

CLUB FOSTERED COMMUNITY GRANT REPORT 2022



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ABOUT THE ACA

FOUNDED IN 1880, THE AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION (ACA) IS A NATIONAL NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION SERVING THE PADDLING PUBLIC BY PROVIDING EDUCATION RELATED TO ALL ASPECTS OF PADDLING, STEWARDSHIP SUPPORT TO HELP PROTECT PADDLING ENVIRONMENTS, AND SANCTIONING OF PROGRAMS AND EVENTS TO PROMOTE PADDLESPORT COMPETITION, EXPLORATION, AND RECREATION.

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH L.L. BEAN, WE BELIEVE THE CFC GRANT PROGRAM'S ROLE IS TO SUPPORT PADDLING OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESS FOR THE BIPOC COMMUNITY THROUGH THE FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING PADDLING CLUBS, NON-PROFITS, AND VOLUNTEER GROUPS. BY LEVERAGING THE EXISTING CLUBS AND PROJECTS THAT ARE ALREADY IN PLACE (PERHAPS PROJECTS THAT WERE ONCE FUNDED BY A PREVIOUS CFS GRANT), THIS PROJECT WILL NOT NEED TO "REINVENT THE WHEEL." IN 2022, THE CFC FUNDING WAS USED TO AMPLIFY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION EFFORTS OF EXISTING GROUPS/PROJECTS, RATHER THAN DEVELOPING BRAND NEW PROGRAMS FROM SCRATCH. THE NEW PADDLERS ENGAGED BY THE CFC DEI EFFORTS NOW HAVE A COMMUNITY GROUP OR CLUB TO CALL "HOME," WHICH RESULTS IN LASTING RELATIONSHIPS AND A LONG-TERM INTEREST IN EXPERIENCING AND EXPLORING THE PADDLING WORLD.

CLUB FOSTERED COMMUNITY GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW



SINCE 2002, THE ACA HAS PARTNERED WITH L.L. BEAN TO SPONSOR THE CLUB FOSTERED STEWARDSHIP (CFS) PROGRAM. THE ACA IS PROUD TO HELP LOCAL PADDLING CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS BUILD THEIR COMMUNITIES AND IMPROVE THEIR WATERWAYS. THROUGH FUNDS PROVIDED BY L.L. BEAN, THE ACA'S CFS PROGRAM PROVIDED NEARLY \$175,000 TO OVER 185 DIFFERENT STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES SINCE ITS INCEPTION. IN 2021, THE CFS GRANT WAS REFOCUSED AND RE-NAMED AS THE "CLUB FOSTERED COMMUNITY" PROGRAM; FUNDING IS NOW USED TO AMPLIFY DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION EFFORTS OF EXISTING GROUPS/PROJECTS THROUGH EDUCATION, STEWARDSHIP, COMPETITION, RECREATION, AND WATERWAY EXPLORATION EVENTS.

WITH THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF L.L. BEAN, THE ACA WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT PADDLING CLUBS AND GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY IN THEIR EFFORTS TO MAKE THIS WORLD A BETTER PLACE TO PADDLE FOR EVERYONE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: [AMERICANCANOE.ORG/PARTNERSHIPS](https://www.americancanoe.org/partnerships)

IN 2022, THE ACA FUNDED SEVEN (7) ORGANIZATIONS AND THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS:

BROOKLYN BRIDGE BOATHOUSE

KIDS AND FAMILY PADDLE PROGRAM AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH



THROUGH THE GENEROSITY OF L.L.BEAN'S CFC GRANT, THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE PARK BOATHOUSE WAS ABLE TO EXPAND THEIR PROGRAMMING AND ULTIMATELY INCREASE THE NUMBER OF PADDLERS ON THE WATER AS PART OF THEIR KIDS & FAMILY PROGRAM IN ADDITION TO REGULAR PADDLING SESSIONS.

THE TANDEM KAYAK PURCHASED THROUGH FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE L.L. BEAN GRANT WAS VERY HELPFUL DURING THE YOUTH PROGRAM. ADOLESCENTS WERE ENCOURAGED TO TRY SINGLE KAYAKS, BUT WHEN VERY RELUCTANT TO DO SO, THE TANDEM KAYAK BECAME A PERFECT OPTION. IN AT LEAST ONE INSTANCE, A TEEN WHO HAD BEEN HESITANT CHANGED HER MIND, SWITCHED TO A SINGLE KAYAK, AND BECAME ONE OF THE BOLDEST KAYAKERS IN HER GROUP.

WHEN CHILDREN FROM OTHER PARTS OF BROOKLYN PADDLE WITH BBPB IN THE EAST RIVER, THEY OFTEN ASK, "ARE THERE SHARKS IN THERE?" ADULTS, IN CONTRAST, ARE OFTEN SURPRISED THAT ANY MARINE LIFE EXISTS IN THE EMBAYMENT. ONE TEEN AT THE YOUTH PROGRAM WAS CHARMED WHEN A JUVENILE BLUE CRAB SWAM ONTO THE BOW OF HER SIT-ON-TOP KAYAK, AND SHE BECAME VERY PROTECTIVE OF THE TINY CREATURE.

BBPB VOLUNTEERS ALSO COLLABORATED WITH TKF TO CO-HOST A VISIT REQUESTED BY THE NYC MAYOR'S OFFICE'S INITIATIVE ON NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY. OVER 35 TEENS AND YOUNG ADULTS FROM NYCHA HOUSING IN FOUR BOROUGH, AND MORE THAN HALF A DOZEN NYPD OFFICER-MENTORS PADDLED TOGETHER WITH BBPB THAT DAY.



CHICAGO VOYAGERS BIPOC ADVENTURE THERAPY



GRANT FUNDING FROM L.L. BEAN SUPPORTED CHICAGO VOYAGERS' OUTDOOR ADVENTURE THERAPY PROGRAMS, DESIGNED TO EMPOWER AT-RISK YOUTH THROUGH OUTDOOR EXPERIENTIAL ADVENTURES THAT FOSTER HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR. THIS GRANT FUNDED SUPPORT INCLUDED COVERING THE COSTS OF OUR OUTDOOR PROGRAMS THAT ALLOW OUR YOUNG PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN PADDLESport ACTIVITIES.

DURING A LAKE CANOE PROGRAM, PARTICIPANTS WERE PADDLING THROUGH A SECTION OF SALT CREEK WHEN THEY SPOTTED A CREATURE SWIMMING ACROSS THE CREEK. EVERYONE WAS EXCITED TO SEE A TURTLE UP CLOSE BUT AS THEY GOT CLOSER, THEY REALIZED IT WAS A CHIPMUNK! NO ONE EVEN KNEW THEY COULD EVEN SWIM!



"THIS IS THE MOST RELAXED I'VE FELT IN WEEKS; I COULD TAKE A NAP," SAID A STUDENT ON THEIR FIRST CANOE TRIP.

ANOTHER STUDENT, WHO REGULARLY HAD ATTENDANCE ISSUES AT SCHOOL, REALLY ENJOYED CANOEING WITH US FOR THE FIRST TIME LAST SPRING. THIS YEAR, THE WEEK BEFORE THE CHICAGO VOYAGERS' FIRST CANOE PROGRAM, HE HAD PERFECT ATTENDANCE AND COMPLETED ALL HIS CLASSWORK.

DIVERSIFY WHITEWATER COMMUNITY RIVER FLOAT & PADDLING SKILLS DAY



L.L. BEAN FUNDING SUPPORTED FOUR (OF FOURTEEN) DIVERSIFY WHITEWATER EVENTS THIS YEAR, WHICH WELCOMED 219 PARTICIPANTS AND 74 VOLUNTEERS TOTAL. THESE EVENTS ARE CRITICAL TO DW'S MISSION TO REMOVE BARRIERS FOR BLACK, INDIGENOUS, AND PEOPLE OF COLOR (BIPOC) AND ALLIES IN PADDLING, RAISE AWARENESS FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION IN THE PADDLESPORTS COMMUNITY, AND ULTIMATELY HELP DEVELOP THE NEXT GENERATION OF BIPOC PADDLERS.



THE EVENTS HOSTED THROUGH THE L.L. BEAN GRANT WERE:

COMMUNITY RIVER FLOAT – NORTHERN COLORADO

DIVERSIFY WHITEWATER COMMUNITY RIVER FLOAT – EAGLE VALLEY, COLORADO

PADDLING SKILLS DAY – WASHINGTON DC

PADDLING SKILLS DAY – PUEBLO, COLORADO

PARTICIPANTS HAD ONLY POSITIVE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT THE EVENTS AND WERE ESPECIALLY GRATEFUL FOR THE THOUGHTFUL ATTENTION TO DETAIL BY THE EVENT ORGANIZERS AND VOLUNTEERS.

“THIS WHOLE EXPERIENCE WAS AMAZING, I CAME WITH MY GIRLFRIEND AND SHE HAS NOT YET STOPPED TALKING ABOUT THE AMAZING TIME SHE HAD. THIS WAS HER FIRST TIME DOING ANYTHING ON THE WATER AND SHE CAN'T WAIT TO DO IT AGAIN.”

9/10 SURVEY TAKERS RESPONDED “I HAD AN AMAZING TIME” WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE EXPERIENCE AND OVER 60% OF THOSE INDICATED THAT THEY ARE ALREADY PLANNING THEIR NEXT PADDLING TRIP.

ERIE CANALWAY PADDLE THE CANALS

ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR USED THE FUNDING PROVIDED BY THE L.L. BEAN CLUB FOSTERED COMMUNITY GRANT TO INTRODUCE YOUTH INTERNS FROM THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD EDUCATION CENTER IN ALBANY, NY TO THE NYS CANAL SYSTEM AND THE NYS CANALWAY WATER TRAIL.

PARTICIPANTS WERE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRY PADDLING AND LEARN PADDLING SKILLS FROM A CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR. THEY RENTED KAYAKS FOR EACH PARTICIPANT AND PROVIDED PROPER GEAR INCLUDING LIFE JACKETS AS WELL AS INSTRUCTION ON SAFE PADDLING PRACTICES AND BASIC PADDLING SKILLS. THE EVENT WAS IN A SAFE AREA OF THE CANAL AT MOHAWK HARBOR IN SCHENECTADY.

MARCUS ANDERSON, DEPUTY DIRECTOR AT THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD EDUCATION CENTER, HELPED COORDINATE THE OUTING WITH ERIE CANALWAY FOR THE TEENAGERS TO KAYAK ON THE MOHAWK RIVER AND ERIE CANAL. HE SAID THE NATIONAL DESIGNATION HELPS PEAK INTEREST IN THE CANALWAY. AFTER THE STUDENTS RETURNED TO THE HARBOR, ANDERSON COMMENTED ON HOW MUCH THE STUDENTS ENJOYED THE EXPERIENCE. THE MAJORITY OF THE STUDENTS HAD NEVER KAYAKED BEFORE.





PERKIOMEN WATERSHED CONSERVANCY YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS

THE CLUB FOSTERED COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDING WAS USED TO SUPPORT THE PERKIOMEN WATERSHED YOUTH CONSERVATION CORPS' (PWCC) CAPSTONE PROJECT, THE PERKI-BAY EXPEDITION. THIS IS A 50 MILE PADDLING EXPEDITION THAT TRAVERSES THREE MAJOR WATERWAYS WITHIN SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA: THE PERKIOMEN CREEK, THE SCHUYLKILL RIVER, AND THE DELAWARE RIVER. ALONG WITH PERKIOMEN WATERSHED CONSERVANCY STAFF AND SAFETY BOATERS, PWCC MEMBERS PADDLE FOR FIVE DAYS AND CAMPED FOR FOUR NIGHTS WHILE PERFORMING WATER QUALITY MONITORING AND LEARNING FROM DOWNSTREAM PARTNERS ALONG THE WAY. THE EXPEDITION IS A UNIQUE AND REWARDING EXPERIENCE THAT ALLOWS STUDENTS FROM A VARIETY OF BACKGROUNDS TO PARTICIPATE. A PERKI-BAY EXPEDITION PARTICIPANT, LIAM, SAID "THE PERKI-BAY EXPEDITION WAS A WONDERFULLY FUN AND EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE THAT BROUGHT ALL OF US CLOSER TOGETHER AND MORE IN TUNE WITH THE WATER IN WHICH WE PADDLED."

ONE OF THE MOST MEANINGFUL OBSERVATIONS PWCC MEMBERS MAKE DURING THE PERKI-BAY EXPEDITION WAS NOTICING THE CHANGES IN LAND USE OF RIPARIAN AREAS AND OBSERVING HOW THOSE CHANGES IMPACT THE REST OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE HEALTH OF THE WATERWAYS. OBSERVING THE IMPACTS OF THESE DIFFERENT LAND USES CLEARLY DEMONSTRATES THE CONSERVANCY'S MANTRA OF "WHAT WE DO TO THE LAND, WE DO TO THE WATER".



PRIDE DAY ON THE RIVER

THANKS TO THE GENEROUS GRANT FUNDING FROM L.L. BEAN, FOUR INDIVIDUALS WERE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE FREE-OF-CHARGE IN THE INTRODUCTION TO WHITEWATER CLINIC DELIVERED BY ZOAR OUTDOOR ON SATURDAY, JUNE 11 IN CHARLEMONT, MASSACHUSETTS.

THESE FOUR PEOPLE JOINED FOUR OTHERS FOR A TOTAL OF EIGHT PARTICIPANTS IN THE CLINIC. ALL MEMBERS OF THE CLINIC IDENTIFIED AS HAVING AN LGBTQ+ IDENTITY, MAKING THIS THE FIRST ALL-LGBTQ+ GROUP TO ATTEND A CLINIC. INTRODUCING LGBTQ+ FOLKS TO WHITEWATER KAYAKING ADVANCED THE GOALS OF PRIDE DAY ON THE RIVER BY INCREASING VISIBILITY OF LGBTQ+ PEOPLE OUTDOORS, BRINGING NEW PEOPLE TO THE SPORT, AND CREATING A SAFE PLACE FOR LGBTQ+ PEOPLE AND ALLIES ON THE RIVER. THE MAJORITY OF PARTICIPANTS INQUIRED ABOUT, OR MADE PLANS TO CONTINUE THEIR WHITEWATER LEARNING AND EXPLORATION.

“AS A QUEER PERSON AND A WHITEWATER BOATER, PRIDE DAY ON THE RIVER IS A CELEBRATION AT THE CONFLUENCE OF TWO IMPORTANT ASPECTS OF MY IDENTITY. MANY CURRENT EVENTS MAKE CLEAR THAT LGBTQ PEOPLE ARE STILL NOT FULLY WELCOME EVERYWHERE. YET OUR WHITEWATER COMMUNITY’S EMBRACE OF PRIDE CONTRIBUTES RAPID PROGRESS TOWARDS INCLUSION AND EQUALITY.”



TEAM RIVER RUNNER

ALL INCLUSIVE AFFINITY PADDLING CLINIC



ON JUNE 27TH, A GROUP OF NINE LGBTQIA+ VETERANS AND FIVE GUIDES EMBARKED ON A JOURNEY FOR FOUR DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS ON THE DESCHUTES RIVER CANYON IN THE CENTRAL OREGON DESERT. THE GROUP TRAVELED 45 MILES ON CLASS 2-3+ RAPIDS.

PARTICIPANTS ROTATED IN AND OUT OF A PADDLE RAFT, GEAR RAFT, AND INFLATABLE KAYAKS. A COUPLE PEOPLE EVEN TRIED HARD SHELL KAYAKS. TEAM RIVER RUNNER RECOGNIZES AND APPRECIATES THE IMPORTANCE OF CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH ALL VETERANS FEEL VALUED, INCLUDED, A SENSE OF BELONGING, AND EMPOWERED TO BE THEIR BEST. THE PURPOSE OF THIS EVENT WAS TO INCREASE THE HEALING OPPORTUNITIES FOR DIVERSE VETERAN COMMUNITIES THROUGH PADDLESPO RTS.



“WE WERE ALL VERY GRATEFUL TO HAVE HAD THIS OPPORTUNITY. IT ISN'T OFTEN THAT YOU HAVE THE SPACE TO CONNECT WITH OTHER PEOPLE WHO UNDERSTAND YOU; AND TO FEEL SAFE WHILE BEING VULNERABLE ENOUGH TO NOT ONLY FACILITATE THE HEALING OF YOUR WOUNDS OF COMBAT AND SERVICE CONNECTED INJURIES, BUT ALSO BEGIN TO HEAL THE UNIQUE WOUNDS OF HAVING TO LIVE IN FEAR AND SHAME FOR SO MUCH OF OUR LIVES. ALL IN ALL, I THINK THAT THE JOURNEY FOR ALL OF US WAS ENRICHING, LIFE EXPANDING, AND TRANSFORMATIVE ON MANY LEVELS.”



Thank You!



L.L.Bean



FOR MAKING THE
CLUB FOSTERED COMMUNITY
PROGRAM POSSIBLE