



Know Someone Who Would Be a Great Teacher?

The UNC Center for Urban Education (CUE) is enrolling new students for the fall 2021 semester through July.

Contact Dr. Rosanne Fulton, Director, at 303-637-4334 or [email](#) her for more information.

Watch our [short video](#) to learn more about the CUE teacher-preparation program.

[Watch Video](#)

Looks like a CUE teacher candidate and her family will be going camping, thanks to the Center's Great Outdoor Gear Giveaway.

Urban Teachers and Students CAN Experience the Great Outdoors

Twice a year, [UNC Center for Urban Education](#) and Professor Jessica Feld host the Great Outdoor Gear Giveaway. Throughout the year, Feld works with partner organizations and members of the community to collect new and gently used backpacks, hiking shoes, outerwear, and other outdoor equipment. The Center then gives teacher candidates the opportunity to take what they need in order to enjoy the great outdoors—even if that's the neighborhood park.

The Seed of an Idea

"I first hosted five students at my family's mountain cabin in Allenspark, Colorado six years ago," said Feld, who has taught science classes at the Center for 21 years. "I wanted to give them access to the outdoors and get them interested in showing their families and future students how to do the same," said Feld. She teaches them about nature's wonders and ties nature to her science methods curriculum.

In that first trip, Feld noticed how many of the students did not have proper outdoor gear, such as water bottles, hiking shoes, breathable layers of clothing, and a waterproof outer layer. "I decided to start an equipment and clothing drive to help all of our CUE students get outdoors," explained Feld. She contacted outdoor gear manufacturers such as Patagonia and Salewa, who agreed to donate new and gently used gear.



A sampling of the gear available at the Giveaway

The Giveaway Grows

The project grew as Feld contacted more vendors and the word spread throughout the community. The Center began to invite all of its students to choose from the available gear at twice-a-year giveaways.

Current and past sponsors of outdoor clothing and equipment and teaching aids include:

- [Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance](#)
- [Patagonia](#)
- [Salewa](#)
- [Boulder County Audubon Society](#)
- [Boulder County Nature Association](#)
- [HRCA Backcountry Wilderness Area](#)
- [Project Learning Tree](#)
- [Colorado State Forest Service](#)
- [Colorado Parks and Wildlife](#)
- Curt Brown
- [Educator Academy in the Amazon](#)
- Members of the community



A CUE teacher candidate selects outdoor gear

The Giveaway Gives Back

"The people and companies that donate feel good because they're supporting future teachers," said Feld. "They value the hard work that teachers do, and their donations also help further their own organizations' missions," she said.

Here's what some donors had to say about their involvement in the program:

"Environmental education is critical to developing students into active stewards of Colorado's greatest asset: our natural resources. Colorado Parks and Wildlife's partnership with CUE connects classroom teachers with the resources they need to get kids outside, exploring nature through hands-on curriculum and field investigation activities. It is through partnerships like this that CPW is able to connect with and inspire future generations to act as guardians for our state's wildlife and wild places."

Jennifer Standlee, Northeast Region Education Coordinator, Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Environmental education is critical to developing students into active stewards of Colorado's greatest asset: our natural resources.

"For almost 40 years, Patagonia has supported grassroots activists to find solutions to the environmental and social justice crisis. We do that by fostering meaningful relationships within local communities. The personal stories of how our product donations have positively affected the teacher candidates at the Center for Urban Education remind me why we show up every single day!"

Bebe Beyer, Assistant Store Manager, Patagonia Boulder

"Our partnership with the UNC Center for Urban Education has given IPWA a wonderful opportunity to interact with future educators who can pass on the benefits of wilderness exploration to future generations."

Kelly Prendergast, Board Chair, Indian Peaks Wilderness Alliance

We are committed to giving teacher candidates effective tools and curriculum for teaching their future students how to think, not what to think, about complex environmental issues.

"Colorado Project Learning Tree (PLT) is committed to giving teacher candidates effective tools and curriculum for teaching their future students how to think, not what to think, about complex environmental issues. We are excited to share our easy-to-use, proven, hands-on activities with the UNC Center for Urban Education.

Danielle Ardrey, Conservation & Youth Education Specialist, Colorado State Forest Service



A nice warm coat to experience the outdoors in

Donate to the Gear Giveaway

If you or your organization want to donate to the Great Outdoor Gear Giveaway and our outdoor-related curriculum, we are looking for new or lightly used:

- Hiking shoes and boots
- Camping gear, such as sleeping bags, tents, and stoves
- Day packs and backpacks
- Rain coats
- Hiking clothes
- Outdoor equipment, such as skis and snowshoes
- Science equipment to use in experiments, such as magnifying glasses, microscopes, and magnets
- Books and teaching aids related to nature and science
- Books related to the outdoors, hiking, and science

We also gratefully accept monetary donations to our scholarship fund for the [Educator Academy in the Amazon](#).

For more information or to donate, contact CUE Professor Jessica Feld at 303-817-7602 or by [email](#).



CUE teacher candidates "shopping" for gear

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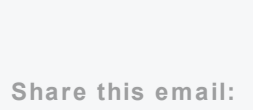
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