



Sonlight Adventures, Inc

## **44 Years of History!**

Sonlight was incorporated in 1979 as a not-for-profit organization in the State of Colorado. The summers of 1980, 1981, and 1982 were devoted to guiding backpack trips for high school students. In October 1982, forty acres of land was purchased in the San Juan Mountains of Southwest Colorado. Construction began in 1983, along with the sizable projects of water and waste water systems. All the buildings were built with volunteer labor during Memorial Day "barn raising" weekends.

**1979:** Ideas and drawings on a coffee shop napkin

**1982:** Purchase of 40 acres in Hidden Valley Ranch, north of Pagosa Springs

**1983:** The back half of Winchester Cathedral was built. Water and sewage systems installed

**1984:** The main lodge was built

**1985:** Tongue and groove ceilings in the lodge installed

**1986:** Hilton cabin constructed

**1987:** Winchester Cathedral added on to the original bath house

**1988:** The Shop constructed

**1989:** High-Up Regency and Eastin' Westin' built in one weekend

**1990:** One log staff cabin

**1991:** Two log staff cabins

**1992:** The office added onto the lodge

**1993:** Staff room added onto the back of the lodge

**1994:** Two new towers, new deck on the lodge. 40 additional acres of land purchased (adjacent to the original land)

**1995:** Two staff cabins; 40 acres purchased along the north end of the west boundary; 4200 gallon water storage tank installed

**1996:** Elk River mobile home installed

**1997:** New deck on Winchester Cathedral and took DOWN the Boulder Building

**1998:** Added a new entrance and a split rail fence, remodeled the Hilton bathroom, added ramp, and completed the Spokes and Soles Nature Trail

**1999:** Backpacking building constructed and climbing wall was built

**2000:** Major fence reconstruction and new deck on the Hilton

**2001:** Year round cabin, staff residence built

**2002:** Steps on the backpack building, and much maintenance!

**2003:** Tongue and groove ceiling in the backpack building, covered deck on the backpack building, and maintenance, new roofing on the Cathedral, reseeded and leveled the meadow

**2004:** Bouldering wall built, "doll house" constructed at the backpack building for restrooms, new round picnic tables as well as major fence reconstruction

**2005:** Dodgeball court, new roof on the lodge. Replaced a water storage tank collapsed by the winter snow. Adios Elk River!

**2006:** Two new small cabins, one in the neighborhood for staff, one behind the lodge for a speaker. Two new hot tubs. We replaced two water storage tanks collapsed by the winter snow. I think there's a trend here with the water tanks.

**2007:** Constructed the Bone Yard and the Dawg Haus. Removed original Rec Shed. Built a new deck called 'Ginny's Grill'. Chairlift swings added to the deck.

**2008:** Built a pole barn over the nurse's cabin with a deck, new water tank plumbing and access room. Fixed damage from heavy snows.

**2009:** Completed Scott's Spot, new front porch on the Healthcare Station. 6 new Adirondack chairs.

**2010:** Built a staff-only bathroom in the Staff Neighborhood, added speaker's cabin by the main lodge.

**2011:** Climbing Wall addition with overhangs, "Crafty Courtyard" pole barn built, existing Crafty Bus painted. Added Charlie's Deck on east side of staff room,

**2012:** New year-round staff cabin, extended "Crafty Courtyard" pole barn overhang over the bus, spring overflow pipeline installed

**2013:** Kenskill trailer and deck built, sand volley ball court, recarpeted Hilton and upstairs in Lodge.

**2014:** Built new office space, purchased camp school bus, new asphalt walkway, added Jack's Shack as recreation storage building.

**2015:** Recarpet dining room and Eastin Westin and HiUp Regency cabins, 9 square in the air

**2016:** New hammocks in the Hammock Village, created a 'free play' area by the front walkway, new deck boards on the lodge and Winchester Cathedral, minor remodel of bathrooms in the cabins and Winchester Cathedral. Purchased a new Kubota backhoe and loader.

**2017:** Construction of the Treehouse in memory of Kelsey McLean—"Kelsey's Wild Place"—began. Addition onto the Director's cabin, expanded two wood sheds

**2018:** Staff room (Palisade Meadows) added inside backpack building, moved washing machine area to backpack building, added lower deck to Kelsey's Wild Place, build a shed building over the water storage tanks, replaced deck on the Belmont, remodeled an old school bus for staff housing, recarpeted dining room. Added another shop for vehicle maintenance.

**2019:** We purchased new mountain bikes and built a new bike storage area. Replaced many deck boards. We added updated chlorination pumps to our water system, and constructed a small building to house the chlorination system. Dorothy's Deck was built in memory of Dorothy Crawford.

**2020:** COVID-19 changed summer operations, as state and county relations would not easily allow summer camps. For the first time we offered a summer of family camps. Dining shifted to staff served buffet dining outside. The swurfer swing was added. Staff cabins were upgraded with new mattresses, new bunks and lighting. A laundry area was added to the backback building to comply with state regulations. The "Wild Ride" was added to the trail system.

**2021:** Replaced sheet rock walls with tongue and groove in Eastin Westin, High Up Regency and upstairs in the lodge (Alpine and Nordic.)

**2022:** Added Tope's Run to the trail system. Re-routed another trail for erosion management. Added the Axe Throwing area.