



## A Journey of Impact

For 36 years, A Thousand Summers (ATS) has been changing kids' lives through transformative summer camp experiences. Attending camp for multiple summers magnifies the impact of camp for kids, but we've asked ourselves, "What if...?" What if we could offer more? What if we could create additional long-term impact for the young people we serve?

Let us introduce you to Olivia...

Olivia spent her first summer at Sanborn Western Camps when she was just 12 years old. She was nervous but excited to be outside and make new friends. ATS provided support that helped put her mind (and her mom's mind) at ease, but she still worried about being away from home for so long. She battled homesickness at first but had a great time and made many friends who helped her through.

*"I was scared of being away from home for so long and trying new things. Luckily, my experience was better than all that. It was the best summer I could have asked for as a kid!"*

**—Olivia, ATS Campership Program alum**



Olivia attended Sanborn for four summers. She developed deep friendships, learned how much she could push herself, and realized that she was capable of meeting all kinds of challenges. At the end of camp, she was “campsick” as she missed spending the summers outside in such a positive and supportive environment.

Fast forward to 2024...Olivia was thrilled to learn that her time with ATS was not over. She was accepted into the **ATS Outdoor Leadership Program** and was able to spend two weeks on a wilderness backpacking and rafting adventure with other ATS campership alums. She deepened her love of the outdoors and learned how to lead a group successfully. She acquired wilderness first aid skills and practiced navigating situations that might arise in the backcountry. She gained confidence and clarified her interest in pursuing a career in the outdoor industry.

Olivia may have benefited most, however, from the community that came together on the program: “Meeting all these other ATS alums was awesome! Everyone had unique experiences with camp

and reasons why it was important to them. We immediately found common ground, learned so much from each other, and built a network of people to rely on who also wanted to work outdoors.”

Olivia’s new skills and increased interest in working in the outdoors drove her to apply to the **ATS Camp Fellowship Program** in 2025. As a Fellow, Olivia returned to Sanborn as a counselor, where she was able to put into practice all she had learned on the Outdoor Leadership Program and gain more hands-on leadership experience.

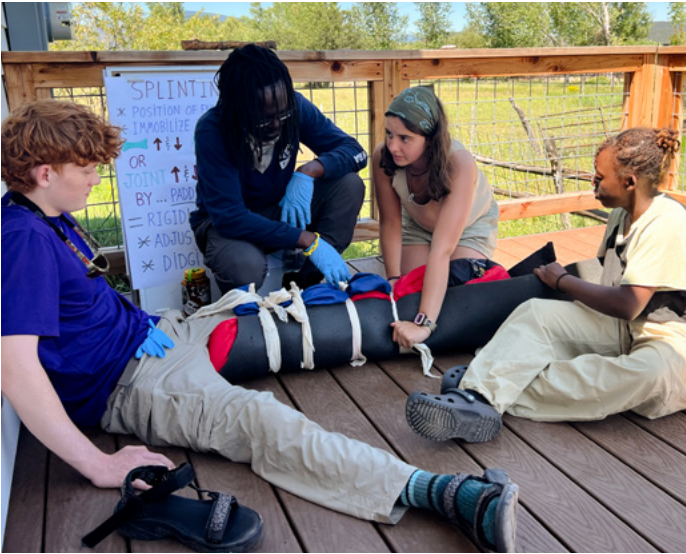
She participated in the additional Fellows training ATS provides and felt she was better prepared to navigate

*“Having been able to spend two weeks with Olivia on the Outdoor Leadership Program, I can attest to the positive energy she brings to the group and the inspiration she will be to future young leaders in ATS.”*

*—Gillian Nyland, ATS Program Director*



Olivia, top left



*“The skills I learned through my years with ATS have set me up to succeed in many other situations. My experience has given me the skills to communicate, lead, work as a team, and step outside of my comfort zone, which are all important for almost anything!”*

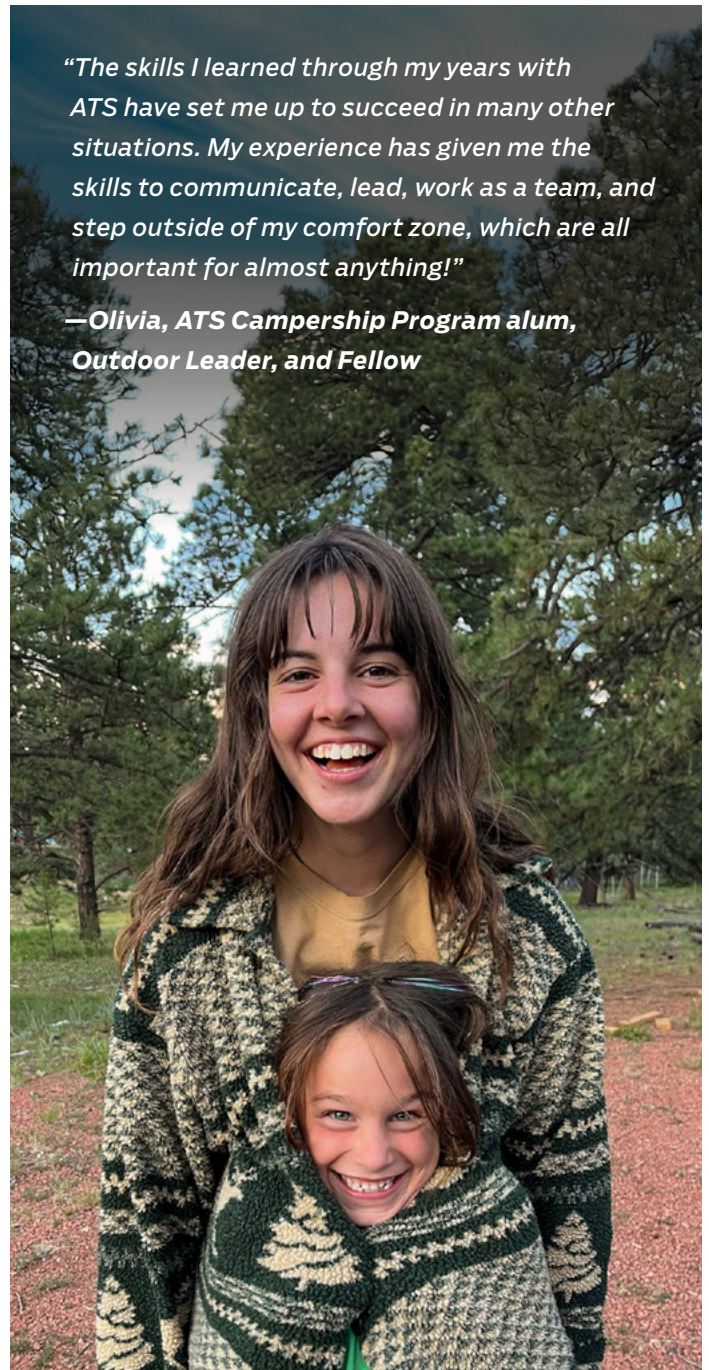
**—Olivia, ATS Campership Program alum, Outdoor Leader, and Fellow**

the counselor experience than many of her peers. She understood the commitment, the significance of the relationships she would build, her own leadership style, and the best ways to work together with the staff team.

She loved working with the kids, especially the ATS campers, and was able to connect on a deeper level since she had once been in their shoes. As she continued to expand her own skills, she also worked to help her campers grow and discover their own strengths.

Olivia’s journey with ATS confirmed her desire to work in the outdoor industry and gave her marketable skills. She has become a seasonal worker, living at and working for several other camps across the United States. With the training she gained as an Outdoor Leader and Fellow, she learned how much she enjoys working through stressful situations and assisting people in emergencies. She is working to become EMT certified so that she can one day work in Search and Rescue. Olivia also wants to inspire others in her community to take part in outdoor initiatives.

Olivia is a shining example of how the ATS programs build upon one another to create a platform for success. We want the young people we serve to grow into thriving adults and young leaders who respect the outdoors, support and give back to their camps and ATS, and get involved to make a difference in their



communities. We know that Olivia is going to succeed in anything she does and we are excited to follow her professional journey!

So “What if?” What if more kids could take part in this pathway for growth? Could we create an even deeper lifelong impact? By investing in ATS you can help us answer those questions and make a significant and lasting difference in the lives of the young people we serve. 🏕️

*“Effective cost management is not about simple budget cutting, but rather aligning every dollar with the organization’s mission to ensure high-value outcomes. The goal of ATS is to provide as many children as possible with the camp experience. ATS is positioned to achieve this goal for years to come.”*

*—Mike Brower, ATS Board Chair*



## Increasing Impact in the Face of Rising Costs

A Thousand Summers *changes kids' lives through transformative summer camp experiences.* That stated mission resonates deeply with many who believe in the power of camp.

We have benefited from an incredibly generous and loyal base of supporters throughout our 36-year history. In that time, we have been able to deliver on our mission with increasing impact, growing from a fledgling organization that in 1990 provided the funds for one young girl to attend Cheley Colorado Camps to one that offered over \$1 million worth of transformational summer camp and related experiences last year alone.

## Investing in our Mission

As we evolve it becomes increasingly important to invest in our capacity to deliver on the mission that means so much to so many. We are charged with finding ways to secure a future that not only guarantees what we are doing to change the lives of youth today, but to expand upon that in deeper, broader, and more sustainable ways tomorrow.

### That involves:

- Creating highly regarded and relevant youth development programming
- Ensuring we have enough spaces for increasing numbers of campers
- Building a more expansive network of dedicated camp, community, and corporate partners who believe in what we do, can support the increasing demand in our programs, and are willing to share the financial responsibility
- Developing our internal capacity through increased staffing to secure the necessary resources, help facilitate expanded programming options, and manage the partner relationships that are so critical to our organizational impact and success

*The investment we have made in our organization over the past 17 years has allowed us to increase the number of people in our programs by 290%.*



## Responding to Rising Costs

While we continue to do all we can to leverage relationships with our camp and community partners, raise funds, and effectively control expenses, just like everyone else, we are experiencing challenging cost increases:

- In 2010 the average cost of a campership was \$5,000
- Today that cost has increased by around 60% and is now closer to \$8,000
- The costs of travel and equipment have also increased significantly, making it more difficult to support the young people we send to camp

We have been able to deliver the camp experience at a below-market price due in large part to the contributions of our partners, and we have not increased our Giving Levels for over 10 years. We will continue to deliver the camp experience at a below-market price, but as our costs rise, we must balance those increased costs without sacrificing our commitment to service and quality.

As a result, we will be increasing our Giving Levels on July 1 for our 2027 program year. We are currently reviewing how each level will be impacted and will share the updates with you this summer.

## Delivering on our Commitment

We are committed to offering the highest quality youth development experiences for the young people we serve. We are also confident that we will continue to offer you incredible value on the investment you make in our organization.

It is our belief that the decisions we've made, coupled with your continued support, will ultimately allow us to deliver on the dream that Jack Cheley had all those years ago to make camp more accessible...the dream that launched a thousand summers. 🏕️

***We hope you will continue to support us with renewed dedication!***

# Leave a Lasting Legacy

If you believe in the power of camp, consider leaving a lasting legacy with a planned gift through the John Austin Cheley Foundation (DBA: A Thousand Summers FEIN #48-1077337). Your generosity will provide important future support for our mission and will help us continue to change kids' lives through camp for years to come.

If you are interested in leaving an impactful gift in your will or naming the Foundation as a beneficiary, please contact Alyssa Street at 720.981.2532 or at [alyssa.street@athousandsummers.org](mailto:alyssa.street@athousandsummers.org).

Scan the QR code below to find out how you can make a difference and join our Summit Society today. You can also download our free Will and Estate Planning Guide to help you through this important process.



# Double Your Impact

Do you know if the company you work for will match your contributions to a nonprofit? Scan the QR code below to find out if you can double the impact of your gift.



# Give the Gift of Camp

Participating in a peer-to-peer fundraiser for ATS is about more than just raising money—it's about changing lives.

Setting up a peer-to-peer fundraising campaign is easy to do and is a great way to help us make a difference. Scan the QR code for more information and to set up your personal fundraising page.



*"We are beyond thankful for what you are making possible for our child. ATS has opened a door for our son that brings a lot of promise for him."  
– Parent of Roscoe*

# Extending Impact Into the Future

Partner with us to create long-term impact in the lives of young people.

**\$25,000**

Allows for 1-on-1 relationship with camper family for multiple summers

**\$10,000**

Funds transformational summers for TWO campers

**\$5,000**

Provides the summer of a lifetime for ONE lucky camper

**\$2,500**

Covers half the cost of a summer campership

**\$1,000**

Funds an introductory camp experience for a young camper

**\$500**

Covers travel expenses for ONE camper

**\$250**

Provides equipment for ONE camper

**\$100**

Funds a camp store account for ONE camper





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## The Sky's the Limit—An Impactful Corporate Partnership

We are excited to announce that Southwest Airlines is the official airline partner of ATS! Thank you to Southwest for generously providing air travel for many of our campers.



If you are interested in becoming a corporate partner of ATS, scan the QR code for more information and to download our corporate flyer.



*Would you like more information on how you can help a child learn and grow through transformative summer camp experiences?*  
Visit our website at [www.athousandsummers.org/donate](http://www.athousandsummers.org/donate) or call us at 720.981.2532.