie Grundin - *Program Specialist*, Forest Preserves of Cook County

Gear Libraries & Increasing Access to the Outdoors

Chicago Wilderness Green Vision Goal 5

Increasing Equitable Access to Nature

By 2025, a Chicago Wilderness alliance representing the full diversity of the region will have identified and implemented the best approaches to (1) **increase access** to natural areas and green spaces, of all types, that are welcoming to all; (2) **expand nature-based programming** across the region, particularly in places with the least area of healthy green space in 2020; and (3) **foster a diverse regional partnership** that addresses the region's legacy of environmental injustice as part of the alliance's operations and relationships.

These efforts will **expand who reaps nature's benefits**, with an emphasis on those who have been historically excluded, and **deepen people's engagement** with nature across the region.

BARRIERS TO OUTDOOR RECREATION



COST



THE CULTURE OF OUTDOOR RECREATION



FEELING SAFE



OUTDOORS EMPOWERED NETWORK



OUTDOORS EMPOWERED NETWORK

Outdoors Empowered Network is a national network of community-led, youth-centered outdoor education groups that are dedicated to increasing access and diversity in the outdoors through gear libraries and outdoor leadership training. Together, we are working to increase our collective impact on the world and create equitable access to nature.

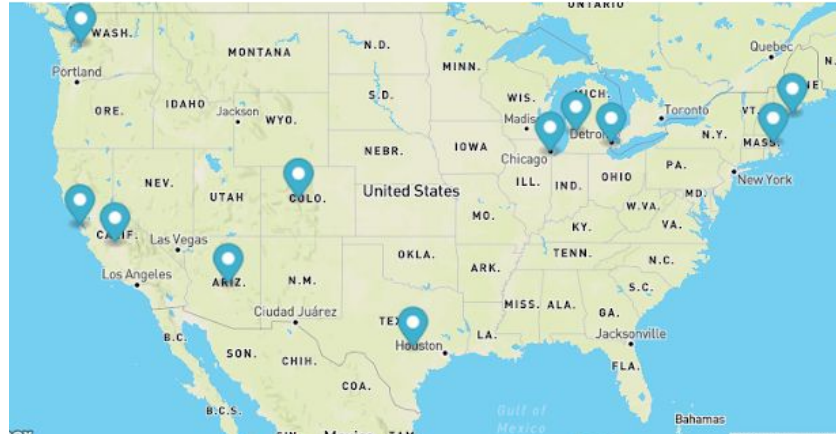
A National Network of Gear Libraries

OEN's member organizations support access to outdoor adventures for tens of thousands of youth each year by empowering communities and community organizations with the gear and skills to create meaningful outdoor experiences for young people.



OEN Members

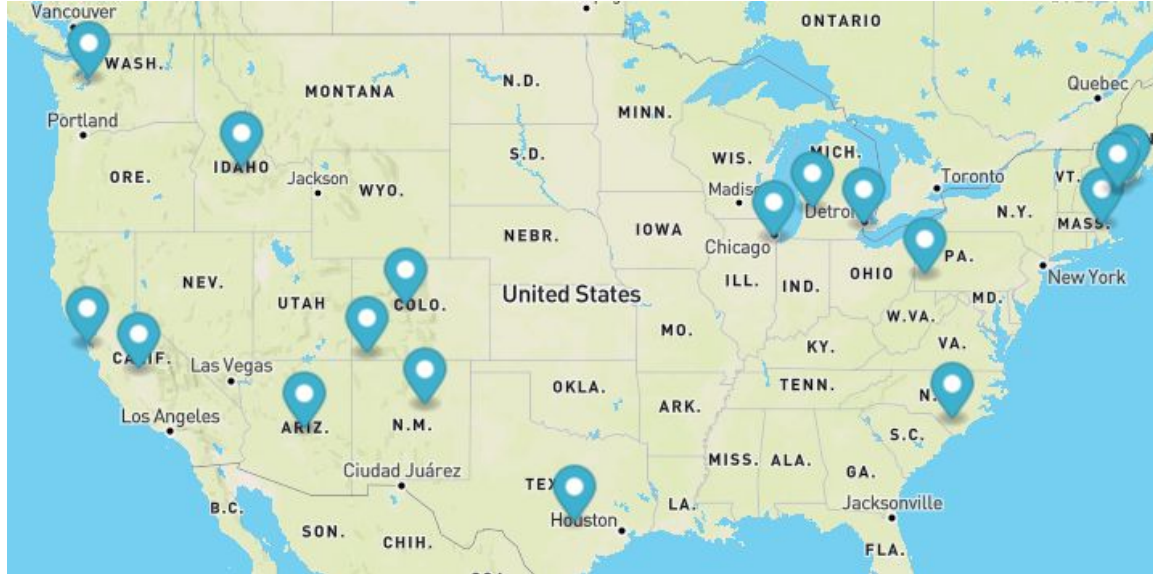
OEN's member organizations support access to outdoor adventures for tens of thousands of youth each year. Members partner with community-based youth service agencies, schools, and other youth-centered groups to make transformative outdoor experiences happen through our core programs: gear, training, and community support.



OEN Members



Mancos Gear
Library



Outdoor Inclusion
Coalition



DEI Framework

Increase Diversity

Representation matters. We strive to bring intersectional diversity to all parts of our organization and dismantle barriers to access that negatively impact representation.

Actionable Language

We strive to use explicit language and grammatical structures that provide OEN clear direction, goals, and accountability rather than implicit and coded language.

Trauma-Informed

We are constantly learning and implementing cutting edge practices that address current and generational trauma, especially in regards to racialized and misogynistic violence in outdoor spaces.

Culture Change

We must transform our organizational culture from a charitable *power-over* model of serving communities in need to a *power-with* model of working with communities from the ground up.

Industry Leader

We have a responsibility to demonstrate and publicize decolonizing language and action in our practices and culture to support change across the industry landscape.

Member Programs: Core Model

Gear

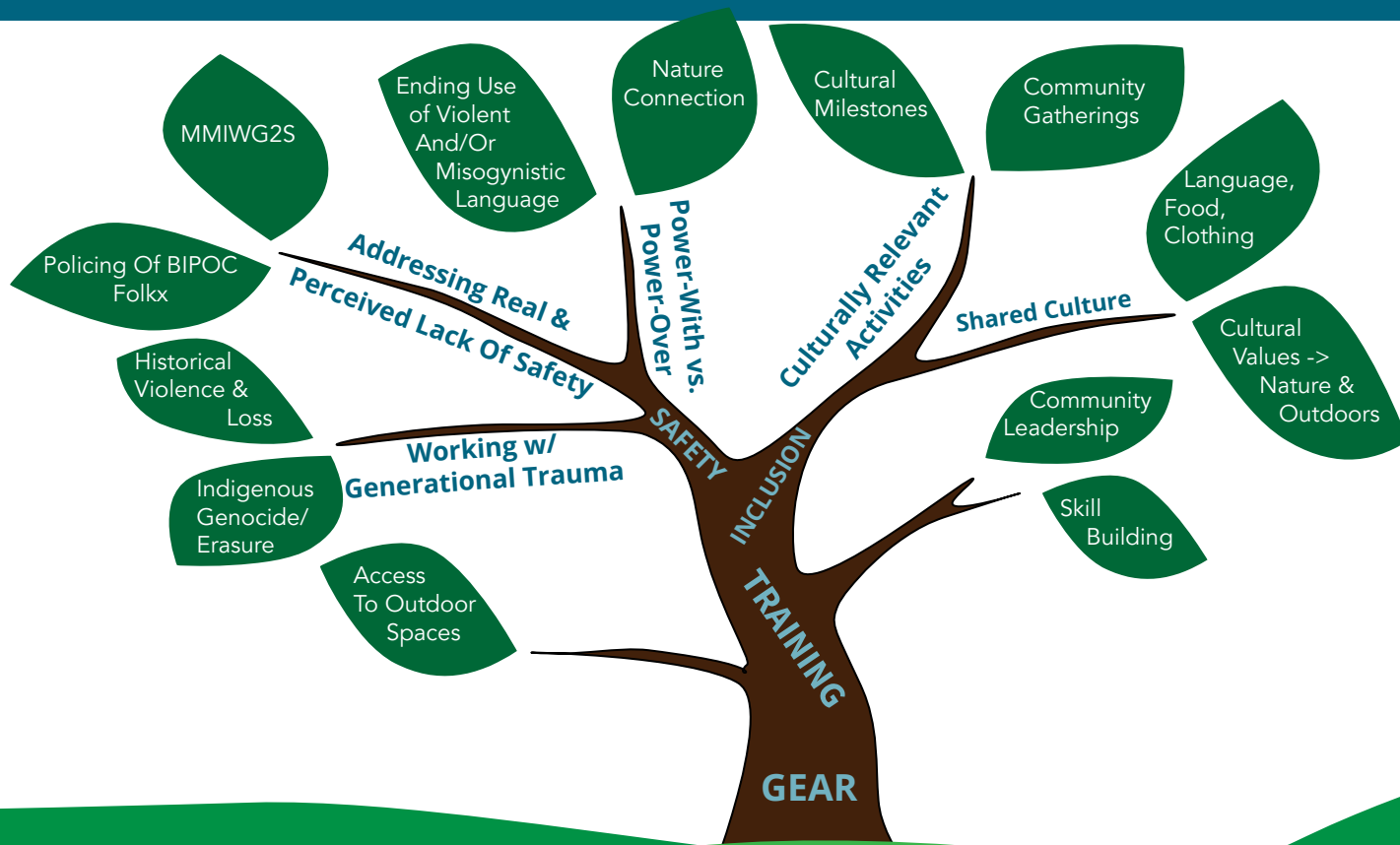
Members reduce a primary barrier to getting outside—cost of gear—by providing community access to outdoor equipment libraries.

Training

Members provide experiential, skills-based trainings for teachers and youth workers, empowering them to take youth outdoors on their own.

Community Support

Members often provide mini-grants, transportation subsidies, and community connections.



Soil: Public Open Spaces & Parks, Intersectional Allyship, Fact-based History Curriculum, Community Support

A Dynamic Community

Being part of OEN gives members the opportunity to build networks, share best practices, fundraise for gear, and see the national impact of collective work. Our program model brings together a wide variety of members, all working together to bring equity and access to the outdoors.



For more info

www.outdoorsempowered.org

Contact seraph@outdoorsempowered.org



Chicago Park District

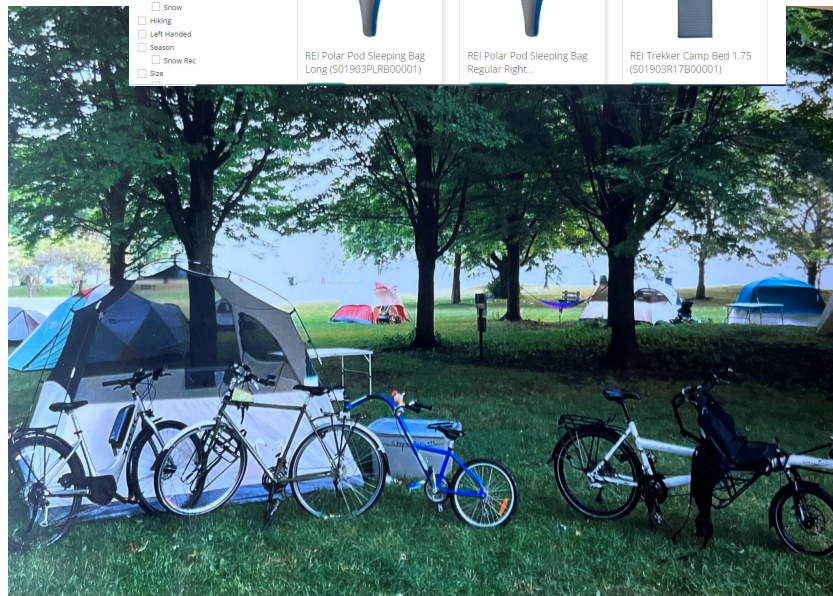
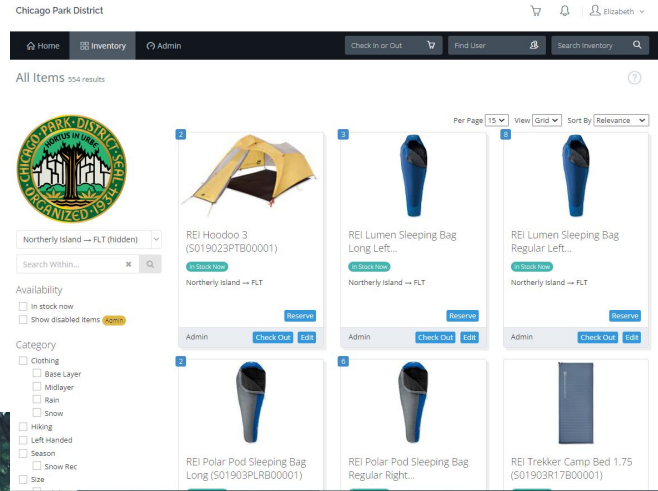
ChicaGO Explorers Frontcountry Leadership Training

Overnight Training at Northerly Island

Opportunity to Collaborate on Community Campout in Chicago Park District

Gear available to go anywhere

Upcoming Training: May 21 - 22



Forest Preserves of Cook County

Camping Leadership Immersion Course (CLIC)

Overnight training with online portion beforehand

Site-Based Gear Library at Camp Sullivan & Camp Shabbona Woods

Camping gear for up to 30 campers, 2 adults (or more)

Upcoming Trainings: April 23 - 24 & May 14 - 15



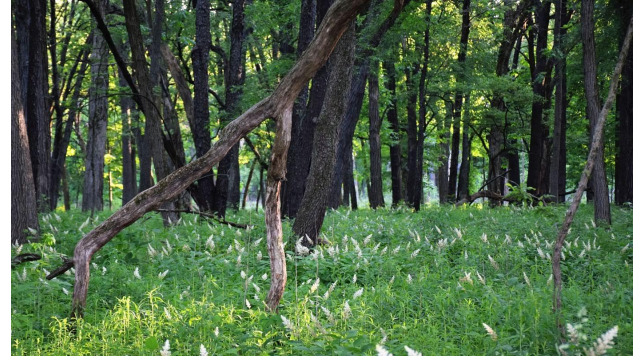
Forest Preserves of Cook County

Day Hiking Leadership Training (DHLT)

Hybrid online/in-person training at Bemis Woods
North

Hiking Boots & Rain Gear

Upcoming Trainings: March 26, July 13



Forest Preserves of Cook County

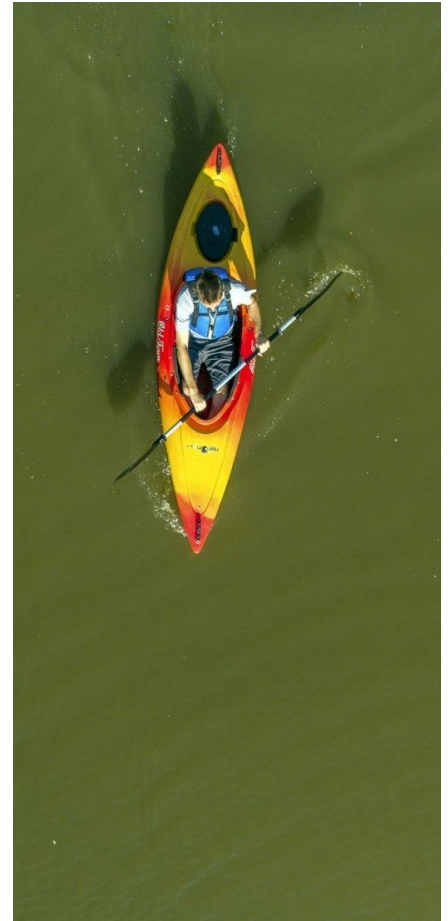
Greater Maywood Paddling Program (GMPP)

3-part kayaking training series

Site-Based Gear Library located on the Des Plaines River in Maywood and Thatcher Glen Pond in River Forest

Able to outfit 18 people including 2 trip leaders

Upcoming Trainings: April 8th and April 29th



Breakout Rooms

- 1: ChicaGO Explorers
- 2: Camping Leadership Immersion Course & Day Hiking
- 3: Greater Maywood Paddling Program
- 4: Outdoors Empowered Network & General Gear Libraries

Sign Up Soon!

ChicaGO Explorers Frontcountry Leadership Training - <https://bit.ly/3Ne9B3d>

Upcoming Training: May 14 - 15

elizabeth.holley@chicagoparkdistrict.com

Camping Leadership Immersion Course (CLIC)

Upcoming Trainings: April 23 - 24 & May 14 - 15

experience.camping@cookcountyiil.gov

Day Hiking Leadership Training (DHLT)

Upcoming Trainings: March 26

experience.camping@cookcountyiil.gov

Greater Maywood Paddling Program (GMPP)

Upcoming Trainings: April 8th and April 29th

experience.kayaking@cookcountyiil.gov

Outdoors Empowered Network

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