Outdoor Adventure Center
SEEKING THE FUTURE

Weber State University’s location in the foothills of the Wasatch Mountains provides exceptional access to the outdoors and outdoor recreational activities. Hiking, climbing, camping, and snow and water sports are available within minutes of the school’s Ogden campus. University community members and area residents value this proximity to the natural world and the abundance of recreation and sport that is available.

The WSU Outdoor Program has supported this interest in the outdoors since the 1970’s through recreation equipment rentals and organized group outings. Initially a student club operating out of a Student Union Building closet, the program expanded steadily and is now a component of Weber State University Campus Recreation. The past ten years have seen exponential growth accompanied by an increased interest in and focus on high-adventure outings. On an annual basis, the rental component serves 18,000 people and 5,000 participate in its 200 organized trips and programs.
PROJECT BENEFITS

The Outdoor Program has brought long-standing positive impacts to Weber State University and the local Ogden community. The proposed new facility will greatly enhance potential benefits.

Supported by a new facility, the Outdoor Program will:

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

• **serve as a recruitment tool**, targeting and attracting students interested in outdoor recreation and activities.
• **host outdoor experiences that furnish an incredible welcome and orientation to new students**, especially those new to the Ogden area.
• **strengthen student retention by developing a sense of belonging** through shared experiences and close connections with peers and program leader mentors.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

• **support students in their love for the outdoors and the pursuit of endeavors that can form the foundation for a lifetime of activity and fitness**.
• **provide a complementary practical application, with training and leadership opportunities**, for the WSU Outdoor & Community Recreation Education academic program.
• **train students as assistant guides**, awarding certificates that enable them to be employed directly out of school.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

• **reinforce partnerships with local outdoor industry businesses**, as the two sectors collaborate on events and opportunities that will strengthen them both.
• **develop students as the future customer base and employees for the outdoor industry private sector**, a strong economic driver in the Ogden region and the state of Utah.
• **become an inspiring event and training venue** for the outdoor industry and professional sports markets (search and rescue, professional arborists, first-responders, etc.)

“Outdoor Program trips bring people together...they create new experiences and memories...”
PROPOSED LOCATION

The recommended site for the new building is on Village Drive, directly north of the Wildcat Village residential complex. This location will be highly visible to students and easy for program participants to access. It is sufficiently large for the projected building size, and site storage, parking, and circulation needs. The proposed site use complies with the campus master plan.

This location is central to the current and future residence halls. Over the next 10 years, more residence halls will be built to the west of this proposed location.
SITE PLAN
Parking is adjacent to both the upper and lower entries. The site is planned for easy drive-through access by vehicles and trailers being used for trips and outings. The outdoor storage must be convenient for vehicle loading.