



**Great Basin**  
National Park Foundation

# Annual Report

2024





## Message from our Executive Director

As we enter 2025, I would like to share my sincere gratitude to our Great Basin Guardians, Board of Directors, Advisory Board, Board Emeritus, and the staff at Great Basin National Park. Together, we form a community that makes a tremendous difference in maintaining, enhancing, and stewarding a place we love. We remain dedicated to our shared vision to ensure the health of the fragile Great Basin ecosystem, welcome audiences with exceptional visitor experiences, inspire the next generation of Park stewards, and address the Park's most pressing problems. This work takes creativity, commitment, and a growing base of support. Thank you for joining us.

**Aviva O'Neil**

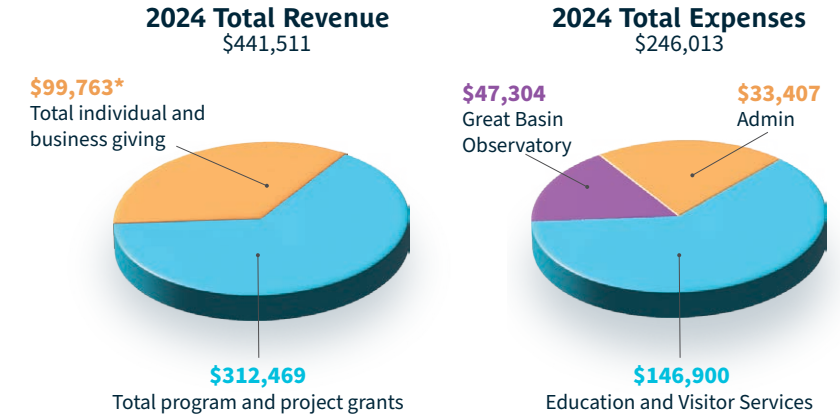
## Great Basin National Park

At Great Basin, you can walk among the world's oldest living trees, gaze at the cosmos from the darkest night skies, explore subterranean passages, and find inspiration in a wilderness of solitude. From 13,063-foot Wheeler Peak to sage-covered foothills 7,000 feet below, Great Basin National Park is a sample of the incredible diversity of the larger Great Basin region. *Great Basin National Park Foundation's goal is to help the Park navigate its greatest challenges while providing vital programmatic and financial support to protect and enhance the Park's future.*



## Every Guardian Is Making an Impact

As the Park's official nonprofit partner, we can only fulfill our mission because of Great Basin Guardians like YOU. Guardians support innovative research, dynamic educational programs, and needed Park infrastructure improvements. Guardians play a crucial role in enhancing the Park visitor's experience and inspiring the next generation of Great Basin National Park stewards.



\* 100% of our board financially contributes to the Foundation.



## Great Basin Classroom

Our nation's national parks create the perfect learning laboratories. That's why we are dedicated to bringing the science and wonder of Great Basin National Park to students wherever they live. Great Basin National Park Foundation education programs are designed to inspire place-based science learning while growing personal connections to the outdoors. In a time when students average only 20% proficiency on state science exams and only ten minutes outside per day, making sure children can benefit from national parks is crucial. We work with many partners to bring innovative programs to students, including the National Park Service, the University of Nevada, Reno, Southern Utah University, PBS Reno Curiosity Classroom, the Center for Interactive Learning and Collaboration (CILC), and the Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership. Students are introduced to what makes the Great Basin ecosystem unique and invited to share in its stewardship.



## Native Voices

In 2024, Great Basin National Park Foundation made it possible for indigenous groups from the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation, the Ely Shoshone, the Paiute Indian Tribes of Utah, and the Noowah Knowledge Center to have meaningful overnight visits in the Park. On some of these trips, youth learned about NPS careers and helped with active research. On other trips, tribal cultural knowledge holders discussed management of Park resources with the Park's management team. The Foundation also supported important storytelling initiatives, such as a documentary on the 50-year-old tribally owned Duckwater Shoshone elementary school.

## 2024 Great Basin National Park Foundation Education Programs Snapshot



**3,527**

Students Served



**154**

Classrooms



**30**

Title 1 Schools



**5**

Park Overnight Programs



**CILC**

Pinnacle Award Winner for Program Excellence

## Great Basin Explorers

The Great Basin Explorers program helps connect underserved communities to Great Basin National Park through immersive camping programs. In 2024, the Foundation supported 36 participants from Las Vegas to experience the Milky Way, high altitude lakes, camping in a national park, and a wilderness experience, for the first time.



*“Participants gained an understanding of the National Park Service mandate to protect and conserve these areas for future generations. This adventure changed many lives, and enlisted future stewards of our planet.”*

JT Reynolds, Great Basin Explorers Trip Leader, and GBNPF Advisory Board Member



## Art in the Park

Artist-in-Residence programs offer tremendous opportunities for engagement between parks, artists, and park visitors, continuing a long tradition of sharing and interpreting the landscape through artistic mediums.

The Foundation supported three AIRs in 2024 and will support three in 2025. The 2024 artists included Suze Woolf, a watercolor painter; Alina Lindquist, a plein air painter; and photographer Paul Atkinson. The 2025 artists include Meghan Dragon, a muralist and painter; Meghan and Caitlyn Baylor, twin sister dancers and choreographers; and Jack Straton, a photographer.

This spring, audiences will hear composer Marko Bazjer’s world premiere at the Reno Philharmonic, which was written during his 2023 Artist-in-Residency. The March 22nd and 23rd performances of *The Sacrifice of Prometheus*, includes actual sounds of Bristlecone pine trees he gathered with electrodes while at Great Basin National Park.



## Great Basin Dark Skies

Great Basin is an International Dark Sky Park and the only national park that boasts a research-grade astronomical telescope. The skies here are world-renowned for their darkness and are a major tourism draw. In 2024, Great Basin National Park showed 8,830 Park visitors the cosmos with key Great Basin National Park Foundation support. Great Basin Guardians supported two specialized interns to add scientific knowledge and staff capacity to Park astronomy programs and replaced three aging Park telescopes with new top of the line equipment. The Foundation also invested in the Great Basin Observatory's operational capacity, adding new volunteer team members and upgrading equipment. The GBO continues to be a one of its kind destination for middle school to graduate level researchers who study exoplanets, supernovae, double star systems, asteroids, and black holes.



3

New Park Telescopes



8,830

Park Visitors at Astronomy Programs



77

Cosmic Objects Studied



2

Park Interns



## 2024 Great Basin National Park Guardians

Together, Great Basin Guardians form a support community that protects and enhances Great Basin National Park. THANK YOU GUARDIANS for your support and partnership.

### Save the Date! 2025 Event Schedule

#### MARCH 22 & 23

Artist-in-Residence  
Performance at RenoPhil

#### APRIL 24, 5 - 7 PM

GBNP Needs You Event  
Craft Wine & Beer, Reno

#### JUNE 19 - 21

GBNP BioBlitz - Bumblebee  
Atlas Project

#### SEPTEMBER 18 - 20

GBNP Astronomy Festival

Learn more about events - follow us on social and subscribe to our e-newsletter

#### Corporate Conservation Guardians and Foundation Partners

##### GREAT BASIN GUARDIAN CIRCLE \$25,000 and above

*The National Park Foundation*

*Nevada Outdoor Education and Recreation*

##### BRISTLECONE GUARDIANS \$10,000 - \$24,999

*Celestron Telescopes*

*Great Basin Heritage Area Partnership*

*Nevada Division of Tourism*

*Red Rock Foundation*

*The First National Bank of Ely*

*The Jack Van Sickle Foundation*

##### STALAGMITE GUARDIAN \$5,000 - \$9,999

*George S. and Dolores Doré Eccles Foundation*

*Robinson Nevada Mining Company*

##### SUSTAINING GUARDIAN up to \$1,000

*Basecamp Outdoor Gear*

*Bristlecone General Store*

*National Park Friends Alliance*

*Nevada Gold Mines*

#### Individual Guardians

##### GREAT BASIN GUARDIAN CIRCLE \$10,000 AND ABOVE

*Mike and Linda Niggli*

##### STELLAR GUARDIAN \$5,000 - \$9,999

*Fred and Phyllis Bachhuber*

*Gary Donaldson and Kody Wallace*

*Brian and Anne Menzel*

*Margaret Rees*

*Bill and Holly Wilson*

##### BRISTLECONE GUARDIAN \$1,000 - \$4,999

*Walter and Milly Alvarez  
in memory of Dave Sharp*

*Richard and Carol Boerger*

*Steven and Lois Brown*

*Kate Butler*

*Timothy Cashman*

*Louise Hose and Paul Dye*

*Thomas and Linda Hultin*

*David Marquart and Connie Henderson*

*Flora Mason*

*Kent Morby*

*Dan and Carrie Oates*

*Kevin Robison*

*Donald Shalmy*

*Daniel Sturlin*

*John Vermette*

*Howard Watts III*

*Frederick and Sandra Zoerner*

##### STALAGMITE GUARDIAN \$500 - \$999

*Renee Charleston*

*Graham Chisholm*

*Greg and Shelli Fine*

*John and Inga Kenney*

*Geoff Markowski*

*Rebecca Mills*

*in memory of Dave Sharp*

*Steven Moore*

*Robert and Mia Morrill*

*Ralph and Darcy Phillips*

*Julia Ratti and James Cavanaugh*

*Alicia Reban and John Sherman*

*Melodi and Craig Rodrigue*

*Robert Stoldal*

##### SUSTAINING GUARDIAN \$100 - \$499

*Tanya Africa*

*Sue Baker*

*Mark and Joan Bassett*

*Mary Bates Abbott*

*Barry Boothe*

*Joe and Pam Brown*

*Peter and Virginia Buerger*

*Janie Burns*

*Dr. Norman and Joyce Christensen*

*Harrison and Carol Clark*

*Emily Dean*

*Rebecca Durocher*

*Briget Eastep*

*Chan Griswold*

*Kenji Hakuta and Nancy Goodban*

*Jerry and Carol Hilburn*

*Ann Huffman*

*Janet Keyes and David Hubbell*

*Harvey Lambert*

*Cynthia Lu*

*Susan Lynn*

*Sarah Mersereau-Adler*

*Donna Mickleson*

*Elizabeth Miller*

*Mari Nakishima Nielsen*

*Mel Pereira*

*Jessica Prunty*

*Virginia Quistad  
in memory of Dave Sharp*

*Jeremy and Catherine Reichenberg*

*Gary Shaye*

*Theodore Stazeski*

*Rose Strickland*

*Elizabeth Thoron*

*Dave and Edith Tilford*

*McClure and Brinn Wallace*

*Paul Woodin and Denise Ina*

*Carolyn Yurkovic*

##### GUARDIAN \$25 - \$99

*David Albrecht*

*Murray Aronson*

*Christine Bahr*

*Charles Chandler*

*Kristopher Dahir*

*Jody Gordon*

*James Herod*

*Michael Hofmayer and Ann Tipton*

*in memory of Dave Sharp*

*Peter Kirk*

*Caroline McIntosh*

*Kevin Miller*

*Naomi Rodgers*

*Lois Sagel*

*Jay Satz*

*Marianne Slagle*

*Harvey Smith*

*Jennifer Sorensen*

## Board of Directors

*Greg Fine, Chair*

*Kevin Robison, Vice Chair*

*Alicia Reban, Secretary*

*Jeremy R. Reichenberg, Treasurer*

*Melodi Rodrigue, GBO Chair*

*Senator Richard Bryan*

*Briget Tyson Eastep*

*Louise Hose*

*Mari Nakashima Nielsen*

*Julia Ratti*

*McClure Wallace*

## Advisory Board

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*Alicia Estabrook*

*Kenji Hakuta, Education Chair*

*Jerry Hilburn, GBO Director*

*John Kenney*

*Ralph Phillips*

*James T. Reynolds*

*Bill and Holly Wilson*

## Board Emeritus

*Steven Brown*

*Robert Morrill*

*Mike Niggli*

*Rebecca Mills*

*Dave Tilford*

**Founder** *Bonnie Bryan*



Great Basin National Park Foundation

P. O. Box 181, Baker, Nevada 89311

[GreatBasinFoundation.org](http://GreatBasinFoundation.org), [GreatBasinObservatory.org](http://GreatBasinObservatory.org)

501c3 tax ID number 88-0407290. Printed on recycled paper.



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