

Marble Basecamp Testimonials:

"My memories of 8th Grade Outdoor Ed in 1978 are still so strong. I still feel the strength I had completing the giant repel, the silent log and mostly helping a new student from Nebraska carry her pack and survive the hike to base camp. 8th Grade Outdoor Ed was the beginning of my many amazing adventures. Without it I may have missed the reason we live in this spectacular area. I am so thankful everyone is so generous and making this program continue!!!!"

- Jill Pisani

"Our son Ruairi O'Donoghue had such an amazing experience at Marble base camp, and hopefully his younger brother Declan will have that experience also."

- Joan Hoffberger

"Most amazing trip on my life!!! and wish nothing more than my kids to one day experience it as well."

- Karla Henrichon

"Looking forward to when our kids will go there on the AMS Outdoor Ed trip!"

- Anda and Ryan Smalls

"I vividly remember every moment of my 8th grade experience. Every step, every smile, every tear, every meal. Then I had the opportunity to experience it all over again as a teacher/leader. So thankful to our school and community for making sure this experience can continue to inspire our youth! I think about and look back on the lessons I learned from 8th grade O.D.E at least once a month."

- Rita Farrell

"8th Grade Outdoor Ed in Marble was a pivotal experience in my life and ultimately helped set the course of my future. I want to make sure that all future 8th graders at AMS have the same amazing opportunity."

- Travis Moore

"Life changing and growth experience in 8th grade outdoor ed."

- Leslie Thomas

"I'm a 5th grade teacher that has participated in 8th grade ODE. I have been fortunate enough to lead hikes up and over to Marble. The experience is life changing for these kids and it's also such a great way to bond with other members of our staff and community. I hope we can keep this strong tradition alive."

- *Holly Aloï*

"Basecamp is one of the defining moments of one's tenure in the Aspen School District. It is a tradition worthy of maintaining."

- *Sean Braisted*

"Our 8th grade ODE experience is unique in that those who has ever participated share a common experience be that person 15 or 50. Everyone of these individuals has their own ODE story to tell! Not just a rite of passage ... building community bonds!"

- *Denise Vetromile*

"8th grade Outdoor Ed. was a great experience for all of us."

- *Richard Pearce*

"Our daughter enjoyed Marble Basecamp on 8th grade Outdoor Ed, we are hoping to preserve it for our grandson! Hoping also that the program can expand to Basalt schools and beyond."

- *Sandy and Peter Johnson*

"Eighth grade outdoor ed. at the former Marble Outward Bound facility was a rite of passage for many."

- *Lauren and B.G. Stuart*

"I have gone on 8th grade ODE both as a student and a leader! IT is an experience I will never forget and hope is around for my daughter to experience in the future!"

- *Jen Liddington*

"It is heartwarming to read the stories about Willard Clapper and the positive impacts he had on so many Aspen students. It is an honor to recognize him here for his indelible contribution to our local youth and for this important "save the land" drive. Marble Basecamp was a phenomenal experience for me as an out of state freshman student at Colorado Mtn. College in 1971. Jack Snobble lead this group of students in CMC's Outdoor Orientation class."

- *Gayle Shugars*

"I attended one of the first outdoor education sessions in 1971. Incredible experience. My daughter was lucky enough to experience 8th grade outdoor ed in 2000, and we are hoping my new granddaughter will be able to have the same memorable experience."

- *Carolyn Barabe*

"I had the privilege of taking many groups of 8th graders over to the Basecamp, and watched the whole outdoor education program work its magic on them."

- *Peter Westcott*

"My two daughters Josephine and Emma had the pleasure of spending a couple of days of their lives at the Marble Basecamp in 8th grade. It is important to keep the ODE in place for all the future generations to come."

- *Amy Rutkowski*

"Priceless"

- *Neal and Amy Beidleman*

"(Marble Basecamp) Aspen Middle School, one of the most memorable, life long learning lessons of my life."

- *Catherine Brinkman*

"I attended 8th grade outdoor ed -- backpack from Maroon Lake to Marble and four days at the Basecamp -- in fall, 1972. It was the greatest experience of my 13 years of school in Aspen, and I want other kids to have the same opportunity. While Willard was in college at the time, he was a close family friend."

- *Tamie (Mullikin) Meck*

"Class of 77, Mother of 2001 and 2006....all survived 'solo night'."

- *Brenna Mitchell*

"Without question, 8th Grade Outdoor Ed was one of the few most impactful school experiences I had growing up in Aspen. I loved mountains and wild places before, but to hike from Maroon Bells to Marble, do a solo overnight, tackle the ropes course with my friends, climb, do a cold plunge, plus of course play Spin the Bottle in the middle of the night in a cramped tent...well, these are things you just don't forget. Truly, it set my life and my path as a writer, river guide, environmental lover and inquisitor into motion, and at 55, it hasn't stopped yet. My donation is for Willard and his vision, and represents my desire for other 8th graders to follow after us."

- *Carrie Click*

"The experiential education program at Aspen Schools and particularly the 8th Grade trip with its culmination in Marble is one of the most valuable components of our incredible educational system. There is not a single one of us who has participated who would disagree. My memories of my time at Marble Basecamp are fun of laughs due to Mr. C and his boundless enthusiasm and always available humor. I believe this is a wonderful way to honor him and urge everyone who has participated in this epic adventure or had Mr. Clapper touch their lives in any way to do the same. We love you Mr. C."

- *Whitney Gordon*

"As an 8th grade student and an AMS teacher, I have had the privilege of experiencing the wonderment of Marble Basecamp on many occasions.
No child should have to miss out on this incredible place."

- *Georgina Rumsey Levey*

"I am grateful to be able to say I have enjoyed the Marble Basecamp, my oldest daughter had the opportunity to experience it as well. I hope my youngest daughter is able to go there for her 8th grade outdoor ed in 3 years. It will teach you things about yourself for the rest of your life!"

- *Stephanie Braudis*

"I really can't imagine our school system without 8th grade Outdoor Ed. I have clear memories from each day of my own 8th grade trip, and I know I'm not alone in looking back adoringly on this experience. I have been lucky enough to return as a patrol leader and see the immense value in the program. The Marble Basecamp has given countless memories to anyone who has walked across that patch of land. Making sure that these experiences can continue on this land for 8th graders or anyone wanting to enjoy this land is essential."

- *Sarah Graber*

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- *Georgina Rumsey Levey*

"I was a member of the 8th grade class in 1968 that used the Basecamp! So grateful to have my daughter have the same experience so many years later!"

- *Marlene Mickey*

"I attended 8th grade outdoor ed in 1998 and have loved being able to revisit those memories in my mind, through pictures and in sharing stories with my classmates and friends I've met in adulthood. I agree that every kid and adult that was lucky enough to be part of this experience benefitted in indescribable ways and it would be a terrible loss for the community and future generations for Marble Basecamp to be let go..."

- *Muriel Hale*

"As a parent photographer/chaperone it was the first and only time I repelled down a cliff."

- *Diane Wallace*

"I can't think of a better experience than 8th grade Outdoor Ed. It happens at such a pivotal time in our adolescence, and it makes lasting impressions. I am always so proud to be able to talk about how lucky students in Aspen Middle School are to be able to have this trip and really learn more than we could in a classroom. It involves the whole family and members of the community. My dad and mom were actively helping for preparation, basecamp loading, and support. No one else has the same experience that we get, and we often get a bad reputation for being the 'wealthy kids from Aspen.' But what we experience on 8th grade Outdoor Ed is what our true community is like, and it's what shows our true down-to-earth nature."

- *Tara Seyffert*

"Mr. C was an inspirational mentor to thousands of Outdoor Ed students. He was an unforgettable teacher, coach and leader and especially loved those 8th grade hikes over high Alpine passes, 24 hour solos in makeshift tents, and the character building challenges of the wall and the high rappel at Basecamp. Travis, Abigael and Sara honor Willard with our small gift."

- *Tim and Donna McFlynn*

"I backpacked over to the Marble Basecamp with Mr. C and 7 other kids in 1994. This right of passage and time for self reflection helped shape me into the adult I am today. Mr. C gave us mottos to live by, and the fresh air, natural beauty, and peace of Marble gave us purpose and

courage to move forward from those literal obstacles to face life's real obstacles. Marble Basecamp has helped thousands of young teenagers approach a pivotal time in their lives in such a meaningful way and should be protected and preserved no matter the cost. So many fun memories: sleeping solo in an electrical storm, singing Bob Marley's Don't Worry About A Thing, morning push ups in the river, and countless others! Thank you!"

- *Kalli Sinclair*

"36 years later, my 8th grade ODE experiences are still as fresh in my memory as the day I returned from the trip. This program is life lasting!"

- *Bente Doolan*

"Support Marble Basecamp! 'Difficult will seem doable. The impossible as simply not-yet-conquered. Farewell, Can't. Hello, Can.' "

- *Jama Parker*

"36 years later, my 8th grade ODE experiences are still as fresh in my memory as the day I returned from the trip. This program is life lasting!"

- *Bente Doolan*

"The scariest time of my life! It completely stretched me. I was terrified to sleep alone in the woods, certain I would get trampled or eaten, I hated the run and plunge (shocking!) and literally peed my pants on the rappel course. Now, when I look back on that experience at 49, I am so thankful for every minute of it!"

- *Karen Melville*

"What a privilege and a blessing it was grow up with such an amazing program! A program that has been a tradition for 50 years in our valley. I can honestly say that my peers and I couldn't be more grateful for this experience. The amount that was learned through 8th grade outdoor education and going to Basecamp can not be put into words. I am still realizing how Basecamp and the activities we did, were just mini challenges of the challenges that I would one day face in life. After leading a group this past August and seeing my patrol through the whole experience proved just how much growth happens in those 4 days at Basecamp after the backpacking ends. The lessons that are learned through all the activities, weather it be communication when you can't speak, team work through a tough problem, to overcoming personal barriers of fear and doubt; these are all things that make the foundation of how to function and problem solve in the world as we have grown up. To have them taught to young people at such an impressionable age will leave them with the tools they need for whatever comes to them in life. Please donate before

the end of December to keep this land in our community, open it up to more of the potential it has for all young people in our valley and for the overall wonderful education of our youth."

- Keaton Doyle

"Perhaps the most important aspect of the Aspen School District is the Outdoor Education Program. The most memorable and important lessons I ever learned growing up took place on Outdoor Ed. I've been lucky enough to go on more amazing journeys than I can count with both hands! And as a kid?! How lucky are we? From exploring Mesa Verde as a 4th grader, to camping in the snow with Andy Popinchalk amongst the Grand Tetons my senior year of high school, all the way back to spending my first night alone on the 8th grade O.D.E. "solo" - these monumental experiences are invaluable, and are the reason Aspen is so special. It breaks my heart to think that the future generations of Aspen may not get to experience a piece of this special program. My step-dad, Scott Edmondson, spent many years instilling in me (and thousands of others) the true value of the outdoors. The things you learn outside cannot be taught in a classroom, and that will never change. I hope that we can protect this land in not only his honor, but for the thousands of kids who have yet to learn those lessons."

- Jesse Hoffman

"Every kid that has been there will tell you as an adult, this was a time and place they will never forget.."

- Michael Lyons

"Moving to Aspen a few days before the 8th Grade school year commenced, I consider myself extremely fortunate to have experienced such a conquest. Marble Basecamp granted me a medium to be exposed to Aspen's rich outdoor culture and respect for the elements. The journey to Marble taught me so much about myself, both physically and mentally. I cannot imagine not having the amazing stories, memories, friends and "can-do" attitude that were developed from this amazing program."

- Michael Wagner

"I just donated a few hundred dollars (spread out over a few months) to help Aspen Valley Land Trust purchase the Marble Basecamp to hold it in perpetuity for the benefit of our valley's children. Some of you know my children attend Aspen Community School and therefore are not likely to benefit from a course at Marble Basecamp. So why am I donating so much? Because it is an incredible place for children to learn. My children, your children, they all become members of our community and we all benefit when members of our community are well-educated, well-balanced, nurturing, inquisitive, and prepared to learn more. Marble Basecamp is a place that brings children to their knees and then teaches them that they have the resources within

themselves to get back up and keep on going and to do it with grace and integrity. And that is worth a lot more than a few hundred dollars."

- *Anita Rayburn*

"Eighth-grade outdoor education, with the backpack over West Maroon Pass and time spent at Marble Basecamp, was memorable for many reasons, but especially in that it helped shaped my love and respect for the wild outdoors, a kind of rite of passage that I appreciate to this day. Protecting this special place in perpetuity not only keeps the land in its natural shape but also will offer many more generations such an influential life experience."

- *Kristine Crandall*

"My daughter had a phenomenal experience there last year and I hope it will be there for her sister and all the other kids from our community."

- *Audrey Ellis*

"I'd love for my girls to have the opportunity to experience this magical place."

- *Susan Plummer*

"The value of this Basecamp can't be quantified in my view. The impact the 8th grade outdoor ed program has had on everyone that went through it is overwhelming. I've never come across an alumni that would not say it was at the top of the list of life changing events growing up in Aspen. For my life both in and out of the mountains, it was the seed that sent me on my way!"

- *Michael Marolt*

"Some memories of our childhood fade away, but I can remember each moment of 8th grade Ex-Ed. From the snow storm on the hike over, 24 hour solo, jog and dip, high rappel, and sneaking my walkman into my resupply bag at Basecamp."

- *Paige Hutchinson*

"I am a survivor of 8th grade outdoor ed and will never forget Solo, Jog and Dip in the rain and the high rappel. My best friend overcame a huge fear of heights on the low rappel and I know that experience has stayed with her."

- *Katie McManus*

"Getting there was all ordeal, being there was all reward."

- *Anita Rayburn*

"8th grade outdoor Ed is a rite of passage for Aspen kids. It was for me 40 years ago, as it was for my children, and hundreds of students each and every year. This program is an essential component of the Aspen school system culture, as well as the culture of our entire community."

- *Andre Wille*

"8th grade outdoor ed at Basecamp is an irreplaceable, magical place. We need to save it for generations to come PERIOD!!!"

- *Beth, Pierre, Andre and Julie Wille*