



Short-Term Projects
2024-2025 Grant Cycle
Project Idea Worksheet

Please complete this worksheet and the questions found at the bottom of this page and send to Sam Kilpack at samantha@cw.utah.gov no later than **March 25, 2024**.

For project criteria, visit cw.utah.gov.

Name of the project:	Community Gear Shed Project
Location of the project:	The gear shed is located at the Mobile Moon Co-op (2551 Hempstead St, Salt Lake City, UT 84119) and will support access to natural spaces, including the Wasatch Mountains.
Project contact person:	Crystal Chen Kent Wu
Project contact email address:	gearfundcollective@gmail.com kentwu.livewellteens@gmail.com
Project category (select any that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> Recreation stewardship
Do you have community partners for this project? Please list your partners, if applicable:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Gear Fund Collective• The Mobile Moon Co-op
What is the estimated total cost of the project? How much will you request from the CWC?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The total estimated cost for the project is \$11,000.• We are requesting \$15,000 from the Central Wasatch Commission.
What is the expected starting date and completion date for the project?	Start date: Construction of the gear shed started in August 2023. Launch date: Summer 2024 Requested gear will be available for the community as long as it is in good condition.

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Background:

There are undeniable logistical access issues and financial barriers to getting into the outdoors. Gear is expensive to the point of it being an impenetrable hurdle for some people to get what they need in order to participate. The Gear Fund Collective obtains outdoor gear and clothing and facilitates the redistribution of these resources back into the community, helping to close the loop of consumerism, capitalism, and inaccessibility.

The Gear Fund Collective was formed out of a group of like-minded folks who wanted to help increase access to the outdoors, with the ultimate goal to increase representation in the community. The collective is based out of Salt Lake City and is run by volunteers. Donations from the community are used to cover shipping costs. Since its establishment in 2021, the Gear Fund Collective has provided over 3000 items of gear to individuals across the country who cannot access the outdoors due to lack of funding and access to high-cost gear.

Over the past few years, the Gear Fund Collective has been grateful to receive donations from organizations that support our vision of outdoor access, including the Gear Trade, Patagonia, Osprey, and local climbing gyms (such as the Front and Momentum). The Gear Fund Collective also connects with the community through events that promote outdoor engagement, including an event hosted by Patagonia on Snow Tuning and a community ski film premiere event.

To further break down barriers to access the outdoors, the Gear Fund Collective started building a community gear shed for marginalized and underrepresented communities in Salt Lake City. The community gear shed will hold gear for camping, backpacking, and other outdoor activities for BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and adaptive folks to borrow at no cost. The shed is located at the Mobile Moon Coop, a femme and queer-led collective that aids communities and ecosystems through education, empowerment, and botanical stewardship (2551 Hempstead St, Salt Lake City, UT 84119).

Briefly describe your idea. How will it implement transportation and transit solutions, protect the ecosystems that originate in the Central Wasatch, steward recreational access, or sustain the economic viability of the project area:

Through partnerships with Mobile Moon Coop and The Gear Fund Collective, the Central Wasatch Commission Youth Council (CWCYC) would like to help stock a community gear library to make outdoor recreation more affordable and accessible to those around the valley. We also plan to expand by providing gear to programs. Programs like BackCountry Squatter do lots of recreation in Central Wasatch. However, there is a barrier to recreation as some folks cannot afford gear. If our project is implemented, we believe that programs will be able to provide more recreation. The gear shed is located at the Mobile Moon Coop, allowing access to the equipment from people all over the Salt Lake Valley. With the Central Wasatch Commission's support, this funding will allow the CWCYC to purchase gear and equipment

needed for the shed, providing a wide range of activities and opportunities for people to experience the outdoors.

The reservation process for the gear shed will be led by the Gear Fund Collective through a spreadsheet that contains inventory and availability (similar to the existing method for requesting gear).

The Gear Fund Collective plans to launch the gear shed in summer 2024. There will be one or two more build days in April to add a shelving system. Volunteers are reaching out to different organizations to acquire gear for the shed. Some companies include Osprey, Klymit, REI, The North Face, and Therm-a-rest.

Cost Breakdown:

We expect that it will cost \$5,840 to complete and fully stock the gear shed. Thus far, the Gear Fund Collective and the Mobile Moon Coop have spent \$973.70 on the construction.

In addition, as the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest will start its recreation fee program as soon as May 2024, we would like to provide forest passes for folks to check out from the gear shed, to help remove the cost of entry to many popular areas in the Wasatch while still supporting our local national forest. As long as passes are purchased from the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest office (or partnered community organizations), then the funds will help support the local forest. The cost of an interagency annual pass is \$80, and we would like to provide 50 passes for distribution to prioritized communities and to offer as part of the items available at the gear shed, totaling \$4000. For instance, if someone wants to plan a climbing trip in the Wasatch Mountains, they would be able to stop by the gear shed to borrow a crash pad and a Forest Service pass, all in one place.

We would also like to create a how-to guide for Forest Service passes to help folks understand what sites will have recreation fees and when they will be implemented.

Budget:

Gear/Equipment and Construction materials for the Gear Shed: \$5,840

- Storage system (totes and shelves): \$400
- Bikepacking panniers: \$400
- Two men's backpacks: \$400 (\$200 ea)
- Two Women's backpacks: \$400 (\$200 ea)
- 2-person tent: \$350 (REI half dome)
- 3-person tent: \$400 (REI half dome)
- 4-person tent: \$400 (Nemo high rise)
- 2 20 degree Sleeping bags: \$400 (\$200 ea)
- 2 sub 20 degree Sleeping bags: \$600 (\$300 ea)
- 2 foam sleeping pad: \$100 (\$50 ea)
- 2 inflatable sleeping pad: \$400 (\$200 ea)
- 2 Backpacking stove: \$300 (\$150 ea, MSR pocket rocket kit)
- 1 camping stove: \$150

- 1 sawyer squeeze water filter: \$40
- 1 katadyn hiker pro water filter: \$100
- 2 crash pads: \$500 (\$250 ea)
- 1 avalanche safety kit: \$500

Printing Costs: \$60

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Interagency Recreation Passes: \$4000

additional money will be used for specific requests for gear

We believe that if the CWCYC and the Gear Fund Collective are given \$15,000, we will be able to provide a wide range of backpacking and recreational gear for a broad community. The Wasatch Mountains are home to an abundance of diverse recreational opportunities, however many barriers to these experiences exist. Public lands should be accessible for all, and connections to these places are critical for widespread stewardship and advocacy of the Wasatch Mountains.

Does this idea result in other benefits to the Central Wasatch and its users?

The benefit of the gear shed located at the Mobile Moon Coop is for easy access from all over the valley, especially for those who live on the west side. Many current gear rental operations are located on the east side of the valley (REI rentals, UofU gear shop, etc.), and this expands the access of equipment to more people in the Wasatch. Ultimately, having more gear rental options in the Wasatch is a benefit to everyone, and it puts more gear out there for people to use. Additionally, this community gear shed is unique because the gear will be free-of-charge for people to borrow, is located on the west-side of the valley, and prioritizes access for underserved communities. With support from the Central Wasatch Commission, the CWC Youth Council is eager to help out with the gear shed in order to help remove some of the barriers to recreating outside, allowing for all people to experience and enjoy the Wasatch.

The CWC Youth Council believes that this project will benefit many communities to a large extent. In order to find those who may benefit from the gear shed, we reached out to different programs. One of the programs is the Backcountry Squatters at University of Utah. The Backcountry Squatters is an outdoor community for women and non-binary folks. They love exploring the outdoors and doing various recreation like bouldering and skiing. They agree that one of the main barriers to recreation is obtaining gear. If the CWC Youth Council is able to continue this project, we may be able to help the Backcountry Squatters engage more in recreation by providing free gear rentals. In addition, we also contacted the Park City Recreation on their take on the gear shed. They also loved the idea of a gear shed where people could borrow gear. The Park City Recreation offers programs and recreation for the people in Park City. They have done something similar to a gear shed but using a trailer that goes to different communities in Park City that provide outdoor equipment. Park City Recreation has been looking into making a gear rental system that is established rather than a trailer. They also plan to offer new programs such as snowshoeing and backpacking. We initially started this project to specifically help those in the west side like Salt Lake City. However, we believe that Park City Recreation shares the same interests with us. We hopefully want to expand our project to help other areas like Park City Recreation.

Nevertheless, if we can make this gear shed a reality, we can help the Backcountry Squatters engage more in recreation and jumpstart the programs that Park City Recreation wants to offer.