

This list of resources on diversity and equity in outdoor recreation includes articles, organizations, podcasts, TedTalks, locations to visit, and academic sources.

Articles

Diversity in the Great Outdoors: Is Everyone Welcome in America's Parks and Public Lands?

This article talks about the racial inequality of people visiting public lands, and the barriers behind this, as well as strategies for moving forward.

<https://www.resourcesmag.org/common-resources/diversity-in-the-great-outdoors-is-everyone-welcome-in-americas-parks-and-public-lands/#:~:text=The%20survey%2C%20which%20covers%20a,for%20blacks%20at%2034%20percent.>

Why National Parks Accessibility Matters:

This article talks about the efforts that the National Park Service is making to become more inclusive and accessible, through changing the internal culture, expanding outreach and education, and improving affordability.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/travel/destinations/north-america/united-states/national-parks/diversity-accessibility-representation-inclusion/#close>

Mount Evans Commemorates More Than One Colorado Tragedy

Mt Evans was named after Governor John Evans who played a large role in the Sand Creek Massacre. Work has been done to change the mountain's name, but has not yet been successful. Other places in Colorado are named after racist figures as well, such as Stapleton in Denver.

<https://www.westword.com/news/mount-evans-focus-of-name-change-effort-commemorates-more-than-one-colorado-tragedy-11381921>

Appalachian Trail Statement on Black Lives Matter

<https://thetrek.co/atc-joins-calls-for-racial-justice-for-black-americans/?ref=sidebar>

Bringing Outdoor Recreation to Native Americans

This article is from the Adventure Journal, and talks about efforts to bring Native Americans into the outdoors. It focuses on Marshall Masayeva, who grew up on the Hopi reservation, majored in outdoor education, and started a nonprofit called Adventures for Hopi. The goal of the organization is to get Hopi kids outside and Hopi guides to take them. This program takes kids on all sorts of adventures, and students can go for free in exchange for community service on the reservation. The ultimate goal of the organization is to incorporate outdoor recreation into reservation culture, leading to economic development.

<https://www.adventure-journal.com/2016/07/bringing-outdoor-recreation-to-native-americans/>

Numerology: Native Rights

This article talks about Native American's ancestral connection to the outdoors, and how they often get left out of conversations about wilderness, wildlife, recreation, and conservation.

<https://www.elevationoutdoors.com/go-outside/numerology-native-rights/>

Tracing the Native American Roots of Natural Icons in the US

This article focuses on Jalyyn Gough who grew up on the Navajo reservation, and grew up climbing, hiking, and biking on the reservation. After college she realized how much she needed the outdoors in her life, and in 2017 founded the "Whose Land Are We Exploring On" initiative. This initiative was to make the Native American's historical connection to the land a mainstream part of the outdoor industry.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/2018/07/native-american-roots-names-national-parks-outdoor-icons-jaylyn-gough/>

I Am Not Just Another Hiker

Shilletha Curtis is a Black, queer person who plans on hiking the Appalachian Trail. The article talks about the fears of being a Black hiker in the South, and how white privilege plays into hiking.

<https://thetrek.co/appalachian-trail/i-am-not-just-another-hiker/>

Colorado Woman Hikes 485 Miles from Denver to Durango

Patricia Cameron hiked the entire Colorado Trail. She is the founder of Colorado Backpackers, a nonprofit organization addressing gaps in representation outdoors. They provide gear, outdoor excursions, and education for free or reduced cost, and participants also get volunteer, internship, and job opportunities.

https://denver.cbslocal.com/2020/08/28/patricia-cameron-hikes-485-miles-denver-durango/?utm_campaign=true_anthem&utm_medium=facebook&utm_source=social&fbclid=IwAR3abXiD_k-A6aYFtN0mrtrmcYq2Bmz38lnRI7TTQAnobHRAOtOtHIamaGIw

“The Only Black Person Out There:” Patricia Cameron Encourages Others After Completing 485 Mile Colorado Trail

Patricia Cameron took 7 weeks to hike the Colorado Trail to bring awareness to the barriers to hiking and to inspire other people of color to get out on the trails.

<https://denver.cbslocal.com/2020/09/01/colorado-trail-patricia-cameron-black-nonprofit-blackpackers/>

The Blackalachian: First Gold-Mouth Rapper to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail

This article talks about Will “Akuna” Robinson, the first African American man to complete the triple crown of long distance hiking.

https://thetrek.co/appalachian-trail/blackalachian-first-gold-mouth-rapper-thru-hike-appalachian-trail/?ref=embedded_post

Backpacking in America as a Person of Color: Hikers Share Their Experiences

This article discusses different people of color’s experiences backpacking in the US. They talk about both positive and negative experiences during their time on the trail, and barriers that stop people of color from backpacking.

https://thetrek.co/backpacking-in-america-as-a-person-of-color-hikers-share-their-experiences/?ref=embedded_post

Closing the Gender Gap in the Great Outdoors

This blog post is about the challenges girls and women face in getting outdoors, and the difference between male and female participation, and the potential reasons behind it, and strategies for change and the importance of change.

<https://www.rei.com/blog/hike/closing-gender-gap-great-outdoors>

Organizations

*organizations based in Colorado

Next 100 Coalition

<https://next100coalition.org/>

The Next 100 Coalition is an organization with an inclusive vision for the next 100 years of conservation and stewardship in America. National public lands play a big part in protecting the environment and culture, but a lot of people do not enjoy the benefits of them. The Next 100 Coalition's guiding principles are for the public lands to reflect the faces of the country, respect for all cultures, and the responsibility to engage all people.

Melanin Basecamp

<https://www.melaninbasecamp.com/>

Melanin Basecamp's purpose is to inspire diversity in outdoor adventure sports with content from Black, Brown, Asian, Indigenous, and Queer People of color. Their website includes featured bloggers, trip reports, gear reviews, and more.

Diversify Outdoors

<https://www.diversifyoutdoors.com/>

Diversify Outdoors is a coalition of social media influencers who all want to promote diversity in outdoor recreation and conservation.

Every Kid Outdoors

<https://www.nationalparks.org/our-work/campaigns-initiatives/every-kid-outdoors>

Every Kid Outdoors is a federal public lands youth initiative to get all 4th graders and their families to public lands. They provide every 4th grade family with free national parks passes.

Open Outdoors for Kids

<https://www.nationalparks.org/our-work/campaigns-initiatives/open-outdoors-kids>

Open Outdoors for Kids connects kids to nature through outdoor activities, experiential learning, and cultural heritage exercises.

National Brotherhood of Skiers

<http://www.nbs.org/>

This organization was founded in 1973 in order to get a black skier on the US ski team. It is now a collection of ski clubs.

*Slippers and Sliders

<https://www.slippers-n-sliders.org/index.html>

Slippers and Sliders, located in Denver, was one of the founding clubs National Brotherhood of skiers.

*Colorado Backpackers

<http://www.coblackpackers.com>

Colorado Blackpacker's mission is to provide outdoor gear, trips, and education for free or for a lower cost, to connect participants with volunteer internship, and job opportunities and resources, and to create economic equity in outdoor recreation. This organization was founded by Patricia Cameron in 2019.

City Kids:

City Kids is an organization that bring DC students to Jacksonhole, Wyoming during the summer, after preparing through programs in Rockville, Maryland. City kids don't necessarily have outdoor opportunities, and many of them are kids of color. This trip is low cost, and is for middle and high school students. The program also has tutoring, support, and job training programs.

<http://citykidsdc.org>

Adventures for Hopi

The goal of the organization is to get Hopi kids outside and Hopi guides to take them. This program takes kids on all sorts of adventures, and students can go for free in exchange for community service on the reservation. The organization teaches kids lessons about culture, biology, and job skills. The ultimate goal of the organization is to incorporate outdoor recreation into reservation culture, leading to economic development.

<https://www.adventuresforhopi.org/>

Native Outdoors

This is a Native American owned outdoor apparel and media company. Their mission is to empower indigenous communities through products and storytelling, to work towards a sustainable world. The organization started as a social media project telling stories of Native people in outdoor recreation to address the lack of representation. Now they advise and consult with the outdoor industry on the intersections between tribes, public lands, and outdoor recreation. They work with tribal governments, community organizations, and individuals to increase access to outdoor recreation and connect people to resources and opportunities in the outdoors.

<https://natives-outdoors.com/>

Black Outside, Inc.

The mission of this organization, based in San Antonio, TX, is to reconnect Black/African American youth to the outdoors through culturally relevant outdoor experiences. They aim for their participants to explore themselves, their culture, and the outdoors. They have an overnight camp for black girls, Camp Founder Girls, the Bloom Project, which helps heal youth impacted by incarceration, and more.

<https://www.blackoutside.org/programs>

Camp Founder Girls

This camp is America's first Black summer camp for girls, resurrected in 2019.

<https://www.campfoundergirls.org/>

Wild Diversity

Wild Diversity, based in Oregon, aims to welcome and create a sense of belonging in the outdoors for BIPOC and LGBTQ+ communities. Their programs include outdoor adventures, outdoor education, and community workshops.

<https://wilddiversity.com/>

Latinx Hikers

Latinxhikers inspires more people of color to go outdoors through storytelling and outreach.

<https://www.latinxhikers.com/about>

Podcasts

Unlikely Hikers Spotify Podcast

This podcast talks about diverse stories from people in underrepresented groups in outdoor media and culture.

She Explores Spotify Podcast

This podcast tell stories of women who are inspired by the outdoors, covering many topics as they intersect with the outdoors.

Wild Ideas Worth Living Podcast REI

Starting a Movement to Encourage Diversity in the Outdoors with Karen Ramos and Adriana Garcia:

Karen Ramos and Adriana Garcia are the founder of Latinx Hikers, and in this podcast (Wild Ideas Worth Living by REI) they talk about their experiences leading them to become passionate about the issue of diversity outdoors, and how they came to found this organization.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuELk_3EUFU

Ted Talks

How to Overcome Our Biases? Walk Boldly Toward Them

Verna Myers, a diversity advocate, talks about how our biases towards out groups can be dangerous and deadly. She talks about how to acknowledge your biases and move towards overcoming them.

<https://youtu.be/uYyvbgiNzkQ>

Recolor the Outdoors

Alex Bailey, the founder of Black Outside, Inc, speaks about how the outdoors is not a diverse space currently, and the benefits of spending time in nature. He talks about both the tragic and triumphant histories of people of color in the outdoors.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2OUHrujNzk

Your Style of Outdoor

Mercy M’Fon, the founder of the organization Wild Diversity, talks about the history of people of color in the outdoors, and the barriers people of color face in getting outdoors. There are many different ways to get outdoors – not just those defined by the outdoor industry.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-2cQTCiRy-U>

Native American Cultural and Historical Sites in Colorado

Mesa Verde National Park

Mesa Verde National Park was established to preserve the heritage of the Ancestral Pueblo people. This park, located in southwestern Colorado is full of archeological sites and cliff dwellings. There is camping and hiking in the park, as well as guided tours.

<http://www.nps.gov/meve/index.htm>

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument

Canyons of the Ancients National Monument is in southwestern Colorado. This monument contains many Native American archeological sites dating back to 10,000 years ago. The Pueblos were one of the tribes that lived there. There is also a visitor center and museum.

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/colorado/canyons-of-the-ancients>

Chimney Rock National Monument:

Chimney Rock National Monument is a Pueblo archeological site in southwestern Colorado. There are archeological structures, artifacts, and wildlife in this beautiful national monument.

<https://www.chimneyrockco.org/>

Hovenweep National Monument:

Hovenweep National Monument has six prehistoric villages, and is a Native American archeological site for many tribes, especially the Pueblo. You can hike, camp, and stargaze in this national monument located partially in southwestern Colorado and partially in southeastern Utah.

<https://www.nps.gov/hove/planyourvisit/index.htm>

Yucca House National Monument:

Yucca House National Monument is located in southwestern Colorado and is an unexcavated Ancestral Pueblo site. There are no signs, facilities, or information, so be sure to print out the visitor guide before you go.

<https://www.nps.gov/yuho/planyourvisit/basicinfo.htm>

Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park

Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park is an archeological Native American site on tribal land in southwestern Colorado. Various types of tours of this park are available with Ute guides, catering to more active and less active groups, and groups who want to see remote parts of the park. Camping is also allowed, and transportation into the park is provided.

<http://www.utemountaintribalpark.info>

Crow Canyon Archeological Center

Crow Canyon Archeological site is located in southwestern Colorado, and does archeological research and experiential education programs about Native Americans. They offer tours as well as archeology and lab programs. They encourage citizen scientists to participate in the archeological process. Their education programs include one day trips for schools and overnight programs. They also offer summer camps and programs for adults.

<http://www.crowcanyon.org>

Southern Ute Museum

The Southern Ute Museum, also known as the Southern Ute Tribe Cultural Center, is on tribal land in southwestern Colorado. The museum educates about and celebrates Ute Native Americans, Colorado's longest continuous residents. Tours are self-guided, and behind the scenes guided tours and school group tours are also offered. There are also events and temporary galleries.

<http://www.southernutemuseum.org>

Ute Indian Museum

This museum connects history to current Ute life and culture. It is located in Montrose, Colorado.

<http://www.historycolorado.org/ute-indian-museum>

Trail of the Ancients

The Trail of the Ancients is a 116 mile long scenic byway in southwestern Colorado, goes through Native American historical sites, including Mesa Verde National Park and Hovenweep National Monument. The byway continues to Utah's Trail of the Ancients.

<http://www.codot.gov/travel/scenic-byways/southwest/trail-ancients>

Academic Sources for Diversity in the Outdoors

The Gendering of Outdoor Recreation: Women's Experiences on their Path to Leadership

Participation of women in outdoor recreation is growing, but white men still dominant the face of outdoors recreation. One explanation for this could be the effects of gender socialization.

Participating in outdoor recreation has physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual benefits, and since there are fewer women involved, there are fewer women benefiting.

<https://digital.library.txstate.edu/bitstream/handle/10877/5580/AVERY-THESIS-2015.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

Adolescent Girls and Outdoor Recreation: A Case Study Examining Constraints and Effective Programming

In this study, focus groups and individuals were interviewed. There were 34 adolescent girls interviewed, six female outdoor program leaders, and five adult women. The constraints to women participating in outdoor recreation include stereotypical gender roles, differences in opportunities for men and women, peer and family expectations, access, and physical and environmental factors. Outdoor programs help girls to overcome these constraints. This study was meant to show the constraints and how outdoor programming can overcome them.

<https://www.nrpa.org/globalassets/journals/jlr/1998/volume-30/jlr-volume-30-number-3-pp-356-379.pdf>

Home-Grown Racism: Colorado's Historic Embrace – And Denial-of Equal Opportunity in Higher Education

This paper talks about the history of racism in Colorado, its impacts on the state, including higher education, up until the modern day.

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2411625

Recreation Equity: Is the Forest Service Serving Its Diverse Publics?

This research article talks about how racial minorities don't use Forest Service opportunities at the same rate as white people. It talks about the barriers to public lands and outdoor recreation, the importance of involvement for everyone, and strategies for moving forward.

https://www.fs.fed.us/rm/pubs_journals/2018/rmrs_2018_flores_d002.pdf

Linking the 2010 Census to National Park Visitors

This study compared visitor characteristics from the Visitor Service Project survey with census data, to find that National Park visitors are more highly educated than the general public, with higher income, and whiter.

<https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/495294>

National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Survey Results: 2010/2011:

This survey was done on 53 wildlife refuges, to understand visitor needs and experiences, in order to design programs and facilities. Visitors to these refuges were largely white, with a higher income and education level than the general public.

<https://pubs.usgs.gov/ds/685/DS685.pdf>

2019 Outdoor Participation Report:

This report was done by the Outdoor Foundation, the philanthropic branch of the Outdoor Industry Association. This report talked about the growth and declines in diverse groups participating.

<https://outdoorindustry.org/resource/2019-outdoor-participation-report/>

People of Color and Their Constraints to National Park Visitation

This paper talks about how people of color visit National Parks disproportionately less than white people, and how the survival of the national parks depends on making them welcoming and relevant to the changing population. The paper goes through constraints to national park visitation and discrimination in the outdoors, and the roots of all this.

<http://www.georgewright.org/351scott.pdf>

Racial Complexities of Outdoor Spaces: An Analysis of African American's Lived Experiences in Outdoor Recreation:

This thesis talks about how African Americans experience the outdoors, and the historical, economic, and cultural factors.

https://scholarlycommons.pacific.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=4120&context=uop_etds

More Resources:

Challenging the Narrative and Amplifying Voices: Resources for Education and Inclusivity in the Outdoor Industry

This link includes a list of videos to watch, and articles and books to read about diversity in the outdoors.

<https://thetrek.co/challenge-the-narrative/>