



Rippleffect, Inc. – Organizational Background

Organizational Mission:

Our mission is to promote youth development and leadership through adventure, healthy communities and living sustainably.

As one of Maine's leading youth leadership development organizations, Rippleffect uses adventure, exploration of Maine's coast and an outcomes-based curriculum to give Maine youth an opportunity to build self-confidence, connection to their communities and their environment, and physical skills that can last them a lifetime. Rippleffect owns Cow Island in Casco Bay which serves as a remote eco-campus for many of our programs.

History

Rippleffect was founded in 1999 as an adventure kayaking program designed to give local youth the opportunity to experience of Maine's beautiful coast without social or economic barriers. Initially, expeditions took place off of the East End Beach and Mackworth Island. In 2001, with broad community support, Rippleffect purchased Cow Island. Since that time, thousands of Maine children and families have enjoyed our programs – exploring Maine's coast by kayak, learning self-confidence, acquiring a greater sense of community through adventure, and experiencing an environmentally sustainable lifestyle, organic garden and solar power of the island.

In 2009, Rippleffect began offering year-round programming. Rippleffect Outdoor Leadership Education (ROLE) is a 6-week after-school for high-risk middle school students and combines leadership development, environmental education and school engagement. Offering school-based programs allow us to reach young people who may not otherwise participate in outdoor leadership opportunities. This has grown into school vacations and treks into the White Mountains Year round increasing the impact on the schools and communities.

Geographic Service Area

Cumberland and York Counties with a focus on the greater Portland area.

Constituency

Rippleffect has programming for youth between the ages of 8-18 of all social and economic backgrounds. We have made a special commitment through our scholarship funds to engage youth whose access to the joys of Maine's beautiful coast is limited by social or economic factors. Our broad goal is to give youth reflective of our community the opportunity to build a connection to nature and carry it out into their own communities with newly discovered leadership skills.

We also run adult education and recreation programs that play an essential role in supporting our youth programs. These include team building exercises, corporate gatherings and weddings.